

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING MRS. ANNA WALLACE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mrs. Anna Wallace who will celebrate her 100th birthday on September 12, 2006. Mrs. Wallace is a lifelong resident of South Buffalo and lives in an apartment at 36 Columbus Avenue and her grandson lives upstairs. Anna is the daughter of Cecelia and Daniel Hurley, and was raised in the family home on Woodside Avenue with two siblings, Cecelia Duggan and Daniel Hurley.

On June 9, 1926, Anna was married to Francis Wallace by the revered Reverend John Nash in Holy Family Roman Catholic Church on South Park Avenue. She and Francis were married for 71 years until he passed away in 1997.

The Wallace's were always a very social couple and remained active well into their 80s. To this day, Anna is a member of the Catholic Daughters at Holy Family Church. She and her husband were instrumental in starting the second chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Society in the nation and they were involved in raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Society, the disease that afflicted their son, Paul. For many years Anna was a school aide in the City of Buffalo working with handicapped children.

Anna and Francis had four children, Mary Katherine Jordan (deceased), Janet Ann (deceased), Frances Carol Konter, and Paul Francis (deceased). She will be celebrating this momentous occasion with her daughter, 10 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to Mrs. Anna Wallace, a strong and inspirational woman. I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Mrs. Wallace upon this very special birthday and further wish her health and happiness in the years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Wallace a very happy 100th Birthday.

HONORING THE NOVATO YOUTH CENTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Novato Youth Center, which is commemorating 30 years of community service to the children, youth and families of Novato, California.

In response to the need for a safe and nurturing environment for children, parents and community leaders launched an energetic grassroots effort to establish the Novato Youth

Center in 1976. Now, 30 years later, the Youth Center provides a safe and caring home away from home while responding to ever changing community needs. Serving children, infants through 18 years, the Youth Center offers childcare and recreational activities, as well as teen pregnancy prevention programs, tutoring, family counseling, and Parent Project workshops. Youth serve in many positions, and are involved as program volunteers, sports coaches, event planners, and as full voting members on the board of directors.

Through advocacy and outreach, Novato Youth Center's mission is to increase the community's investment in its youth, and to nurture and encourage youth to realize their potential for growth and personal development. The founding parents and Board Members were an ideal match for this mission. Honorary Board Members include: Robert Busher, Tommie Whitener, Steve Rempe, Peter E. Haas, Jr., David Kenyon, Dennis DeSousa, Alan Dunham, Ed Lathrop, Vicki McDill, Dave Milano, and Paul Scheller.

Over the years Novato Youth Center grew steadily, developing successful collaborations with Novato Unified School District, the City of Novato, the County of Marin, Novato Community Hospital, and other local youth service and childcare providers. Providing strong community leadership, the Youth Center played a key role in starting the Novato Youth Wellness Collaborative, also serving as its fiscal agent. As a result, the Novato Wellness Center will open soon, offering health education, teen pregnancy counseling, substance abuse prevention, mental health services, and a health clinic devoted to teens.

Collaborative and inclusive in philosophy, the Youth Center is committed to serving youth across ethnicities, economic levels, age groups, social and educational levels. To that end, the Youth Center champions respect and diversity, recruiting and hiring bicultural and bilingual staff to ensure the full spectrum of needs and interests of all communities are met.

Mr. Speaker, Novato Youth Center provides an invaluable role in preparing our youth for the challenges of the future as well as instilling the values of community involvement and education. I am proud to honor the Novato Youth Center on this memorable occasion.

IN HONOR OF MR. EUTIQUIO CHAPA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eutiquio Chapa upon his receipt of the National Hispanic Heritage Youth Award in the category of Education. This prestigious award is given each year to Latino high school graduates who have excelled in academic achievement, community service, and writing.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based non-profit organization which commemorates ethnic dignity and education, specifically tasks each applicant to express the influence of their heritage on their personal success. Looking at Mr. Chapa's accomplishments and goals, it is evident why he was chosen.

Mr. Chapa was a top student at Palma High School, where he graduated with a 4.4 GPA and was named a National Hispanic Scholar. Furthermore, Mr. Chapa was chosen for a special summer program at M.I.T. in 2005. All of this success was in the face of criticism he endured from his own peer group for changing schools midway through high school. Eutiquio Chapa has been accepted to Stanford University for the fall and will no doubt have much success there.

A second-generation Mexican-American from King City, CA, Eutiquio Chapa is interested in furthering his knowledge of the human brain. He plans to develop manners of instruction in order to improve the education process for low-income elementary grade level students learning English as a second language. He is obviously determined to equip others with educational possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt congratulations go to Eutiquio Chapa. It is a true pleasure to have him as a member of my constituency.

HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION HONORING DR. JULIET GARCIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a patriotic American honored this month by the—Hispanic Heritage Foundation—Dr. Juliet Garcia of Brownsville, Texas.

Dr. Garcia has been a groundbreaker for higher education, becoming the first Mexican American woman in the nation to ascend to the presidency of a university, the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB).

She has provided improved higher education opportunities for the people in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

She has led UTB through a phenomenal period of growth and success. The campus has grown from 49 acres to 382 acres, enrollment has increased by 27 percent, and student performance has improved dramatically.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation promotes and celebrates Hispanic culture, education, and accomplishment through year-round national and regional inspirational leadership programs by sponsoring a number of educational and cultural programs, including the Hispanic Heritage Awards, Youth Awards, and the LOFT (Latinos on Fast Track) Initiative.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards and Ceremony began as a small White House ceremony in 1987 honoring the creation of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 thru October 15. The award is a prestigious honor for

• 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.

Dr. Garcia and is a culmination of the Foundation's year-round efforts.

In an evening filled with cultural pride and celebration, the Foundation and the audience honor notable Hispanics who have distinguished themselves as role models in the Hispanic community while making a positive impact in our country.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hispanic Heritage Awards and the theme of the 2006 ceremony will be "Looking Back, Moving Forward," representing the Hispanic community as part of the history of this Nation and our presence in the Nation's future.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending our Texas pioneer, Dr. Garcia, for her recognition as an outstanding educator that inspires our community, increases individual excellence among young Hispanics, and raises the standard of excellence at UTB.

**A GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR
ALL AMERICANS: REGINALD
WEAVER**

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a dynamic trailblazer who continues to set a productive pace for positive change within the ranks of the Nation's education leaders. Reginald Weaver is a magnificent Great Point-of-Light. He is both profound and practical in his pursuit of school improvement across the Nation for all children. In addition to protecting the interests of the largest organization of teachers, he is a tireless spokesman for education policy-making and the need to increase expenditures for the basics which support opportunities to learn: improved and new school facilities; teacher training and compensation; adequate school libraries; science laboratories; computer instruction; and other necessities.

As a strong advocate for public education, Reginald Weaver was elected president of the 2.7 million-member National Education Association. He has traveled across the country as an ambassador for public education, stressing the association's mission to ensure that every child in America can attend a great public school right in his or her own neighborhood. In order to have great public schools, Mr. Weaver has outlined six areas that need to be addressed: parental involvement, high-quality school employees, high-quality classroom instruction, educators who give their best to every child, a high-quality teacher in every classroom, and fixing and funding the No Child Left Behind law. His NEA career started as a local president in Harvey, IL and eventually he became the president of the Illinois Education Association from 1981 to 1987; served on the NEA Executive Committee from 1989 to 1995 and as NEA vice president from 1996 to 2002. In addition, he serves on the executive board of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and on the board of governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Among his many accomplishments, he was named to the Ebony 2004 100+ Most Influential Black Americans list and was featured in Who's Who, as well as in Who's Who in Black America.

For his continuing leadership on the frontlines in the crusade for excellence in education, we salute Reginald Weaver as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

**HONORING SESQUICENTENNIAL OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which resides within the 28th District of Texas. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Atascosa County.

Atascosa County had its beginnings after the Texas Revolution, when several land grants were given out to notable Texans such as Jose Antonio Navarro that marked extensive colonization in the area in 1853. The first county seat, Navatasco, was established in 1857 on land donated by Navarro. Many of the new settlers were recent immigrants from Mexico, Germany, and England. The early years of the twentieth century brought many changes to Atascosa County. Several railroads were built that helped connect the towns of Leming, Pleasanton, McCoy, Charlotte, and Hindes. In 1910, the residents of Atascosa County voted to officially make Jourdanton the county seat.

Agriculture is a vital part of Atascosa County with a wide variety of agricultural products ranging from livestock to strawberries. In 2002, there were over 1,539 farms and ranches covering 669,890 acres, 52% of which were devoted to pasture, 33% to crops, and 12% to woodlands. In that year alone, local farmers and ranchers earned \$51,808,000, with livestock sales accounting for \$34,534,000 of that total. Oil and gas also continue to be a leading industry in the county, with over 1,236,387 barrels of oil produced in 1990. By the end of 2004, over 149,778,538 barrels of oil have been produced in Atascosa County. The largest communities in the county are Jourdanton, Pleasanton, Campbelton, Poteet, Lytle, Charlotte, Christine, Leming, McCoy, and Peggy. Some of the county's wonderful attractions include the famous Poteet Strawberry Festival, the Jourdanton Days Celebration, and the Cowboy Homecoming and Rodeo in Pleasanton. As we look back on the past 150 years with pride, we also look forward to a very promising future for Atascosa County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor Atascosa County on their 150th anniversary, and I thank you for this time.

**RECOGNIZING ARMY SPECIALIST
GARY PITTS OF INVERNESS,
FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I Rise today to honor Gary Pitts of Inverness, Florida, an Army Specialist who served in Iraq and is currently based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Born in Inverness, Florida, Specialist Pitts graduated from Citrus High School in 1993. Following the events of September 11, he felt a strong need to do his part to fight the global war on terror and joined the Army at the age of 26. Completing basic training in May 2002 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he went on to advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Deployed to Iraq in February 2003 for a 5-month tour as a Patriot missile operator, Specialist Pitts returned to Fort Bliss following the completion of his duties. Having completed his initial commitment, on April 6, 2004, Specialist Pitts re-enlisted for another 3 years. Once again deployed to Iraq in March 2005, he served for a year in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as a radar operator and a turret gunner. While serving in Iraq, Specialist Pitts' missions included convoy security and elections security during Iraq's first elections.

Specialist Pitts received the Combat Action Badge for engaging the enemy in action following an IED explosion next to his vehicle. Currently based at Fort Carson, Specialist Pitts has approximately 8 more months to complete his 6 years of enlistment.

In addition to his military service, Specialist Pitts has a natural talent for art and creativity, winning numerous blue ribbons for his pastel artwork. He is now married and living in Colorado Springs and enjoys his visits home to see his parents, Mike and Anne, and brothers, Steven and Mike. He also visits his sister Michele and niece Tiffany who live in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Gary Pitts who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. He is to be commended for his service to our Nation and for his commitment to his family and loved ones. This Congress will never forget his sacrifices in battle.

**JIM WESTFALL—JOHNS
FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor James M. Westfall as the Johns Fellowship Award Winner for 2006. After graduating from high school, "Jim" Westfall completed the San Diego Electrical Joint Apprenticeship 4-year program in 1973.

In 1976, he began working for the Bechtel Power Corp., at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and advanced to General Foreman in the Electrical Department. In 1980, Jim was elected Business Representative for I.B.E.W. Local 569 and served for 7 years.

For the past 19 years, Jim has been employed with the San Diego Electrical Training Trust as Administrative Manager/Director of Training. During his tenure, Jim was instrumental in building the Apprenticeship from 300 students with 12 instructors to 13 full-time staff, 1250 students and 75 instructors.

During his 30-year career, Jim has served on the National Electrical Training Directors Association, California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association and the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of San Diego. He has also been awarded the Electrical Industry Progress Award for Leadership and Exemplary

Service and the Founder's Trophy for Extraordinary Leadership and Service to the Electrical Industry by the National Electrical Contractors Association, San Diego Chapter.

Jim is currently the Director of Training for San Diego Electrical Training and has been inducted into the California apprenticeship Hall of Fame on May 4, 2006.

James M. Westfall is very deserving of this award as he has been a driving force in the organized labor movement for the past 30 years.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS OF BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEING NAMED SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR TO GENERAL MOTORS FOR THE 14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their being named worldwide "Supplier of the Year" to General Motors for the 14th consecutive year.

Of GM's 30,000 suppliers, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems is the only company in North America to achieve this remarkable record, a fact that should make its nearly 800 employees exceedingly proud.

Magee Rieter is the leading supplier of carpets to General Motors in America. The company has been in business in Bloomsburg since 1889 and has been supplying General Motors for more than 90 years, first with hand draped tapestries for Fisher Body carriages and, today, with fully molded carpet floors and integrated acoustical systems.

For more than a century, the company has endured and overcome numerous challenges including floods, fires and the rapidly changing business environment. After World War II, the company received the Army/Navy "E" award for excellence in recognition of its production of high quality materials for the war effort.

Magee Rieter records annual sales in excess of \$175 million and has an annual payroll of more than \$37 million that provides its employees with family sustaining incomes that average about \$39,000 annually. Overall, Magee Rieter is responsible for a \$168 million annual impact to the local economy.

The current employees of Magee Rieter are carrying on traditions of pride and success handed down by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents who worked at this remarkable company.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Magee Rieter for demonstrating superior performance and for serving as a shining example for other businesses to emulate.

AIDS IN 2006—MOVING TOWARD ONE WORLD, ONE HOPE?

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the International AIDS Society meeting in Toronto last month focused the world's attention on ways to deal with the ongoing AIDS pandemic. Global health experts and advocates came together to discuss effective tactics and comprehensive strategies for improved prevention and therapies and, ultimately, a cure. I am particularly glad that the meeting highlighted the need for microbicides development, treatments that will allow vulnerable women to protect themselves and their families from infection.

As we consider the recommendations made in Toronto, I want to draw my colleagues' attention to a recent article, "AIDS in 2006—Moving toward One World, One Hope?," published in the August 17 edition of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Written by Dr. Paul Farmer and Dr. Jim Yong Kim, leading medical experts with years of front-line experience through their work at Partners in Health, they offer us important lessons that will help translate the optimism expressed in Toronto into the reality of improved global health.

As they point out, an effective approach to the global AIDS epidemic (and to the global TB and malaria epidemics as well) will require strategies that address the global epidemic of poverty and the inequitable distribution of health care resources. Affordable drugs, viable public health systems, access to trained health care personnel, and the provision of nutrition and other "wrap-around" services that make the difference between life and death are all essential components for success. As Partners in Health has proven in Haiti and Rwanda, this comprehensive approach is not a pie-in-the-sky notion. It is completely achievable given a commitment to make and sustain the necessary investments.

The work of nongovernmental organizations like Partners in Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Clinton Foundations HIV/AIDS Initiative has allowed us to make incredible strides, but they cannot solve these problems alone. As Dr. Farmer and Dr. Kim caution us, "Only the public sector, not nongovernmental organizations, can offer health care as a right." The U.S. government can and must take the lead in expanding our commitment to defeating the twin dangers of global pandemics and global poverty. By doing so, we will not only make the world healthier, we will make it safer.

[From the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Aug. 17, 2006]

AIDS IN 2006—MOVING TOWARD ONE WORLD, ONE HOPE?

(By Jim Yong Kim and Paul Farmer)

For the past two decades, AIDS experts—clinicians, epidemiologists, policymakers, activists, and scientists—have gathered every two years to confer about what is now the world's leading infectious cause of death among young adults. This year, the International AIDS Society is hosting the meeting in Toronto from August 13 through 18. The last time the conference was held in Canada, in 1996, its theme was "One World, One Hope." But it was evident to conferees

from the poorer reaches of the world that the price tag of the era's great hope—combination antiretroviral therapy—rendered it out of their reach. Indeed, some African participants that year made a banner reading "One World, No Hope."

Today, the global picture is quite different. The claims that have been made for the efficacy of antiretroviral therapy have proved to be well founded: in the United States, such therapy has prolonged life by an estimated 13 years—a success rate that would compare favorably with that of almost any treatment for cancer or complications of coronary artery disease. In addition, a number of lessons, with implications for policy and action, have emerged from efforts that are well under way in the developing world. During the past decade, we have gleaned these lessons from our work in setting global AIDS policies at the World Health Organization in Geneva and in implementing integrated programs for AIDS prevention and care in places such as rural Haiti and Rwanda. As vastly different as these places may be, they are part of one world, and we believe that ambitious policy goals, adequate funding, and knowledge about implementation can move us toward the elusive goal of shared hope.

The first lesson is that charging for AIDS prevention and care will pose insurmountable problems for people living in poverty, since there will always be those unable to pay even modest amounts for services or medications, whether generic or branded. Like efforts to battle airborne tuberculosis, such services should be seen as a public good for public health. Policymakers and public health officials, especially in heavily burdened regions, should adopt universal-access plans and waive fees for HIV care. Initially, this approach will require sustained donor contributions, but many African countries have recently set targets for increased national investments in health, a pledge that could render ambitious programs sustainable in the long run.

As local investments increase, the price of AIDS care is decreasing. The development of generic medications means that antiretroviral therapy can now cost less than 50 cents per day, and costs continue to decrease to affordable levels for public health officials in developing countries. All antiretroviral medications—first-line, second-line, and third-line—must be made available at such prices. Manufacturers of generic drugs in China, India, and other developing countries stand ready to provide the full range of drugs. Whether through negotiated agreements or use of the full flexibilities of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, full access to all available antiretroviral drugs must quickly become the standard in all countries.

Second, the effective scale-up of pilot projects will require the strengthening and even rebuilding of health care systems, including those charged with delivering primary care. In the past, the lack of a health care infrastructure has been a barrier to antiretroviral therapy; we must now marshal AIDS resources, which are at last considerable, to rebuild public health systems in sub-Saharan Africa and other HIV-burdened regions. These efforts will not weaken efforts to address other problems—malaria and other diseases of poverty, maternal mortality, and insufficient vaccination coverage—if they are planned deliberately with the public sector in mind. Only the public sector, not nongovernmental organizations, can offer health care as a right.

Third, a lack of trained health care personnel, most notably doctors, is invoked as a reason for the failure to treat AIDS in poor

countries. The lack is real, and the brain drain continues. But one reason doctors flee Africa is that they lack the tools of their trade. AIDS funding offers us a chance not only to recruit physicians and nurses to underserved regions, but also to train community health care workers to supervise care, for AIDS and many other diseases, within their home villages and neighborhoods. Such training should be undertaken even in places where physicians are abundant, since community-based, closely supervised care represents the highest standard of care for chronic disease, whether in the First World or the Third. And community health care workers must be compensated for their labor if these programs are to be sustainable.

Fourth, extreme poverty makes it difficult for many patients to comply with antiretroviral therapy. Indeed, poverty is far and away the greatest barrier to the scale-up of treatment and prevention programs. Our experience in Haiti and Rwanda has shown us that it is possible to remove many of the social and economic barriers to adherence but only with what are sometimes termed "wrap-around services": food supplements for the hungry, help with transportation to clinics, child care, and housing. In many rural regions of Africa, hunger is the major coexisting condition in patients with AIDS or tuberculosis, and these consumptive diseases cannot be treated effectively without food supplementation. Coordination among initiatives such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and the World Food Program of the United Nations can help in the short term; fair-trade agreements and support of African farmers will help in the long run.

Fifth, investments in efforts to combat the global epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis are much more generous than they were five years ago, but funding must be increased and sustained if we are to slow these increasingly complex epidemics. One of the most ominous recent developments is the advent of highly drug-resistant strains of both causative pathogens. "Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis" has been reported in the United States, Eastern Europe, Asia, South Africa, and elsewhere; in each of these settings, the copresence of HIV has amplified local epidemics of these almost untreatable strains. Drug-resistant malaria is now common worldwide, extensively drug-resistant HIV disease will surely follow, and massive efforts to diagnose and treat these diseases ethically and effectively will be needed. We have already learned a great deal about how best to expand access to second-line antituberculous drugs while increasing control over their use; these lessons must be applied in the struggles against AIDS, malaria, and other infectious pathogens.

Finally, there is a need for a renewed basic-science commitment to vaccine development, more reliable diagnostics (the 100-year-old tests widely used to diagnose tuberculosis are neither specific nor sensitive), and new classes of therapeutics. The research-based pharmaceutical industry has a critical role to play in drug development, even if the overall goal is a segmented market, with higher prices in developed countries and generic production with affordable prices in developing countries.

There has been a heartening increase in basic-science investments for tuberculosis and malaria; funding for HIV research at the National Institutes of Health remains robust. Yet the fruits of such research will not arrive in time for those now living with, and dying from, AIDS and tuberculosis. New tools to prevent, diagnose, and treat the diseases of poverty will be added to the stockpile of other potentially lifesaving products

that do not reach the poorest people, unless we develop an equity plan to provide them. Right now, our focus must be on improving access to the therapies that are available in high-income countries. The past few years have shown us that we can make these services available to millions, even in the poorest reaches of the world.

The unglamorous and difficult process of increasing access to prevention and care needs to be our primary focus if we are to move toward the lofty goal of equitably distributed medical services in a world riven by inequality. Without such goals, the slogan "One World, One Hope" will remain nothing more than a dream.

AMERICA'S OLDEST MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Charles F. Orvis founded the Orvis Company in 1856 to sell high quality fly-fishing equipment.

The Orvis Company has been doing exactly that—selling the best in fishing equipment throughout the entire world—ever since. The reel that Charles Orvis developed, a ventilated fly reel, is still the basis of most modern fly reels. In fact, the Orvis Company is the oldest fishing rod manufacturer in the world, selling rods made in Vermont all over the globe. And its catalogue business is older than that of Sears or L.L. Bean, for it has been in existence for over a 100 years. Currently its 26 annual catalogues—Orvis mails out over 50 million catalogues a year—help generate the company's remarkable sales of over \$250 million annually.

Orvis has deep, deep roots in Vermont, but it has shown the flexibility to adapt to a growing international market. It has distributors in 25 countries, and sells widely in both England and Japan. Although Orvis has its headquarters in Manchester, Vermont, where its flagship store of 23,000 square feet is also located, Orvis has 30 retail stores across the United States and in England. Its network of dealers is truly global, with dealers in not only North and South America, but Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

But Orvis is not just about success in retailing. The company has a deep commitment to preserving the natural environment. Each year Orvis puts 5 percent of its pre-tax profits into conservation projects and, works to multiply its commitments—and the commitments of its customers—by matching donations from customers to its forest/wetland and biodiversity projects.

With 150 years of success behind them, we wish the owners and employees at Orvis many more years of success ahead, both in retailing and in working to conserve and preserve our precious natural heritage.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BASILONE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join with me in

paying tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the United States Armed Forces. John Basilone, born in 1916, served in the United States Army from 1934 until 1937 and in the United States Marines from 1942 until his death in 1945. Each year, since 1981, the good citizens of the Borough of Raritan, Somerset County, a vibrant community I am proud to represent, sponsor a parade in memory of John Basilone. The 25th Annual John Basilone Parade will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2006.

John Basilone, native of Raritan, New Jersey, served an honorable career in defense of our country. For heroics performed on the invasion of Guadalcanal in August of 1942, Mr. Basilone was awarded The Congressional Medal of Honor. Without fear for his life, he unashamedly commanded his fellow troops and sought to bring the United States to victory.

After returning from duty in Guadalcanal, John went home to Raritan to be honored by his friends and family for his courage and bravery. However, it was not long before Basilone sought another mission on behalf of his country. The Marines granted his wish to be sent back overseas in December of 1943.

On February 19th of 1945 the Marines, including John, landed on the island of Iwo Jima. After giving the Marines a chance to wade ashore, the Japanese opened fire on defenseless United States soldiers. Brave men with leadership ability were needed to rally the troops. John Basilone rose to the occasion. Many survivors of the battle recall that in the midst of fighting there was one Marine out in the open, directing and rallying the men. It was John Basilone.

Mr. Basilone was hit with a mortar shell and died of his wounds shortly thereafter on the island of Iwo Jima. For his actions that day, John Basilone was awarded The Navy Cross. According to his official biography, John Basilone remains the only soldier, non-officer, in United States history to be awarded both The Congressional Medal of Honor and The Navy Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the citizens of Raritan and the John Basilone Parade participants for celebrating the life of a fine man and true American hero.

RECOGNIZES CHRISTOPHER MARTELL OF LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Martell of Lakewood, Colorado, an Army 2nd Lieutenant currently serving in Iraq.

Lieutenant Martell served in the ROTC while at Gonzaga University, stating that his ROTC service was the most rewarding part of his entire college experience. Following his graduation with a bachelors degree in Communications, Lieutenant Martell reported to the Army's 82nd Airborne Division where he was assigned to military intelligence.

Lieutenant Martell has remarked that he has found a strong sense of patriotism and brotherhood in the Army. The history and camaraderie among his fellow soldiers is truly a sight

to behold and has made his experience a rewarding one.

Coming from a proud family history of military service, Lieutenant Martell's grandmother, Florence McCann, served in the U.S. Navy WAVES, or Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, during World War II. Mrs. McCann currently resides in Inverness, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Christopher Martell who volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Christopher serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

IN MEMORY OF DR. STERLING
SMITH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Dr. Sterling Smith, of Denton, Texas, for his lifelong commitment and contributions to his community and to education.

A native of Denton, Texas, Dr. Smith received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas in 1963. He also received a Master of Secondary Education degree from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Science and Mathematics Education from the University of Texas at Austin. A 40-year veteran of public education and an avid mountain-climber, Dr. Smith died August 21st as the result of a fall while descending South Maroon Peak near Aspen, Colorado.

Dr. Smith began as a product of the Denton public school system and spent 30 of his 40 years as an educator teaching at the Texas Women's University in Denton. He worked closely for years with science teachers in North Texas and served for 2 years as president of the Denton High School Band Booster Club. He was active in the Boy Scouts for more than 40 years and volunteered as a teacher in the men's Sunday school class at First Baptist Church.

Most recently, Dr. Smith had been elected as the newest member of the Denton school board, his first elected office, and fellow members said he was already hard at work getting caught up on the complex issues associated with a modern public school system.

Dr. Smith was a lifelong champion of education and service to his community. I join in mourning the loss of Dr. Smith and extend my deepest sympathies to his friends and family. He will be deeply missed and his service and dedication will always be greatly appreciated.

APPOINTMENT OF ROGER GODELL
AS COMMISSIONER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Roger Godell on his appointment

as the new Commissioner of the National Football League (NFL). Godell's longtime dedication to the league and his genuine love for the game will assure him a long and successful tenure as league commissioner.

I was especially excited to see a Western New York native succeed Commissioner Tagliabue. As a lifelong Western New York resident and Representative from the 27th District of New York, I am pleased to know that as the new commissioner, Godell can relate to the small-market environment in his hometown region and to the great impact the presence of the Buffalo Bills has on our community.

The Buffalo Bills are one of the most respected franchises in the NFL, and our fans are extremely loyal. However, I am concerned that under the current collective bargaining agreement, the existence of the Bills in Buffalo may be in danger. The departure of the Bills would have a devastating impact in the area.

Without consideration of the unique economic situation concerning this storied franchise, and the great city that has enthusiastically supported the Bills for almost 50 years, the loss of this team to this city would, in effect, rip the heart and soul out of the NFL, and out of this great American city.

Provisions in the CBA that greatly affect Buffalo include stipulations regarding ticket sales falling below a certain level before revenue sharing participation kicks in. While the Bills have great community support, ticket prices are low because we are not a wealthy community; but under the stipulations, the Bills could sell-out all home games and still lose money and not be eligible for revenue sharing.

Additionally, including state and county monetary support in establishing franchise revenue would be extremely detrimental to the Bills and similar teams. For example, in Buffalo all game day stadium expenses are picked up by Erie County—the County reimburses the Bills for the cost of security, ticket takers, ushers, among other services—counting these contributions against the team could mean that the CBA is a de facto plan to annihilate small market franchises.

Finally, I am also highly concerned about the possibility that new team ownership would not be eligible for revenue sharing. The Bills have been lucky enough to remain under the stewardship of their owner, Ralph C. Wilson, but should Mr. Wilson pass, or should he ever decide to sell the team, a new owner would have no alternative but to look to move the team.

I appreciate the hard work of former Commissioner Tagliabue in helping resolve some of these issues by placing Mr. Wilson and other small-market owners on the Qualifier Committee responsible for final interpretation of these and other issues. With Godell's help, I am hopeful that the league can resolve the revenue sharing issue and help its small-market teams remain in their respective cities.

I wish Commissioner Godell the best of luck and success in his new position and I look forward to working with him in the future.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM OSKAR
GROGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Oskar Goggins for the kindness and influence he showed the world during his 43 years here.

Billy was born at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, CA on Sunday, May 10, 1963—on Mother's Day. He was the first child of Patrick and Ute Goggins, both very well-known and respected individuals in the Bay Area and beyond.

From the hospital he was carried right into a civil rights demonstration in Golden Gate Park. Billy took his first trip to Ireland at 4 years old to meet his family relatives in the west of Ireland in County Mayo. Annual family trips by car to Montana and Dakota included reunions in the Bear's Paw Mountains, hi-balling on the Iron Road, the old Great Northern Railway and running brave with Chippewa, Cree, Blackfoot and Sioux Indian friends. The Goggins' adventured on 2-month road trips to Baja and the Pacific Coast of Mexico where mother Ute painted, and sisters Cathy and Aimee followed in Bill's energetic footsteps. Billy toiled in family vineyards in Germany with equally embracing relatives. These things were the soul of his education.

Over the years Bill played soccer, drew cartoons, tutored younger students from Mill Valley and Marin City, played volleyball at Stinson Beach, surfed in Bolinas, and much more. He graduated from Tamalpais High School as a National Merit Scholar and Salutatorian.

Summer jobs were at Bancroft-Whitney legal publishers, San Francisco and Wausau Paper Mill, Wisconsin. He worked at numerous restaurants including the Book Depot Café and Avenue Grill in Mill Valley, and Embarko in San Francisco. He also volunteered at St. Anthony Dining Room in the Tenderloin, providing free meals for the homeless. Bill attended Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and San Francisco State University, Departments of Communication and Philosophy. He began his vital journalism career with Frisko Kids, KALW radio, and then moved on to the old SF Weekly.

Former SF Weekly editor and colleague Andrew O'Hehir remembers, "Of course he worked harder than anyone and became essential, and in 3 years moved from all-purpose intern to copy editor to ruling the Arts and Entertainment section. I can't remember exactly when he became the go-to guy for headline copy, but I'd say that by the time he'd been there a year, he was writing half the heads in the paper."

Bill thrived at Wired for 10 years. He started as a freelance copy editor and rose to become deputy editor. Bill served as a special link between the digital industry's pace-setting magazine in the center of San Francisco's media gulch and an eager, educated national and international readership. His colleagues admired him tremendously.

"Bill was that rarest of things: a true original," says Chris Anderson, the magazine's editor in chief. "He was brilliant, witty and culturally omnivorous, all of which combined in

his signature headlines. They usually worked on at least three levels of meaning, from some remixed cultural reference to at least one pun. In many ways his winking style and clever turns of phrase became Wired house style for nearly a decade, and to look at our covers and headlines over those years is to hear Bill's voice again."

Bill's voice also made its mark through the alternative dot-com generation's website Suck.com where he wrote under the name 'Bartelby'. Bill recently enjoyed writing and editing with the new magazine *Todo*, and they remember him not just as a logophile, a wordsmith, a gifted editor, a true friend; but also as "one who tirelessly pursues perfection, fraternity and goodness."

A real linguist (German, Spanish and Bill-English) and traveler—Bill visited Tunisia, the Philippines, Bahamas, Mexico, Canada, and all over the United States and Europe. He was a dual citizen of the U.S. and Ireland. Bill was a citizen of the world.

Bill was a San Franciscan through and through. He openly embraced and explored all of the city's neighborhoods. He was an avid supporter of the arts, with active memberships to many museums and regular attendance at the symphony, opera, ballet, varied theatres and clubs.

Bill participated with his family and compatriots in the antiwar demonstrations from the Vietnam era to Iraq of today.

My daughter, Amy Critchett, had the good fortune to be a friend with and to work with Bill at *Wired* for many years. "Bill Goggins made work seem like work—because it was and he was so incredibly good at what he did—but with him around there was always a twist of irony and a splash of curly-haired, smiling-cheeked sunshine not far away," according to Amy. "Get ready to laugh all you up there."

Bill inexplicably collapsed and passed away suddenly during mile 24 of the San Francisco Marathon Benefit for Cancer on Sunday, July 30, 2006. He was in fit condition and many knew him as a wonderful, companionable runner, reconciled, strong and happy.

An outpouring of hundreds from around the globe, representing family, friends, colleagues, public officials on local, state and national levels, ambassadors, the Irish and British governments, the Democratic party, and diverse cultural non-profit organizations attended a memorial mass held at our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and a life celebration at the Outdoor Art Club in Mill Valley on August 4, 2006.

Billy was a deeply loved member of a very close family. He supported all of them individually and together—helping hang his mother Ute's art shows, assisting his father Pat with community outreach via organizations such as the Irish Forum, Irish Mexican Association, and Irish Literary and Historical Society to name a few, being the proud uncle to sister Cathy's two children, Lina Rose & Dominic Chester, and showing up for sister Aimee's various work events or helping edit her writing.

Bill believed in justice, peace and humanity. He connected with people everywhere he went. No one and nothing escaped his keen eye and warm words. His sense of community was broad and all-encompassing. Bill was a man of grace. He chipped in for everyone.

He had old-fashioned manners, was a staunch listener and he gave of himself enormously. His roughish grin, sparkle in his eye and love of discussion and opinion will live on with us forever.

Mr. Speaker, Bill had enormous integrity and loyalty, and taught us all how to be total human beings. To be fearless, to be bold, to be true to yourself. To be both gracious and outspoken. To pursue what matters in life and cherish each other. Bill knew all of these things and helped us be them too. Bill lived his life and made all of us proud. He will be deeply missed by many.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORIES, MOSS LANDING, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a national treasure located in my district and commemorate an auspicious occasion: the 40th anniversary of the California State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories at the heart of Monterey Bay.

Founded in 1966, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) is the second oldest marine lab on the Monterey Bay. The founders were a small group of strong-minded faculty and forward-thinking administrators at California State University (CSU) who were dedicated to the pursuit of marine science, research and education at the highest possible level. Currently, MLML is operated by a consortium of seven CSU campuses (Fresno, East Bay, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, and Stanislaus), with undergraduate and graduate students pursuing their Masters of Science degrees in marine biology and oceanography. From its grass roots conception and its humble beginnings in an old cannery building, MLML has grown into an institution of international reputation for excellence and has trained generations of students.

The current director, Dr. Kenneth Coale, 9 full-time faculty and a complement of adjunct professors and affiliated researchers dutifully cultivate the mission, which is to "Provision the Pioneers of the Future in Marine Sciences" through a hands-on, field-oriented approach to their curriculum, placing their students at the frontiers of marine science where discoveries are being made. Since MLML is associated with the California State University system, the primary responsibility of the faculty is teaching. Despite their emphasis on well-taught courses and mentoring of graduate students, the MLML faculty and associated researchers are regional leaders within their research disciplines. Their research has been critical to the creation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and has shaped the development of new programs throughout CSU. Findings by the faculty have been acknowledged as some of the most significant in the field of oceanography over the last 50 years by the National Research Council, and MLML has received the Environmental Heroes Award bestowed by the head of NOAA and former Vice President Al Gore.

The Moss Landing Marine Laboratories are a testament to the power of academic freedom and the commitment to Science-Based Earth Stewardship. MLML has educated over 1000

marine scientists who now hold positions in the federal government, the most prestigious academic and research institutions nationwide, regulatory and resource agencies, and teaching institutions throughout the country. The great wealth of nearby marine resources, the faculty emphasis on mentoring and teaching with integrated research, and the excellent facilities, staff, and marine operations contribute to making this one of the best programs for a Master of Science in Marine Science in the United States. I celebrate the pioneers that founded this institution and those who continue to lead the way in maintaining excellence.

HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding non-profit organization: the Hispanic Heritage Foundation.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation promotes and celebrates Hispanic culture, education, and accomplishment through year-round national and regional inspirational leadership programs by sponsoring a number of educational and cultural programs including the Hispanic Heritage Awards, Youth Awards, and the LOFT (Latinos on Fast Track) Initiative.

The Hispanic Heritage Awards and Ceremony began as a small White House ceremony in 1987 honoring the creation of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15. The award is a prestigious honor, and is a culmination of the Foundation's year-round efforts.

In an evening filled with cultural pride and celebration, the Foundation and the audience honor notable Hispanics who have distinguished themselves as role models in the Hispanic community while making a positive impact in our country.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hispanic Heritage Awards and the theme of the 2006 ceremony will be "Looking Back, Moving Forward," representing the Hispanic community as part of the history of this Nation, and our presence in the Nation's future.

The event will be held September 7, 2006 on the Eisenhower Stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing such an outstanding organization that strives to inspire education in our community, individual excellence among young Hispanics, and prosperity within our communities.

A GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS, ROGER TOUSSAINT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a premium leader for both the middle class and working families. Roger Toussaint is a truly unique Great Point-of-Light. In December

2005 he led New York City's first transit strike in 25 years in order to safeguard the pensions and healthcare for transit workers and future retirees. When all of the negotiations had been completed, the Governor of New York attempted to set a precedent by placing a cut in future pension benefits for new hires. It was the opening salvo for a campaign to cut pension benefits for all state and city employees. In an act of monumental significance for future workers Roger Toussaint rejected this deal with the words: "I will not sell out the unborn."

TWU Local 100 President Roger Toussaint was born in Trinidad in 1956. As a youth in Trinidad, he took part in the 1970 rebellion that targeted the vestiges of British colonial rule and challenged the oppressive conditions of workers, soldiers and small farmers. At the age of 17, Toussaint was arrested and expelled from school for writing slogans on school walls, including "Free Education Means Free Books." In 1974 he came to New York. After a brief enrollment at Brooklyn College, during which he took part in the anticutbacks movement, he worked for several years as a welder prior to the closing of the Brooklyn Naval Yard. Toussaint was hired by the Transit Authority as a cleaner in 1984 and became a track worker in 1985.

Toussaint became active on the job, joining with other track workers to publish "On Track" and to pursue a series of struggles against managerial arrogance and safety hazards. He did not seek a formal union position until 1994, when he was elected Chair of the 1,800-member Track Division. Already a thorn in the side of management and the incumbent union administration, Toussaint used the newly gained position to step up the struggle. In July of 1998, he was fired on the pretext of having been in an unauthorized vehicle during working hours, when the car in which he was a passenger was hit in an intersection and he suffered neck and back injuries. In fact, Toussaint was on official union business at the time, riding in a union car operated by a union official. A routine appeal of the firing was dismissed as untimely—the first such ruling in 60 years of Transit Authority (TA) discipline.

The TA had Toussaint shadowed by private investigators who followed him to union meetings, to his son's nursery school, and even to disciplinary hearings where he defended fellow union members. Toussaint's firing became a rallying cry for union members who demanded his reinstatement. In the union election of 2000, Toussaint became the presidential candidate of New Directions, an umbrella group embracing the opposition to the incumbent regime.

On taking office, Toussaint immediately took measures to reform the finances of the nearly bankrupt Local, including cutting his own salary by 25 percent. In March 2001 he led a successful strike at a Westchester bus company, obtaining landmark increases in wages and benefits for 700 union members. In 2002 he led the union through a difficult strike at three bus companies in Queens operating under city franchise, securing the failing health benefits for 1,500 members. At the end of that year, he led the union in winning a contract settlement that guaranteed threatened health benefits for 34,000 transit workers and their families and opened an array of new initiatives on such fronts as discipline, safety, training and childcare.

In December 2003 he was reelected to a second term as President of TWU Local 100.

As well as his duties at Local 100, Roger Toussaint is President of the Coalition of Metropolitan Transit Authority Unions and a New York City Employees' Retirement System Board Member. He has served on the NYC Central Labor Council and the Municipal Labor Committee. The father of five, Roger Toussaint lives in Crown Heights with his wife, Donna.

For his exceptional vision and leadership courage we salute Roger Toussaint as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

RESOLUTION HONORING CON-
GRESSMAN ELIGIO "KIKI" DE
LA GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Eligio "Kika" de la Garza was born in Mercedes, a small town in Hidalgo County, Texas, on September 22nd, 1927, beginning what would be the start of a long, and illustrious life in representing the Rio Grande Valley.

Whereas, at 17 years of age, he enlisted in the United States Army and served until 1946, continuing his education at Edinburg Junior College and the United States Army Artillery School in Oklahoma. Soon thereafter, he earned a law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Whereas, in 1952, Eligio "Kika" de la Garza was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1952, serving the Rio Grande Valley. He accomplished many goals such as the creation of the Texas Water Commission and sponsoring a bill that allowed the border cities and counties along the Rio Grande river to build their own international bridges, helping to foster the spirit of trade and cooperation that still exists to this day.

Whereas, after serving honorably in the Texas House of Representatives, Congressman de la Garza was elected in 1964 to the United States House of Representatives to represent the 15th Congressional District of Texas. In his 32 years of congressional service, he was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, the first Hispanic to serve in the seat since 1917.

Whereas, during his leadership as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for the next 13 years, he oversaw major agricultural legislation such as the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act, the Food Security Act, the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, and the Disaster Assistance Acts of 1988 and 1989.

Whereas, in 1976, Congressman de la Garza became one of the founding members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which he chaired from 1989 to 1991 as a strong supporter of civil rights for minorities and free trade along the border. He was highly involved in the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which has greatly benefited the Texas-Mexico border region in South Texas: be it hereby

Resolved, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends Congressman "Kika" de la Garza for having served the Rio Grande Valley with the utmost distinction and courage.

RECOGNIZES

ANTHONY
MUSSELMAN OF SUFFOLK, VIR-
GINIA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Musselman of Suffolk, Virginia, a Quartermaster 1st class sailor currently serving in Iraq in the Global War on Terror.

Originally joining the Navy for an opportunity to see the world and learn some new skills, Quartermaster Musselman has accomplished his dream and has literally traveled the world over. A dedicated student of the naval profession, he was always looking at the stars. Quartermaster Musselman was happy to strike for quartermaster, learning to "shoot" the stars with a sextant rather than use GPS satellites.

One of his favorite memories during his 9 years of service was following September 11th when a German destroyer asked permission to pass by his amphibious assault ship. As they passed, the whole German crew was standing at attention with large sheets hung from all parts of the ship saying "We Stand With You".

Quartermaster Musselman is married to Misti Musselman from Chino, California. The couple currently lives in Suffolk, Virginia and is expecting their first child while he is deployed in Iraq. He is currently deployed with the Iraqi coastal patrol squadron guarding coastal oil fields. Quartermaster Musselman's parents currently reside in Citrus Hills, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Anthony Musselman who volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Anthony serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

JIM SANTANGELO—LABOR LEADER
OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim Santangelo who is being honored as San Diego's Labor Leader of the Year. Jim is a New Jersey native who began his career as a truck driver in his home state following an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1959. This was also the time when Jim joined his first Teamsters Union Local. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Southern California and began his rapid rise in Teamsters Local 848.

Widely known throughout Southern California by thousands of rank- and-file Teamsters over the decades because of his communication skills, he served the Western Conference of Teamsters in 13 states as food and warehouse division director. In that post, he expanded working strategies for industry Union members to prosper under new collective bargaining agreements.

For years he served as the Union's political affairs chairman. His long tenure as the director of Joint Council 42's political screening

committee prompted a return of pro-worker and pro-labor elected representatives at all levels of public life in Southern California.

His dedication to Union members and working families and advocacy of training and education for all propelled him to the leadership of the largest Teamsters Joint Council in 1998. This was followed by his election to Western Region Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. He was re-elected IBT Vice President in June, 2006.

More recently, Jim spearheaded the region's massive donation, mobilization and transportation of foodstuffs and necessities to the families of San Diego-based United States Marines deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan when it became known that welfare and food stamps were keeping families afloat.

Under his leadership, Teamster's Joint Council 42 inaugurated an annual scholarship program, created a computerized phone center for Union-to-member communications, and secured the award-winning Teamsters Joint Council 42 truck and trailer, which traverses the country for organizing and charity relief purposes.

He has also recently overseen the creation of the Teamsters Training Academy, a comprehensive training and upgrading facility to license commercial drivers.

Jim's commitment to the community has also led him to train for and join the city of El Monte Police Department as a reserve officer where he serves as a sergeant. In addition, Jim is a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reserve officer.

Jim Santangelo has been an inspiration to working families throughout Southern California—and truly deserves the honor as "Labor Leader of the Year."

CONGRATULATING PENNSYLVANIA
SENATOR CHARLES D. LEMMOND
AND MRS. BARBARA LEMMOND
FOR RECOGNITION RECEIVED
FROM THE SALVATION ARMY
FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my personal friends Senator Charles D. Lemmond and his wife, Barbara, who have been honored by the Salvation Army of the greater Wilkes-Barre area for their many years of community service.

Senator Lemmond has represented the 20th senatorial district in the Pennsylvania Senate since 1985 and is retiring at the end of this year. He is chairman of the Senate State Government Committee, Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of the Senate Committees on Rules and Executive Nominations, Finance, and Military and Veterans Services.

A former Common Pleas Court judge in Luzerne County, Senator Lemmond is currently chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and he serves on the Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee and the Joint State Government Commission's Task Force

on Decedent's Estates. Senator Lemmond is also a member of the Reapportionment Task Force, the Elections Reform Task Force and the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Legislatively, Senator Lemmond was the prime sponsor of a law providing judicial access to juvenile crime reports, a major anti-drug law aimed at imposing tougher punishments for repeat drug offenders, a law providing for the housing of state prisoners in federal prisons, and a law providing sentencing procedures for first-degree murder.

Senator Lemmond has also been instrumental in the passage of voter registration and election reform laws and, most recently, a law requiring hearing screening for all infants born in the Commonwealth. He has also sponsored numerous initiatives relating to government ethics, charitable organizations, tourist promotion, agriculture preservation, natural resource conservation and industrial site clean up.

A past potentate of Irem Temple, he is a 33rd degree Mason, a trustee of the Wyoming Conference of the United Methodist Church, an advisory board member of the Salvation Army, a life member of the board of trustee of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School and an advisory board member of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

Senator Lemmond is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He also served overseas in the U.S. Army of Occupation.

Barbara Northrup Lemmond is a graduate of Wyoming Seminary and she attended Skidmore and Elmira Colleges. During a career spanning 37 years, she served as secretary to the Luzerne County Register of Wills, was a nursery school teacher for B'nai B'rith, co-owned Project 40, a handcraft and antique shop, served as office manager to a local physician as well as secretary for the Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre campus.

Mrs. Lemmond's dedication to the enhancement and well-being of the northeastern Pennsylvania community extends beyond her business acumen. She serves as a member of the board of directors for Wesley Village and the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association. She is an active volunteer for the Back Mountain Memorial Library and has been a driver for Meals on Wheels for more than 30 years, which is still a part of her weekly routine.

Mrs. Lemmond has served as past secretary, vice president, and board member for the Back Mountain Memorial Library, as well as a board member and president of Meals on Wheels. She has also served as a board member and president of the Luzerne County Library Systems, and a teacher at First United Methodist Church School in Wilkes-Barre. Mrs. Lemmond has also been a volunteer for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Planned Parenthood of Luzerne County, the Swetland Home, and a member of the Junior League of Wilkes-Barre.

On a personal note, my wife Nancy and I have known Charlie and Barbara for many, many years, since Charlie and I were young lawyers in the Luzerne County bar. Although we are members of different political parties, Charlie and I have always been friends and have been able to work together to serve Northeastern Pennsylvania. His thoughtful and dedicated service to our region and the Commonwealth will be greatly missed, and I wish

him and Barbara all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Senator and Mrs. Lemmond on this joyous occasion. Together, they have contributed greatly to improving the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania through their selflessness and love of community.

MARY A. BAIN: A NATIONAL
TREASURE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last month, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois mourned the loss of a dedicated and extraordinary public servant. Mary Anderson Bain brought her many talents, a firmly-rooted commitment to the New Deal principles of expanding opportunities to all, and a deep love of the arts to a career that has enriched our Nation.

Mary Bain is known by many of us from her long service with Representative Sid Yates, and she was one of the first women chiefs of staff when she accepted that position in 1975. Mrs. Bain was gracious and charming, but she was also politically-savvy and focused when it came to contributing to the well-being of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois and promoting the interests that she and Representative Yates shared. The two of them were a finely-tuned team who, together, were able to do great things.

In 2003, Mary Bain received the Heritage Defender Award, an award that recognized her many achievements: helping to create a cultural heritage grants program for the National Park Service and a conservation program at the Institute of Library and Museum Services and to ensure funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Gallery, and the Kennedy Center.

At the awards ceremony, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI said, "Not only did Mary Bain save national treasures, she is a national treasure."

Mrs. Bain served the Nation but she started her public service in Illinois, first as a junior high school English teacher and later as the Illinois administrator of the National Youth Administration, a depression-era New Deal initiative. She was one of the youngest and one of the few women leaders. Part of the Works Progress Administration, the NYA provided young men and women with small work study payments so that they could afford to get an education. It provided an opportunity for a generation of young people who would otherwise have lost hope and their chance for a better future.

Mary Bain followed two guiding principles throughout her life. One was the belief that publicly-accountable government could make a positive difference in people's lives, whether it is in preserving the environment, providing education opportunities and financial security or expanding our cultural life. She was proud to be a liberal and made no bones about it.

The second was her commitment to sharing what she had learned from her decades of public service with others. There are many

people in Washington and Illinois who were mentored by Mary Bain—staff, House members, activists and advocates. I will always be grateful for her generosity in helping me when I was elected to succeed Representative Yates.

And, like so many others, I will always be grateful for her lifetime of accomplishments.

A VERMONT LESSON IN HOW TO
EXPORT TO THE WORLD

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this year the Small Business Administration selected Robert Johnson of Omega Optical, in Brattleboro, Vermont, as Vermont's Small Business Exporter of the Year. His story, and the company's story, has much to tell us about how the United States can remain competitive in a global economy, and how we can create new manufacturing jobs through innovation and foresight.

Omega Optical began in 1968—in a garage. Since then, it has grown into a \$13 million company that employs over 140 employees. Omega Optical makes, and has always made, filters for optical instruments.

Robert Johnson did not set out to make a less costly filter, or a slight improvement on a previous filter. Instead, he committed himself and Omega Optical to doing research in optical thin-films, which can be used to control the flow of light. In particular, their research focused on fluorescence, the light emitted from objects illuminated by a very energetic light.

The filters that Omega Optical developed have played a major role in the burgeoning of biological science in our day. Let me cite a passage from Vennont: An Illustrated History by John Duffy and Vincent Feeney: "The sciences of fluorescence microscopy and flow cytometry, which allow for the visualization of cellular structures and the sorting and analysis of cells, were made possible by design and manufacturing developments invented at Omega. These advances set the state-of-the-art and allowed Omega not only to define the science, but for many years capture the entire market worldwide."

Omega's filters are used in not only cellular biology, but also in astronomy and in clinical medicine. Whether scientists look at the enormous spatial universe around us, or the microscopic secrets of genetics and bodily functioning, they use filters not just made, but developed, by Omega Optical.

What has made Omega so successful, in both manufacturing and the export of manufactured products? A stress on research and long-range development, not just the immediate pursuit of profit; a commitment to moving into new areas and inventing new products; and a dedicated workforce. For clearly Omega Optical shows that American workers, just like American product developers, are the best in the world, and can and do make the best and most competitive products. And by creating a 'green' production facility, their 'Delta Campus,' the company has shown that safeguarding the environment can be a major piece of a business agenda.

If we as a Nation think about research and the long-term, as Omega Optical has done,

and if we boldly build on our strengths and the capability of our workers, we can move confidently into our future.

RECOGNIZES RYAN SEADER OF
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Seader of West Palm Beach, Florida, an Army Private First Class soldier currently serving in Iraq.

Following his education at community college and prior to enlisting in the National Guard, Private Seader used his natural ability to fix things to start a profession in the construction field, specializing in restoring old homes.

Enlisting in the National Guard in January 2004 as a mechanic in the construction field, Private Seader was trained to work with water pumps. Following his activation, he was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey and cross trained to serve as a prison guard.

Private Seader is currently serving in company 652 while deployed in Iraq, his Company is stationed at the Abu Ghraib Prison where he is a part of the team working to demolish the facility.

While on a recent leave, Private Seader was presented with an American flag that had been flown in his honor. Ryan is a proud soldier-demonstrating his dedication to his country and the war on terror.

Private Seader's parents are also committed to helping fight the global war on terror. Mary and Rick Seader live in inverness and work to educate their local community on the need to defend the American ideal and to never give into cowardly acts by terrorists like the September 11, 2001 attack on our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Ryan Seader who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Ryan serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his Family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO BOONTON FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boonton Fire Department, in the Town of Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On Saturday, September 2, 2006 the good people of the Town of Boonton celebrated the Fire Company's 115th Anniversary with their annual parade and carnival.

For 115 years, the Boonton Fire Department has been protecting and serving the residents of their community and nearby towns. Featuring five companies, each with their own unique and vibrant history, this Fire Department embodies the ideas of brotherly love and

teamwork for the betterment of their communities.

Currently, the fire department, led by Fire Chief Pete Herbert, is made up entirely of volunteers, who live in or around the Town of Boonton. They are men and women who "volunteer their time to protect and educate the residents of Boonton."

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Boonton Fire Department on celebrating 115 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

IN RECOGNITION OF RISING STAR
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rising Star Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas on its 75th Anniversary.

The church's modest beginning began on September 13, 1931 in a local diner, when Reverend Smith Cary and a small number of members organized Rising Star Church. The church has seen the leadership of many dynamic ministers including, Reverend Smith Cary, Reverend T.H. Davis, and its present pastor, Reverend Ralph W. Emerson, Jr.

The stated vision of the Church is to be "the Worship Center that seeks to reclaim lost souls, reshape lives, rejoice in love, react to the Holy Spirit while responding to God's call". Rising Star Baptist church has exemplified their vision through growth to a congregation of over 2,500 members and progressing into a multi-ministry church. Rising Star Baptist Church continues to be an influential presence and respected contributor to the Fort Worth community and greater Tarrant County citizenry.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Rising Star Baptist Church on their 75th anniversary and praise their dedication and service to the people of Fort Worth, Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE MINORITY BAR
ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW
YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, not only for furthering the work of the National Bar Association, providing social and professional interaction among minority attorneys but also for their work improving the protection of political and civil rights of all citizens.

Since its inception the Association has played a role in the community providing opportunities to students in its administration on scholarships, and has also awarded and recognized local leaders in the area for their hard work and diligent efforts.

The MBA is an organization that has grown to over one hundred members from diverse ethnic backgrounds and practices across

Western New York. With each member aiming to be effective advocates and advisors for Western New York clients and for the Western New York Community.

In 2004, the MBA, enlarging its commitment to promote education and scholarship in the field of law, organized the Minority Bar Association of Western New York Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization providing financial assistance to individuals interested in pursuing a career in law. The Foundation is committed to ensuring continued minority representation in the legal community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize the Minority Bar Association, for its continuing efforts in the community, its ongoing work for the furthering of the cause, and its promotion of minorities in the legal profession.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREE CLINIC
OF SIMI VALLEY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of 35 years of continuous community service by the Free Clinic of Simi Valley.

The Free Clinic is a non-profit, volunteer-based community organization that provides medical care, counseling, dental, and legal assistance to individuals and families, regardless of their ability to pay. Throughout its history, it has enjoyed widespread support from the medical and legal communities, service groups, and elected officials.

Funding for the Free Clinic is provided primarily by private foundations, corporations, local service organizations, and individual donors.

All services offered at the clinic's fully licensed facilities are provided by volunteers, which include doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, dentists, dental assistants, lawyers, paralegals, marriage and family therapists, MFT trainees, and interns.

Last year alone, more than 8,000 patients received services through the clinic, including general medical care, immunizations, smoking cessation programs, and counseling. The dental clinic, which just opened in May 2005, served 79 patients before the year was out. Over its 35-year history, the clinic has served an estimated 70,000 children and adults.

Despite the impressive number of patients served, the Board of Directors and staff practice frugality, with operating costs of less than \$225,000 in 2005. That speaks highly of the caliber of professionals who volunteer their services for the betterment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, its board members over the years, its staff, and its volunteers for 35 years of service to our community.

“CONGRATULATING OFF-ROAD MOTORSPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge two extraordinary men who have been recognized for their contributions to Off-Road Motorsports. Bob Ham and the late “Corky” McMillin were inducted into the Off-Road Motorsports Hall of Fame on August 26th of this year.

Bob Ham has been a long time advocate for “off-roaders”. In 1969, he co-founded the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) and went on to create the Off-Road Vehicle Legislative Coalition in 1983. Bob worked with President Reagan’s Interior Secretary, James Watt, to successfully re-establish the “Barstow to Vegas Motorcycle Race”. He has worked diligently to preserve designated funds for off-highway vehicles and created a trust fund to stop California legislators from taking allocated money from off-highway vehicle programs. Bob later forced the state to return 30 million dollars to off-highway vehicle programs. His efforts have made it possible for many of my constituents to enjoy the California wilderness in their off-road vehicles.

Unfortunately, the off-road motorsports industry lost one of their most adamant supporters last year after Corky McMillin passed away last September. Corky was posthumously inducted to the Hall of Fame after supporting the industry for more than 29 years. He was a champion off-road racer, winning many competitions multiple times. Corky never wavered from his commitment to the sport and gave generously to various off-road events. He sponsored numerous races, and he was the title sponsor of the Superstition Championship Series, held in Plaster City, California. He was a true statesman to off-road racing and will be greatly missed.

I am pleased to recognize these men on their induction to the Off-Road Motorsports Hall of Fame.

SUPPORT FOR A SPECIAL ENVOY
FOR SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I introduce this resolution to again call for the immediate appointment of a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. In calling for this I would like to commend the President for the leadership he has shown toward Sudan; Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who has traveled there and cares deeply about this issue; the work of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was the first leader to call the conflict genocide; and former Deputy Secretary Robert Zoellick, for his efforts on behalf of the people of Sudan.

I also want to specifically recognize Roger Winter who has dedicated his life to the people of Sudan. He has been a true hero to the suffering Sudanese.

While we were all hopeful that the signing last May of the Darfur Peace Agreement would bring needed stability to Darfur, I am extremely alarmed that in recent weeks the fighting in Sudan has intensified. The targeting of civilians and humanitarian workers must end. Sudan is at a critical moment and the appointment of a special envoy could not be more timely.

The appointment of a special envoy will send a clear message to Khartoum that the United States will not stand by while genocide is taking place and will send a message to the people suffering in the camps that the United States has been and will continue to be actively involved in ending their nightmare.

I urge the administration to move quickly to bring hope to the people of Sudan.

RECOGNIZING RANDY HATCHER OF
BRANDON, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Hatcher of Brandon, Florida, an Army Staff Sergeant killed in 1991 during the first Persian Gulf War.

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, Sgt. Hatcher was active on his high school wrestling team while living in Birmingham, Alabama. The son of an Air Force veteran, Randy made the decision to enter the military following high school.

Following six years of Army service in Germany, Sgt. Hatcher was deployed to Iraq as part of the 197th Army Infantry Brigade. During his seven months serving in the Persian Gulf, Sgt. Hatcher wrote many upbeat letters to his family and loved ones, speaking of his love of fishing and how he worried for his family back home.

Three days following victory in the Persian Gulf, Sgt. Hatcher was killed when an ammunition trailer in his convoy exploded. Up until his death, Sgt. Hatcher remained positive about his mission and his service in the Army. He believed in what the United States was doing in the Persian Gulf and did not complain about the work or the conditions he served in while overseas. He left behind his wife Florlita and a two and a half year old son Randy. Sgt. Hatcher’s parents, Carol and Joseph Jones, still reside in Citrus County, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Randy Hatcher who volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Randy have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN BARROUK AS HE LEAVES THE WILKES-BARRE CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Stephen Barrouk, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who has served as president and chief executive officer of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry from 1989 until earlier this month.

Mr. Barrouk's extraordinary leadership has helped guide and forge the beginning of a truly remarkable revitalization of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

Since 1989, Mr. Barrouk has led the growth of the Chamber from 500 members to 1,338 members in 2005. He has been at the forefront of a litany of catalytic projects that have transformed the region. Those projects include the Wachovia Arena, an entertainment venue that has spawned tens of millions of dollars of commercial expansion and created hundreds of new jobs. An innovation center was carved out of a vacant department store complex in central city to nurture fledgling businesses. Public Square Commons, formerly the Pomeroy's Department Store, was completely renovated to provide first class office space. Also during his tenure, Mr. Barrouk secured an American Hockey League franchise and recruited the Penguins as an anchor tenant for the Wachovia Arena.

In addition, Mr. Barrouk helped launch a 14-screen downtown theater complex as well as studies for the Susquehanna Riverfront Convention Center and Hotel and the Riverfront Museum.

Mr. Barrouk also led the way for the development of two business parks, Hanover Crossings and the East Mountain Corporate Center, both of which have major tenants responsible for creating hundreds of jobs.

During his tenure he managed three capital campaigns that raised over \$10 million to support 15 years of economic development marketing that attracted over 125 new companies to the region. He also led the effort to create Penn's Northeast, Inc., a regional marketing organization; the Diamond City Partnership and Downtown Business Association, the Great Valley Technology Alliance and the Luzern County Convention Center Authority which manages the Arena.

Mr. Barrouk has been the worthy recipient of numerous service awards, among them the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America; the Distinguished Leader Award from Leadership Wilkes-Barre; a 25 Year Leadership Star Award from Leadership Wilkes-Barre, a Special Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Ben Franklin Partnership and, in 2001, he received the Chamber of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce executives in 2001.

Mr. Barrouk serves on the boards of directors of numerous organizations including 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, Chairman of

Steering Committee for the Renew Pennsylvania effort; NEPA Alliance; Luzerne-Schuylkill Counties Work Force Investment Board; Great Valley Technology Alliance; Joint Urban Studies Center, Earth Conservancy, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Catholic Social Services and the Diamond City Partnership.

On a personal note, I have worked closely with Steve on many projects over the last 17 years. There is no economic development official who is more dedicated to improving the quality of life in our area. His perseverance, hard work and integrity made him one of the most effective leaders in our area. I am proud to call him a friend and look forward to continuing working with him to help northeastern Pennsylvania for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Barrouk for the exemplary community service he has contributed over the past 17 years. His commitment to revitalizing the Wilkes-Barre area has been responsible for a wealth of community improvements that have greatly enhanced the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
MICHAEL R. WOMACK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Michael R. Womack, of North Richland Hills, Texas on his years of dedicated service and commitment to law enforcement.

Captain Womack joined the North Richland Hills Police Department as a police officer in September of 1976. During his thirty years of service to North Richland Hills, Captain Womack has been awarded the Patrolman of the Year Award, the Supervisor of the Year award, as well as three Meritorious Service Awards and a Life Saving Award.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2007, Captain Womack will be retiring from law enforcement. Having worked in the Patrol Division, the Administrative Services Division, as well as the Technical Services Division and Investigative Services Division, Captain Womack's tenure, skills, and experience will surely be difficult to replace.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Captain Womack on his devotion to the service and protection to his community. His contributions and commitment to North Richland Hills should inspire us all. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, a bill that directs the Treasury Department to mint 500,000 one-dollar coins marking Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Abraham Lincoln is a true American

hero who will always be remembered for his commitment to the ideals of freedom, democracy, and equal opportunity. Illinois, known as the Land of Lincoln, is where Lincoln lived for many years and began his political career. Today, many historical sites in Illinois are dedicated in honor of Lincoln and his legacy. Illinois will be a focal point for activities to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Besides being a noble tribute, this commemorative coin will help provide significant funding for the bicentennial and is an important part of how the United States will mark Lincoln's 200th birthday in 2009.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROOKLYN
CENTER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN CENTER,
MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, last evening I had the great pleasure to join in a celebration in honor of our Nation's high schools that have made an outstanding commitment to music education. As a strong supporter of the arts and music education, it was a pleasure to sit among music industry supporters, arts advocates, individuals in the private sector, and corporate sponsors such as 7UP, who work every day to ensure that young people have access to strong music education programs.

It was an even greater privilege to be part of a celebration where a Minnesota high school headlined the event. Brooklyn Center Junior/Senior High School, located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, received one of the Foundation's highest honors—the GRAMMY Foundation's Signature Schools Enterprise Award, which honors those schools that make great efforts to bring music to economically underserved students. I'd like to extend a warm congratulations to Ms. Chris Porter, Brooklyn Center High School's music teacher and all of her students, including Chanel Chatham, who both traveled to DC to participate in last evening's special event.

As budgets for the arts and arts education continues to dramatically decline, I applaud the efforts of the thousands of teachers and students across the country who are working to piece together the critical funding needed to strengthen, and sometimes simply sustain, their music education programs. It is my hope that the federal government will recommit its resources to the arts and arts education—especially since we know that there are strong correlations between arts education and achievement in math and science. Our nation's ability to compete in an increasingly competitive world will depend on not only strong math and science preparation—but also on an emphasis in the arts and in music education. As a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I will continue to fight for a well-rounded education for all students.

I commend the hard work and dedication of the students and staff at Brooklyn Center Junior/Senior High School. Thank you for the opportunity to join you in your celebration. I look

forward to hearing more about your continued success in bringing the joys and benefits of music to students!

RECOGNIZING DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY'S 2006 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as Democratic Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I rise today to congratulate Dialogue on Diversity for its 2006 Health Care Symposium. I am proud to recognize the Dialogue's effort to inform and educate the public about the importance of an effective preventive health care system.

Dialogue on Diversity, founded in 1989, is committed to improving the economic and social condition of women in the U.S. and around the world. Its programs bring together multi-ethnic women for a worldwide interchange on concerns of vital importance to the world's women and their families.

Today, our health care system is not meeting the needs of all people, particularly in racial and ethnic minority communities where health disparities continue to grow. Discussions and symposiums like Dialogue on Diversity's 2006 Health Care Symposium will help to address these important issues.

Again, I want to commend the Dialogue on Diversity for its 2006 health care event and wish them the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF ED TEMPLETON, NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ed Templeton, the President of SRP Federal Credit Union, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

For the past 34 years, Ed has dedicated his life on behalf of improving financial institutions in America and currently serves on the South Carolina Credit Union League Board of Directors. His illustrious experience further includes service as President of the Columbia Chapter of Credit Unions, member of NAFCU's Education Committee, and member of the Better Business Bureau of Augusta, Georgia.

As the President of SRP Federal Credit Union, Ed has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service. Through his credit union, Ed is continuously educating his members on how to prevent identity theft. He also understands that today's youth must be armed with the knowledge to be financially savvy. SRP Federal Credit Union established the "Teaching Kids How to Handle Money Responsibly" program which was designed to help children at an early age

develop the decision making skills for sound future financial decisions.

Ed's involvement to improve the lives of others can be further illustrated through his involvement as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Shepard Blood Center in Augusta, and in his past service as Elected Commissioner for the City of Hephzibah.

It is because of the good work of Ed and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I wish Ed the best of luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors.

THE YOUTHBUILD TRANSFER ACT

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of the YouthBuild Transfer Act, S. 3534. The bill amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides for the transfer of the YouthBuild program from HUD to the Department of Labor. I would like to acknowledge Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. WILLIAM LACY CLAY and Mr. DALE KILDEE who supported this bill. I also want to thank Mr. FRANK, Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services for sponsoring the bill.

The YouthBuild Transfer Act will do four important things. It will:

(1) Enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(2) Provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities;

(3) Foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low income communities; and

(4) Expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth.

The education, employment, and housing needs of our nation's most vulnerable youth must be one of our highest priorities. Since 1994, the YouthBuild program has awarded \$485 million in grants, enabling 47,000 youth to obtain education, training and trade skills related to the building and rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income families and the homeless. The program has a long track record of proven success, although for the past two years funding has been down 23 percent from \$65 million to \$50 million. YouthBuild would be extended for five years consistent with other Work Investment Act programs, and would provide for greater flexibility in the use of funds. This program is being extended just as the U.S. Bureau of Census released the most recent data on youth and poverty in the United States.

In August 2006, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that the poverty rate for children in the U.S was higher than the rates for people 18 to 64 years and older. Children represent 34.9 percent of the people living in poverty and 25 percent of the total population of

the United States. The poverty rate for young children under the age of 6 living in families were 20.0 percent and 4.8 million. Even more astounding is that for those children living in households headed by females 52.9 percent were in poverty, over five times the rate of their counterparts in married families 9.9 percent. For children under 18 living in families headed by females, 42.8 percent were in poverty, compared with 8.5 percent for married couples. Many of us know that these youth are most at risk, and that any public policy or program that is designed to assist these young people as they prepare to enter the workforce is an investment in our future.

So why YouthBuild? The poverty data paints a very vivid picture of what is going on in America. Too many American youth live in poverty, and are robbed of opportunities to take full advantage of all their God-given talents. Even Alan Greenspan, the former Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, pointed to the fact that the historic causes of poverty and disenfranchisement detrimentally impact our entire nation. When the least among us do well, we know the entire nation benefits. In effect, these youth, who are vital to the economic well-being of this country, are handicapped by poverty, poor education and the lack of strong viable communities with housing that is livable, affordable and safe. YouthBuild is one program that acknowledges the experience of millions of American youth by making real investments in their education, employment skills and leadership development. It also provides housing for the homeless and low-income families that represents another approach to address what is an overlooked group.

The Secretary of Labor is authorized to fund YouthBuild activities through grants for which public and nonprofit entities can compete. In addition, there are provisions in the bill to ensure the orderly transition of the program from HUD to the Department of Labor. In 2005, 14,000 youth were turned away from the YouthBuild program for lack of funding. Over 1000 communities would like to participate in YouthBuild, and this bill will make that happen for many of them.

Mr. Speaker I am convinced that the YouthBuild program represents a major step to refocusing our national resources toward a well-established vehicle that can provide hope and opportunity for disadvantaged youth in America. These young people deserve every chance, and we must continue to provide opportunities for them to succeed. By better preparing our disadvantaged youth to be competitive and to function in the ever changing global economy we will continue to reduce poverty and strengthen American households. YouthBuild will improve our youth and increase housing opportunity for the homeless. I urge my Colleagues to support the bill.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRIDGET MASIELLO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud

Buffaloian. Bridget Masiello passed away August 5, 2006 of this year, but she left behind a legacy for all of Buffalo to be proud of.

Born of Seventh Street and raised on Busti Avenue, Mrs. Masiello was a lifelong resident of Buffalo's Westside.

It was here that she made her home with her husband, the late Daniel J. Masiello, and her seven children, including the former mayor of Buffalo, Anthony M. Masiello.

Remembered as a warm and affectionate lady, by her son, Mrs. Masiello was a devout Catholic and enjoyed bingo and playing cards. She was also active in the many social, political and athletic endeavors of her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Masiello is survived by her five sons, two daughters; her sister, Carmella Leib; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of Mrs. Masiello for her contributions to the social and political fabric of the City of Buffalo. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her spirit here today.

ACQUITTAL OF MIDSHIPMAN 1ST
CLASS LAMAR OWENS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many people followed the case against Lamar Owens, as well as the not guilty verdict that followed. Because the impact of this case does not end with the verdict, I am submitting two opinion articles for the RECORD. I believe these articles highlight some important things to consider regarding the lasting impact these charges will have on this young man, his accuser, and so many others. I submit the following opinion articles for the RECORD: "Owens absolved, but Navy case has no winners," by Rick Maese from the Baltimore Sun and "Academy can help dispel cloud from rape case," which appeared in the Capital on August 1, 2006.

[From the Capital, Aug. 1, 2006]

ACADEMY CAN HELP DISPEL CLOUD FROM
RAPE CASE

Whatever conduct Midshipman 1st Class Lamar Owens admitted to when he was court-martialed on rape charges, much of the second guessing following his acquittal on those charges hasn't focused on him. It has focused on the Naval Academy, which relied on noncredible testimony in a case that showcased the superintendent's crackdown on sexual harassment.

A military jury recently acquitted Midshipman Owens of raping a female midshipman. It found insufficient evidence to disregard Midshipman Owens' version of events. He contended all along that the sexual intercourse was consensual.

The female midshipman, who had a history of alcohol abuse, had returned to her dorm drunk on the night of the incident. Midshipman Owens testified that she invited him to her room and that she fell asleep during sexual intercourse.

It was her word against his—and the verdict surprised no one who followed the trial. The jury did convict Midshipman Owens of the lesser charge of conduct unbecoming of an officer, but declined to impose any punishment for it.

The case was deeply flawed. Not only did the accuser's history cast doubt on her testimony, but she didn't even cry for help from a roommate asleep just a few feet away. All the prosecutors really had solid evidence for was a sexual encounter—something that violated the institution's honor code, but is not unheard-of at the academy.

There are no winners here, but right now the biggest loser seems to be Midshipman Owens. His reputation can't be restored and the suffering for himself and his family can't be erased. The superintendent should drop any further action against him.

It is less clear what to do with his accuser. She and her friends were granted immunity for their testimony, so she faces only minor disciplinary action. Perjury trumps immunity—so if prosecutors believe she perjured herself, would they pursue those charges with equal determination?

Just what is the penalty for making a false accusation? Graduation and a commission? The accuser's name wasn't paraded before the public. Her family didn't have to face public speculation and ridicule. She was shielded. But given the problems she admitted to at the trial, is she the kind of officer we'd want to lead troops into combat?

The superintendent, Vice Adm. Rodney Rempt, inherited a school with a history of sexual misconduct. We applaud his determination to purge the academy of sexual harassment. But in the process of demonstrating their resolve, he and his staff appear to have chosen the wrong case.

We don't know if the superintendent got bad advice from the attorneys or if he decided to make an example of Midshipman Owens, the former quarterback of the Navy football team. But now that Midshipman Owens has been acquitted of rape, we believe he has suffered enough. If his accuser ends up with the commission that he deserves, then the worst miscarriage of justice is yet to come.

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 23, 2006]

OWENS ABSOLVED, BUT NAVY CASE HAS NO
WINNERS

(By Rick Maese)

Forget the campus fame, the media coverage, the proud alums and the smiling boosters. There's no real meaning behind any of that.

The game clock only hints at this possibility, but there's a point for everybody when you realize that the game is over. When you step off the playing field, your role changes.

One minute: a star quarterback, the team's most valuable player, playing in a bowl game. The next: a worried defendant, the accused, marooned far away from the football field.

One minute: a successful coach, the father figure, a leader of men. The next: a character witness, the supporter, taking a stand in a courtroom.

There's no scoreboard that will tell you this, but there wasn't a single winner when Lamar Owens, the Naval Academy's quarterback last season, was cleared of rape charges last week.

On Friday, a military jury recommended no punishment for Owens in connection with two lesser charges.

Navy coach Paul Johnson was at home when he heard the news. He picked up the phone and called Owens. It went to voice mail, and the coach said that he was happy for Owens, happy for his family, and that he hoped they could all move forward.

As tough as the past six months have been, moving forward is no easy challenge. Not for Owens and not for his accuser. Not for the academy and not for Johnson's football team.

"Lamar and his family, for them this has been a tremendous pressure," Johnson said. "I wasn't really worried about the program. The program stands on its own. I can see where for some people, though, the verdict does vindicate Lamar and maybe it does vindicate the program a little bit."

Johnson has remained mostly tightlipped about the case. He spoke with reporters during the team's spring practice but has said little else. Even after the verdict, Johnson was careful with his words when I spoke with him Friday evening.

But you could tell how highly Johnson regards Owens. The two met six years ago when the coach recruited Owens to play for him at Division I-AA powerhouse Georgia Southern. Then, when Johnson accepted the Navy job five years ago, he persuaded Owens to follow him to Annapolis.

There's a reason that Owens' defense attorneys called on Johnson as a character witness. The coach took the stand and said Owens had always been "above reproach," but the judge, Navy Cmdr. John Maksym, barred Johnson from sharing any opinions on the charges brought against Owens.

"What they were saying Lamar did, well, it was just totally out of character," Johnson told me on Friday. "The accusations weren't the Lamar I knew."

That's why it was so easy for Johnson to tell everyone to just allow the case to play out. Johnson says he was confident that if Owens was not guilty, the evidence and testimony would reveal it.

"I think some people are quick to jump to conclusions," he said. "But my take all along was: Let's wait and see what happens. People want to rush to judgment, but that's not fair to anybody. You have to give a guy a chance to defend himself."

The charges never made sense to anyone who knew Owens. He was from a good home—his father works for the power company, his mother is a prenatal nurse. He attended a military school before coming to the Naval Academy. He recited Scripture to friends and attended Bible study sessions every Thursday.

In fact, after the accuser went to academy officials with her allegations, several of Owens' teammates wanted to confront her en masse. Owens pleaded with them not to. He even went to Johnson and asked the coach to also discourage his teammates.

They all love Owens. It's why the players voted him Most Valuable Player of last season's 8-4 team. It's why they were in court for 10 straight days, sitting together in the gallery as a show of support.

They all breathed a sigh of relief Friday. What they knew about their friend, now everyone knew.

But no one thinks this is completely over. When someone levies a serious charge, such as rape, the pounding of a gavel doesn't make everything disappear.

Owens has completed his classwork but isn't certain he'll be allowed to graduate. There's also the possibility that he could be expelled from the academy and forced to repay costs for his taxpayer-funded schooling: \$140,000.

"He's been remarkably upbeat," Johnson said of Owens. "I think he's handling stuff very well."

Owens won, but so much has been lost. In sports, victory is supposed to be the ultimate reward, but that doesn't always translate neatly to the real world.

There's so often a gray area—between consent and force, between innocence and guilt, between winning and losing.

"Nobody wins in these situations," Johnson said.

Owens is a free man now. The Midshipmen begin practice next week. And life at the academy is back to normal.

But not really.

There are lessons in this for everyone—surely, for Owens and his accuser, but also for team officials and school administrators. It's just unfortunate that this is how lessons are learned.

Owens led his team in rushing and passing and touchdowns last season. He took the Midshipmen to the Poinsettia Bowl, a 51-30 win over Colorado State. It was a great senior season, one most Navy fans won't soon forget.

Time will pass and Owens' place in school lore will be cemented. When that happens, it'd be nice if Owens is remembered for all that he did at the academy and not for something he didn't.

FREEDOM FOR FÉLIX GERARDO VEGA RUÍZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Félix Gerardo Vega Ruíz, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Vega Ruíz is a member of the Cuban Democratic Workers Union and the Pro Human Rights party. As a courageous member of the opposition, he has steadfastly demanded freedom, democracy, and human rights for the Cuban people. He has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the tyrant and demanded that the people of Cuba be allowed their inalienable rights.

According to The Assembly to Promote Civil Society, Mr. Vega Ruíz was arrested by the dictatorship in 2003 and, after a sham trial, thrown into the totalitarian gulag. According to multiple sources, Mr. Vega Ruíz was sentenced to 7 years in the gulag. Let me be very clear, Mr. Vega Ruíz has been incarcerated in the gulag for daring to dream of and to work on behalf of a democratic Cuba.

According to NetforCuba, Mr. Vega Ruíz has continued to oppose the tyrannical regime while locked in the gulag. He has conducted hunger strikes, including one that lasted 83 days and nearly killed him, to call attention to the horrific abuses of the dictatorship. He has also been stabbed while in the gulag. Let me say that again, Mr. Vega Ruíz has been stabbed while he languishes in the abhorrent gulag, and yet he continues to steadfastly oppose the gangster regime in Havana.

Mr. Vega Ruíz is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Mr. Vega Ruíz knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction that the people of Cuba should be and will be free. Mr. Vega Ruíz is one of the many heroes of the Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered with respect and admiration when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous man is locked in the tyrant's gulag for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. It is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, pro democracy activists like Mr. Vega Ruíz are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must

never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire for freedom for their countries. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Felix Gerardo Vega Ruíz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING NIKITA RODRIGUES FOR HER INSPIRING SPEECH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, we need not worry about America's future if all our up and coming leaders believe in her as does a high school student in my District who delivered the following "Message for America" to an audience of young people.

Nikita Rodrigues lives in my hometown of Somerset, Kentucky and is an outstanding person, as you can tell.

"MY MESSAGE FOR AMERICA"

Ladies and Gentlemen, I speak to you today as a young American. Let that serve as sufficient warning that what I have to say contains equal proportions of young Hope and American Pride. These are the priceless ingredients of my Message for America, which is, "America: Be, all that you can be."

As a young American I am sick and tired of the naysayers that predict the end of the American dream. I am sick of reading about the differences between the red and the blue states and how those insurmountable differences will suffocate our future as Americans. I am sick of hearing about Americans being described as consumers, not producers. And I am sick of people taking pot shots at my country as being past her glory years. To all these naysayers, divisionists, and pessimists I have only one thing to say, "Your mistake lies in under-estimating the youth of America."

It was our past-President Bill Clinton who once said, "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America"! America's most priceless asset lies not in her immense natural resources, not in her huge factories, not in her stores of gold, not her natural beauty nor her system of incredible highways. America's greatest assets still are the character of her people and the optimism of her youth.

We the youth of America must believe that we can make a difference. We must participate in the political process and hold our leaders accountable when partisan politics stymies our progress. If American high-schoolers are lagging behind the rest of the world, it is time to demand that our schools foster excellence and competitiveness rather than comfortable mediocrity. In the flat world of today, American youth must step up and compete. Yes, we are more diverse than we ever were, but that diversity can and must be our strength.

In his book, "What's so Great About America" Dinesh D'Souza had this to say about our country. "America is the greatest, freest and most decent society in existence. It is an oasis of goodness in a desert of cynicism and barbarism. This country, once an experiment unique in the world, is now the last best hope for the world."

That hope and responsibility rests firmly on our young American shoulders. We can either shrug it off or bear down and accept the daunting challenge to each do our part to make America—All That She Can Be!

Nikita Rodrigues, Somerset, Kentucky

TRIBUTE TO LEO SHERLOCK HOLMES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, dedication and contributions of Mr. Leo Sherlock Holmes, who passed away on July 21, 2006.

Mr. Holmes served the U.S. Army as a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and in November 1965 he became the first African American to be elected to Chester City Council. Mr. Holmes served as an inspiration for many people. Because of his trail blazing, the impossible became possible and a reality.

Aside from his career on City Council, Mr. Holmes was also a City Treasurer, a math teacher at Frederick Douglass Junior High School, and a deacon at Bethany Baptist and, later, Calvary Baptist Church. It could never be said that Leo was not an active person. He loved people and lived under the motto that he would be a better person when he reached out to help others.

Mr. Holmes served as a Councilman for the City of Chester for 14 years. He then served as Personnel Director before retiring as City Treasurer on January 10, 1986. Believing and accepting that the people of Chester entrusted him in this position, Leo worked hard to address the issues and answer to the call of the people to the best of his ability. In September of 1990, Leo was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Chester Water Authority and served for 12 years before retiring due to increasing health problems.

Mr. Holmes was dedicated and devoted to the Masonic Order. His journey there started on December 3, 1955 until he his failing health forced him to leave his Masonic office in October of 1990. Upon his resignation the Grand Lodge unanimously voted that he be recognized as the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

Throughout his career, Mr. Holmes has led by example and we all have benefited from his leadership, intellect and integrity. Mr. Holmes' passing represents the loss of a powerful and committed voice, and it is for these reasons I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN JUSTICE OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Justice of Citrus County, Florida, an Army Chief Warrant Officer with More than twenty-four years of service.

Chief Warrant Officer Justice is a graduate of Hernando High School and the Florida Military Academy, where he attended Officer Candidate School. When he is not deployed overseas, Kevin attends the First United Methodist

Church and tries to find time for a round of golf. During his many missions abroad, he sets up a web cam to keep in touch with his wife Shannan, his two children, Nickolus and Hillery and his parents Jay and Mary Justice.

One of the benefits of being in service for Kevin is the opportunity to travel to many countries, including the United Arab Emirates, England, Afghanistan, and the Netherlands. While serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Kevin was awarded the Bronze Star for justifying the need for additional troops and rotating soldiers in the field.

As a member of the Florida National Guard, Kevin has been deployed for many of the hurricanes that have struck Florida's shores, including Andrew, Charlie, Jeanne and Ivan. Kevin served primarily as a liaison for military assistance and was the go to person to acquire supplies. He went to Oakley Fruit Company to request the use of their tankers to provide purified water to dialysis patients.

One of Kevin's highest honors is his membership in the Royal Order of Saint Barbara, an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery, along with their military and civilian supporters, are eligible for membership. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Kevin Justice who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Kevin serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

HONORING ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVIST DAVID HAHN-BAKER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to recognize David Hahn-Baker as the 2006 recipient of the Paul MacClennan Environmental Citizen of the Year Award as presented by Eire County Environmental Education Institute. ECEEI has chosen to acknowledge Mr. Hahn-Baker's lifelong commitment to environmental causes, which are deserving of acknowledgement before this chamber.

Mr. Hahn-Baker is the Founder and President of Inside/Out Political Consultants. An independent national consulting firm based in Buffalo, NY, Inside/Out works with national and local organizations across the country to address the intensifying environmental crisis.

Mr. Hahn-Baker's organization has worked with numerous local and national environmental organizations, including: Community Action Organization of Erie County; Earth Day Network; Buffalo Foundation; Tides Foundation; National Religious Partnership for the Environment; American Resources Information Network; EarthShare; League of Conservation Voters; National Wildlife Foundation; Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Greenpeace USA; Southern Organizing Committee.

Mr. Hahn-Baker has also taught graduate and undergraduate classes at the University of Michigan and George Washington University. Additionally, Mr. Hahn-Baker was instrumental in the development of the Environment Health Advisory Network at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Hahn-Baker who has dedicated his professional career to environmental preservation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. David Hahn Baker whom is so richly deserving of this honor.

HONORING MR. ALEX TRUJILLO,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR
THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE
AND MEDICAID SERVICES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alex Trujillo, who has served for 35 years in the federal government, most recently as the Region VIII Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A personable, thoughtful and caring individual, Mr. Trujillo has worked closely with my office on numerous occasions to ensure that beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Programs are receiving reliable information from which to base their healthcare decisions.

Under Mr. Trujillo's direction, nearly 92 percent of beneficiaries in Region VIII now have prescription drug coverage. This is a remarkable number of people receiving much needed healthcare coverage, especially in a time of rising prescription drug costs.

Over the past four decades, Medicare has grown to become a critical provider of healthcare services for millions of Americans. More often than not, recipients of Medicare are not fully aware of all of the advantages and health benefits to which they are entitled. Consequently, many beneficiaries pay a higher premium for their healthcare or do not understand where and how they can make savings. One of Alex Trujillo's accomplishments has been his leadership in improving public education about Medicare. During his tenure, Region VIII has measured an increase in responsible healthcare decision-making by beneficiaries that not only provides better quality healthcare, but also utilizes services more efficiently. This is an important accomplishment considering that Region VIII provides services for 3.2 percent of the U.S. population. It is also one of the biggest regions geographically, with a coverage area that stretches from Colorado to Montana, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota. Mr. Trujillo's attention to rural communities has also been noteworthy.

Following his graduation from college in 1971, Mr. Trujillo entered public service at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For the last 20 years he has worked for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He gained valuable experience in the Divisions of Medicare and Health Standards and Quality, and also served as the Assistant Regional Inspector General for the Office of Investigations and Office of the Inspec-

tor General. In short, he knows the landscape of these agencies and developed a reputation for exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to Alex Trujillo for his record of service in the federal government.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
LAWRENCE, JR.

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, David Lawrence, Jr. is a 20-year veteran of the newspaper business, serving in many capacities including positions as the editor of the Charlotte Observer, the publisher and executive editor of the Detroit Free Press, and the publisher of the Miami Herald which, under his leadership, won five Pulitzer Prizes for investigative reporting, meritorious public service, editorial cartooning and local news reporting.

David Lawrence, Jr. has been awarded eleven honorary doctoral degrees and has received numerous awards for his writing, including the First Amendment Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Inter American Press Association Commentary Award.

After his retirement from The Miami Herald in 1999, David Lawrence, Jr. left the newspaper business entirely and focused his attention on child advocacy and early childhood education initiatives. His service in support of these efforts include his roles as Chairman of the Children's Trust, President of The Early Childhood Initiative, Chairman of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Chairman of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection, and member of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development.

His legacy of education and service to the community will continue at the David Lawrence, Jr. K-8 Center, a Miami-Dade County Public School for 1,600 students across from the north campus of Florida International University in North Miami, Florida. Mr. Lawrence, Jr.'s work exemplifies the contributions of so many South Floridians who work tirelessly to strengthen our community. My sincerest gratitude to a great journalist, philanthropist and my constituent, David Lawrence, Jr.

RECOGNITION OF DR. DENNIS
SPELLMAN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state for the record how deeply saddened I am by the recent death of Dr. Dennis Spellman.

As President of Lindenwood University in St. Charles Missouri since 1989, Dr. Spellman leaves a legacy of success. His unique leadership style resulted in the tremendous growth of Lindenwood from a small struggling college, to the beautiful sprawling campus of almost 3,500 students (living on campus) that it is today as Lindenwood University.

In my many conversations with Dr. Spellman over the past five and a half years, I was keenly aware of his convictions. He was a man of deep faith and commitment. He was a patriot and a proud American who made his life a reflection of what our forefathers intended in "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". His love and concern for the students and faculty under his charge was evident in the vigor and passion with which he approached every issue and hurdle he navigated.

As the Congressman for Missouri's second district, I know I speak for many, especially those in St. Charles County who are the most direct beneficiaries of the many successes of Lindenwood University during Dr. Spellman's tenure, when I say, he will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS RICHARD HENKES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Sergeant First Class Richard Henkes, who died on September 3, 2006, fighting for our country in Mosul, Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Richard Henkes, 32 years old, was killed during combat when a roadside bomb struck his military vehicle. Richard Henkes was assigned to the U.S. Army's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Following a family tradition of service in U.S. Armed Forces, Richard Henkes enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1992 and had been serving in Mosul for the past two months. His father served in the Air Force, both grandfathers were in the Army and fought in World War II and a great grandfather fought in World War I. While not serving our country, Richard Henkes enjoyed spending time with his five year-old daughter and had a passion for snowboarding.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of soldiers who have died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. These brave Americans lost their lives while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to them for their courageous spirit.

Richard Henkes gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, and a father. My deepest condolences go out to his daughter Isabel; his parents Chris and Jim Stanton and Richard and Karen Henkes; his sisters Tamara Henkes Bass, Dana Harmel and Karen Henkes; and his brothers, Mark Holmgren and Paul Stanton. I know Army Sergeant First Class Henkes was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Richard Henkes and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE B.D.
KANAN, FORMER KANSAS STATE
SENATOR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing, on August 7, of former Kansas State Senator B.D. Kanan, of Kansas City, Kansas.

Senator Kanan was born Nov. 26, 1924 to John Walter and Hattie Pearl (Evans) Kanan in Cameron, Missouri. He was a Kansas State Senator from 1988 to 1992 and was the founder and owner of TRAFTEC in Kansas City, Kansas, since 1972. Previously, he had worked as a truck driver for Auto Transport for 19 years. Senator Kanan was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was a Teamster and a member of ATSSA for over 32 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister as well as a granddaughter, Heather Lorance.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Betty Jo; their sons: Bernard, Jr., of Basehor, Kansas, and Walter of Kansas City, Kansas; and their daughters: Donna "Pug" Uzzell of Kansas City, Kansas, Elizabeth "Suzie" Lorance of Kansas City, Kansas, Mary Michelle Chapman of Seffner, Florida, Karen Martin of Kansas City, Kansas, Jamie Doolittle of Shawnee, Kansas, and Roseanne Smallwood of Fairmont, Kansas, as well as 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, B.D. Kanan was an active, concerned citizen who did much to improve conditions in his home community of Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County, particularly with regard to improving the local transportation infrastructure. He served his constituents with honor and integrity as a member of the Kansas State Senate, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly note his passing and to honor his record of public service. I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article about Senator Kanan's legacy that appeared in the Kansas City Kansan.

[From the Kansas City Kansan]
FORMER STATE SENATOR, BUSINESSMAN B.D.
KANAN, 81, DIES

(By Adam Torres)

Kansas City, Kan., lost a prominent citizen and former state senator this week. Bernard "B.D." Kanan, 81, passed away at his KCK home Monday. Kanan had a heart condition that had been troubling him in recent weeks, according to one of his daughters, Donna "Pug" Uzzell.

For 18 years, Kanan worked as a truck driver. When driving once, he noticed how inconvenient the barricades and construction signs were, Uzzell said. Kanan designed a barricade that was easier to use.

"He got a patent for it and started his company, TRAFFTEC," Uzzell said.

In the 1980s, Kanan started to feel that KCK was not facing certain issues that it should, Uzzell said. He decided to use his own funds to represent the people of KCK and started a "Fight Back" initiative. Through the initiative, Kanan purchased advertising space in The Kansas City Kansan.

"Concerned citizens would write to him about certain issues and he would address them in a 'fight back' ad that he would personally buy," Uzzell said. "He lived his

whole life in KCK and he really cared about the community. It seemed like no one was addressing the citizens." Thus began Kanan's political career, although it wasn't his original intention.

"He really didn't mean for it to get into politics," Uzzell said. Kanan ran for state senate, with the help of his wife of 62 years, Betty Jo, and eight children, and won the election. He served for one term, from 1988 to 1992.

"That was enough for him," Uzzell said. Kanan, a Democrat, ran for the seat against David Haley, who currently holds the seat as a Democrat after losing to Kanan as a Republican. Despite being on opposite sides of the political aisle for a time, Haley said he had a great deal of respect for Kanan.

"I was always impressed with how cordial he was to me," Haley said, "and that was a relationship we shared even after I switched parties." Uzzell said her dad was fair politician who was concerned about the citizens he represented.

"He wasn't bought by lobbyists," Uzzell said. "He didn't go to their cocktail hours."

Former Kansas state representative and current Edwardsville, Kan., City Administrator Doug Spangler said Kanan worked on legislation that improved the highway system throughout the county. "B.D. was instrumental in the passage of the original transportation bill that funded so many improvements in Wyandotte County and the entire state of Kansas," Spangler said.

"He's going to be remembered for his concern for highway safety and for being an advocate for the Kansas highway system," Haley said. "Because of that, we have what is now one of the finest highway systems in this part of the U.S."

Spangler also said Kanan cared about the disadvantaged in Wyandotte County. "Senator Kanan was a very caring and wonderful person who always kept Wyandotte County residents in mind when he voted in the Kansas Senate," Spangler said. "He was always for the underdog and would reach out to help the less fortunate. He had a big heart and to know him was to love him."

Kanan, a member of Christ the King Church and the Knights of Columbus, once bought hundreds of fans to give to those who needed them during a heat wave, Spangler said. He also worked and supported homeless shelters and helped people financially, Uzzell said. "He was quite the person in the community," Uzzell said.

Kanan enjoyed seeing the development in western Wyandotte County over the last few years. He was proud of it happening in the community, Uzzell said. "He really wanted to take our mother (Kanan's wife of 62 years, Betty Jo) to the Legends (at Village West). He wasn't able to but we promised to do it for him."

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND LOVED
ONES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH OF
COMAIR FLIGHT 5191

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District, Ben Chandler, in support of his resolution expressing our deep sorrow and condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones who are

grappling with the loss of 49 lives in an early morning August 27, 2006 plane crash—Comair Flight 5191.

The passengers on board Flight 5191 represented the rich diversity and commitment to community emblematic of the Commonwealth. A horse trainer, a UK faculty member, the wife of an East Kentucky University Board Member, newlyweds. A business leader, a youth basketball coach, a technology innovator, and a young father.

Mr. Speaker, all of Kentucky grieves with these families realizing their tremendous loss of a brother, a husband, a sister, a daughter, and our tremendous loss in our community of leaders. I specifically want to recognize my constituents Mike Finley, Hollie Gilbert, John and Scarlett Parsley Hooker, and Marcie Thomason and extend my heartfelt sympathy to their families. Their commitment to southern and eastern Kentucky created jobs and opportunities for young people, helped keep kids in positive pursuits by modeling hard work and supporting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in commending federal, state, and local officials who cooperated not only at the crash site, but throughout Kentucky to respond to the emergency, investigate the accident, and provide assistance to families devastated by the loss of loved ones.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from Kentucky, we offer our most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and all those that were affected.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD TODD
RHODES

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Todd Rhodes of Wilmington, North Carolina, who sacrificed his life on August 17, 2006 while valiantly serving his country as a private contractor with Cochise Company in Iraq. Our heartfelt thanks and prayers are for his family and friends in this time of grief.

For eight years, Todd served his country honorably as a member of the United States Marine Corps. After serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was employed as a security specialist with United States Protection Investigation while in Afghanistan, and most recently, with Cochise Company working in Iraq. For twelve years, Todd and his wife, Terry, owned and operated Best Video and Audio in Jacksonville, N.C.

Todd was a loving husband to Terry and a dedicated father to two sons, Shaun Rhodes and Ryan Rhodes, all of Wilmington, with whom he spent many hours teaching them life lessons and individual skills, such as construction and diving. Todd loved life and enjoyed such activities as dancing, diving, tennis and sailing. His memory will be forever cherished by his family and the friends and co-workers whose lives he touched in life's journey.

As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps and a contractor in Iraq, Todd dedicated his career to defending the values this Nation holds dear. By risking his life to ensure the safety of others, he made the ultimate sacrifice. His valiant

actions and steadfast service remind us of the gratitude we feel toward him and all the other servicemen and women and civilians who have given their lives serving as guardians of this great country. Todd was indeed a man of courage and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Richard Todd Rhodes live on in our hearts, and may God's strength and peace be with his family.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS MELVIN HILL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I take the time to honor a distinguished veteran from the Commonwealth of Virginia, SFC Melvin Hill. A true patriot for his heroic service to our country, Hill was born on March 26, 1939 in Brooklyn. In 1955 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 18th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. There he was selected to be an instructor at the Airborne School. He was later assigned to Germany, where he was responsible for conducting convoys from Helmstadt, Germany to insure U.S. access to Berlin. On each tour of duty, he also served as a guard at Spandau Prison, which at that time housed Rudolph Hess, Albert Speer, and Baldur von Schirach. In 1964 Hill was accepted for Special Forces training and assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completing this training, he was assigned to the Military Advisory Command in Vietnam.

It was in this capacity that Sergeant Hill was awarded a Silver Star on January 18, 1971 for his fearless actions while serving as Leader of a Combined Reconnaissance Team in November of 1970. In this role, Sergeant Hill courageously led his team from the tailgate of a C-130 aircraft at an altitude of 17,000 feet on the first combat high altitude free fall into hostile territory in the history of the United States Army. His team landed in rugged and dangerous terrain in enemy territory where, despite equipment malfunctions, Sergeant Hill refused to abandon his team. They remained behind enemy lines in the harshest conditions for 5 days where, led by Sergeant Hill, the team gathered sufficient hard intelligence to mark the mission a success. When his transmit voice radio malfunctioned, Sergeant Hill used another device to transmit instructions to his team via Morse code and in this manner triangulated multiple targets for the Air Force. During the extraction from enemy territory, Sergeant Hill was wounded by a bullet to the leg, but due to his courage and leadership, his team was recovered with no losses and no other injuries.

After leading this successful mission, Hill extended his tour of duty to teach high altitude Military Free Fall techniques to other Reconnaissance teams. After retirement from the military, Hill continued to serve his country through a position in the U.S. General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., where he worked for 14 years and was recognized for his innovative approach to Contract Support, winning the Administrator's Meritorious Service Award and a citation from the Governor of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful today to recognize the achievements of SFC Melvin Hill that are so long overdue. His leadership and courage in combat during our nation's time of war require our sincere appreciation. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ARTHUR
GEORGE BURRELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bishop Arthur George Burrell. St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ will hold a remembrance dinner in his honor on September 16 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Bishop Burrell began his service to the church in 1947. He worked as a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Church Secretary and Broadcast Announcer until 1962. On April 14, 1962 Bishop C.J. Johnson ordained him and almost a year later he became the pastor of Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ. Under his leadership, the church negotiated the purchase of a new building in 1972 and changed the name to St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ.

During his ministry Bishop Burrell served as the State Sunday School Superintendent from 1975 to 1980 for the Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, and Chairman of the Commission of Budget and Finance. He served as the District Superintendent of the Progressive District and in 2002 he celebrated the Progressive District's Golden Jubilee. Bishop Burrell also served as the National Financier of the International Sunday School Department and in April 1998 he received the Outstanding Service Award to the Church of God in Christ from the Association of Church of God in Christ Business Owners.

Bishop Brooks, with the concurrence of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board of the Church of God in Christ, appointed Bishop Burrell to Assistant Jurisdictional Bishop at the 81st Annual Holy Convocation of the Northeast Michigan (Historic First) Jurisdiction.

In addition to his work for the church, Bishop Burrell retired from General Motors after 35 years of employment. He was married to Norma Burrell for 46 years and they had three sons. Bishop Burrell passed away in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Bishop Arthur George Burrell and St. George Beth El Church of God in Christ as they celebrate his ministry and life.

HONORING NYS POLICE TROOPER
JOSEPH A. LONGOBARDO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I rise and respectfully request the members of this honorable chamber to join me in commemorating the life of Joseph A.

Longobardo, a respected member of the New York State Police, who was killed while serving his State.

A native of Amsterdam, New York, residing in Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, Trooper Longobardo, 32, is survived by his wife and 1-year-old son.

Trooper Longobardo, an 8-year veteran of the State Police, was a 1998 graduate of the New York State Police Academy, where he distinguished himself through his commitment of service to the Citizens of the State of New York.

Trooper Longobardo's commitment and dedication to protecting and serving the citizens of New York State was evidenced by his service in the elite Mobile Response Team. We recognize and thank Trooper Longobardo for his desire and dedication to the New York State Police Force.

Trooper Longobardo desire to serve his fellow Americans extended beyond his Police work, as he was also a Technical Sergeant in the New York Air National Guard, based out of Scotia, Schenectady County.

With great sadness, I, along with the Great State of New York and the United States at large, celebrate Trooper Joseph A. Longobardo achievements in life as we mourn his tragic passing in the line of duty. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to share with the House Trooper Longobardo's accomplishments and for allowing the chamber this chance to join the State of New York in honoring his life.

RECOGNIZES JEREMY REIS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeremy Reis, a Private in the Marine Corps.

Private Reis attended Lovejoy High School in Jonesboro, Georgia, transferring his senior year to Newton County High, graduating earlier this year in May. His original post-graduate plans were to study art and photography, but following the events of September 11, Private Reis felt the call to duty and enlisted in the Marine Corps. When his tour of duty is complete he hopes to attend art school and fulfill his dream.

Entering basic training in August 2006 at Parris Island, South Carolina, Private Reis is training to be a computer programming specialist.

Raised as part of a close knit family, Private Reis is a member of his Church Youth group and enjoys hunting with his father and brothers. He also enjoys visiting his grandparents at their home in Citrus County, Florida. Private Reis has five dogs, including a pug named Mojo and a boxer named Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Jeremy Reis who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. He is to be commended for his service to our Nation and for his commitment to his family and loved ones.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH OF COMAIR FLIGHT 5191

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Comair Flight 5191 and I join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 980. My deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the victims of this tragic event that occurred in Lexington, Kentucky.

It is little solace to them that we have the safest air transportation system in the world, or that we had not had a major fatal accident in five years. Along with our support of this resolution, what Congress must do to honor these victims is to learn everything we can from this accident to try to prevent similar events in the future. Their lives will be remembered in the work we do here. As the ranking Democrat on the Aviation subcommittee, I am committed to making sure this happens. The National Transportation Safety Board is conducting a thorough investigation of this accident, and I fully support its efforts, along with those of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I again remember those that lost their lives in this accident and offer my condolences to their loved ones. I also urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 980.

RECOGNIZING MR. LEO McHALE AND MARYLAND'S FIRST PRIVATE 9/11 MEMORIAL

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of one of my constituents, Mr. Leo McHale, of Walkersville, Maryland, to honor the heroes of 9/11.

With community support, Mr. McHale created Maryland's first private memorial to remember and honor the heroes who responded to the terrorist attacks and those who perished on September 11, 2001. It was dedicated on May 10, 2003.

I personally would like to thank Mr. McHale and the Walkersville residents whose joint efforts and hard work are responsible for the completion of this commemorative project. In spite of the terrible losses on that cataclysmic day, it is important to recognize the astounding community efforts and cooperative response that symbolize the character, pride and unity of the American people.

With 9/11's 5th anniversary approaching, it is essential that the American people continue to remember the events that occurred when America was attacked on September 11, 2001. Through the efforts of Mr. Leo McHale—and so many others—we continue to keep the memory alive by honoring the heroes who responded and the men, women and chil-

dren whose lives were mercilessly and cruelly taken on 9/11.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RANDOLPH C. ROBINSON, M.D., D.D.S

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated and inspiring career of Dr. Randolph Robinson. Dr. Robinson, along with his wife, Ginger, founded Face the Challenge. This charitable organization has provided thousands of free surgeries to the world's poorest children in order to correct facial deformities.

Dr. Robinson has used his medical knowledge and surgical skills to better the lives of many impoverished people around the world. Face the Challenge has traveled to many countries in South America, Eastern Europe and Asia with the goal of treating the indigent and most affected.

Dr. Robinson, who practices in Lone Tree, Colorado, has performed 836 free facial surgeries since 1993. His selfless contributions should be commended and his dedication to public service deserves our highest regard. I wish to thank Dr. Robinson for his tireless efforts to bring medical advances to the world's poor.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JEFFREY SCOTT BROWN, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Army Sergeant Jeffrey Scott Brown, an American hero who gave his life in defense of liberty and freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others might know freedom, and I am humbled by his bravery and selflessness.

Sergeant Brown lost his life on August 10, 2006 due to injuries sustained when his UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crashed in Rutbah, Iraq during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 25 years old. Sergeant Brown was assigned to the 82nd Medical Company at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Sergeant Brown came from a family dedicated to American ideals and serving this great Nation. His father is a Vietnam veteran and his brother, Timothy, currently serves as a crew chief on an Apache helicopter in Germany. Sergeant Brown is survived by his wife, Ashley, of Carrollton, Texas; his parents, Ed and Diane Brown of Trinity Center, California; his brothers, Timothy and Michael; and his sister, Kathryn.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Brown. He leaves behind a legacy marked by courage, integrity and character. May God bless all those he loved, and may they know the gratitude of the American people.

HONORING KATHRYN SWANSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathryn Swanson, a dedicated public servant whose passionate commitment to highway safety has guided her throughout her career.

Kathy has been a leading, influential figure in highway safety for more than 25 years, working tirelessly to save lives and prevent injuries on our Nation's roads.

Since 1998, Kathy has served as director of Minnesota's Office of Traffic Safety in the state's Department of Public Safety. Prior to being director, she served as deputy director, safety program coordinator, and as a research analyst.

As one of the longest tenured members of the state highway safety community, Kathy's counsel is frequently sought by other states and organizations around the country.

In her role as director, Kathy administers the state and community highway safety grant programs in Minnesota. During her tenure, the state has achieved significant progress including an 83.9 percent seat belt usage rate, which is above the national average. The state also achieved its lowest fatality rate ever during Kathy's tenure.

Kathy has also worked tirelessly with her counterparts in the Minnesota Department of Transportation in a true partnership aimed at significantly reducing traffic fatalities in Minnesota. Today the Towards Zero Death program is the keystone of Minnesota's safety agenda, affecting the work of various state and local agencies and private sector partners.

Kathy's success in Minnesota, her strong commitment to highway safety and the respect and support of her state peers led to her election as Vice Chair of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) in September 2002. GHSA is the nonprofit association representing the highway safety program managers of the states and the territories.

Following a leadership change in March of 2003, Kathy was elevated to Chair of GHSA, a position in which she served until the fall of 2004. Under Kathy's leadership, GHSA developed its positions on the reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU).

As Immediate Past Chair, Kathy continues her involvement in GHSA. In 2005, she represented the Association at a listening session for the White House Conference on Aging where she discussed the role of the state highway safety offices in enhancing the safety of older drivers. She also represented GHSA at the 2005 launch of the Ford/GHSA Driving Skills for Life teen driving safety program.

Kathy's work has no doubt prevented countless traffic fatalities and injuries in Minnesota and across the Nation. I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this deserved tribute to Kathryn Swanson, who gives so much of herself to enrich the lives of others and to serve her community and her country.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
PATRICK T. HOWARD**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a full and healthy recovery to Lance Corporal Patrick T. Howard, who suffered extensive injuries while on guard duty in Iraq on July 18.

Lance Corporal Howard was born and raised in Miami, and enlisted in the Marines directly after graduating from high school. In March of 2006, he was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

I am deeply saddened about the grave nature of the injuries inflicted upon such a selfless young man from South Florida. The entire community is grateful to Lance Corporal Howard for his contributions in the struggle to spread liberty to Iraq, and values the sacrifices of all those currently defending our Nation overseas.

I ask that you please keep Lance Corporal Howard and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he completes the recovery process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the following bills on September 6, 2006:

H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act (Rollcall No. 427). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States (Rollcall No. 428). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 875, a resolution congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary (Rollcall No. 396). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE ROBINSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Joyce Robinson of her service to the Social Security Administration and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Mrs. Robinson began her career in 1975 as a Claims Clerk in the Martinsburg, West Virginia Social Security Office. She has held 7 different positions, reaching the level of Special Disability Workload Cadre Manger in the Charleston, West Virginia Social Security Office.

Mrs. Robinson has been recognized numerous times for her outstanding leadership quali-

ties. Her immense knowledge of programs and great interpersonal communication skills led her to gain the distinction of being a liaison to her peers, as well as, to Congressional Staffs and entities outside the SSA office. She will be greatly missed as a helpful resource to me and my staff.

For her dedication and willingness to serve my constituents, the State of West Virginia, and surrounding states, I offer Mrs. Robinson my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was attending a National Policy Conference in Los Angeles, and I could not be present, subsequently missing rollcall votes numbered 427, 428, and 429. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Aye" on rollcall No. 427, H.R. 2808, the "Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act,"

"Aye" on rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 605, "Recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States," and

"Aye"—on rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 875, "Congratulating Spelman College on the Occasion of its 125th Anniversary."

IN HONOR OF MARY BOURDETTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the life of Mary Bourdette.

On September 5th, America lost one of its great champions for children and families. Mary Bourdette was a passionate and dedicated advocate and had an extraordinary 30 year career. Mary's tireless efforts improved the lives of countless children and families across the country.

I will personally miss her friendship, and the Nation will miss her devotion to children's welfare.

I first met Mary in California when she was working on improving education in the state. Mary and I then worked closely together when I chaired the House Select Committee on Children Youth and Families in the 1980's here in the House.

She was a skilled advocate and negotiator and her vision and persistence were critical to my efforts on child welfare policy and numerous other issues. Mary advocated for children and families in many capacities here in Washington, D.C. over the past 30 years. She worked for the Legal Services Corporation to help ensure that our poorest citizens have access to the legal system that our Constitution promises. She later worked tirelessly at the Children Defense Fund on the first major expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and

the original enactment of the Child Care and Development Block Grant—programs that have made an enormous difference for America's poorest families.

Her work with the Child Welfare League of America as Director of Public Policy also proved vital for the well-being of America's children and families. And her 8 years with the Clinton Administration allowed Mary to play a central and critical role in the many federal policies that affect children.

Her untimely death is a tragedy. Her colleagues will miss her and her family and closest friends will mourn her loss. To them, I extend my profound condolences and empathy. But in honor of Mary, let not one of us ever forget the meaning of her life's work. Mary Bourdette believed that every child and family, no matter how poor or meager their existence, deserved the chance to live a better life. She was a model for those who wish to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of others. And for that I am grateful. Our nation is indebted to her for what she believed in and what she tried so hard to accomplish.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY KERR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Nancy Kerr, the founder of the first hospice program in Tennessee, was killed in a tragic accident on May 1.

I knew Nancy Kerr for a big part of my life. She was a staunch conservative and a strong supporter of both my late father and me.

She did not just talk about compassionate conservatism; she lived it.

She comforted more than 500 patients as they neared death and was doing this right up to the day of her death at age 80.

She was a wonderful woman, and this Nation is a better place today because of the love and kindness she gave to so many.

Sam Brown, a friend of mine, wrote a great article about Nancy Kerr for the August 27 edition of *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

I would like to call this article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

NURSES'S WORLD WAR II WORK LAID
FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE HOSPICE CARE

(By Sam Brown)

It could have been a Hollywood movie.

She was a young, stunningly beautiful English nurse who cared for wounded British and American troops in World War II. Several dying soldiers called her an angel. Some said she looked like Katharine Hepburn. She was 18 and a student nurse when Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France. She remembers D-Day well, comforting many wounded and dying soldiers who were brought back from the front lines. After the war, she married Jim Kerr of Knoxville after saying she would never marry an American. She became the first hospice nurse in the state of Tennessee.

This is not a Hollywood script. It is the story of Nancy Wilkie Kerr.

She was born near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where she spoke Malay and Chinese before she learned English. Kerr was 13 in Southampton, England, when World War II started. She lived through German bombing

raids and recalled when three British Spitfires flew up to meet 20 German bombers. The air raid sirens and the screams of the wounded were etched in her memory. She wanted to help, so she became a nurse. During the war, she worked 12-hour shifts for six weeks and got two days off. Kerr once said, "I look in the face of death every day."

It was invaluable experience for what was ahead in her life.

In 1979, Kerr helped establish the first hospice program at Fort Sanders Hospital. It was also the first program of its kind in Tennessee.

I was anchoring television news for Channel 6 in 1979 and heard about the hospice program. It intrigued me. I had never heard of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who founded the concept in England. Hospice is a medieval term meaning a stopping-off point for weary travelers.

In 1969, Kubler-Ross wrote the book "On Death and Dying." She presented the premise that the terminally ill go through various stages from denial to acceptance as death closes in. Hospice allows them to face death with dignity. Hospice tries first and foremost to relieve pain with medication, to prepare the patient for death both mentally and physically and, if possible, to let the patient die peacefully at home.

Kerr felt the terminally ill should not die in a sterile hospital room. In a span of 25 years, she comforted more than 500 families as their loved ones went through the stages of death with dignity. Shortly after the Knoxville program started, I did a two-part TV series on hospice with Kerr.

She told me, "You become a definite part of each family with which you work. Of course you get emotionally involved, but we try to aim for what we call a 'good death' where they are tranquil and accepting. No joyous or euphoric but rather accepting."

Kerr died in May at the age of 80, just before her death, she was still doing what she did best—nursing the sick and terminally ill. And comforting their families. The tributes poured in at her funeral.

Patty Loveday wrote in the guest book, "She helped us through two long months of Mother's illness. We could never have brought Mother home without her. She was truly a wonderful nurse. We felt like she was part of the family."

Nancy's number three son, Chris and his wife, Karen, carry on her legacy with their company, Tender Hearts Support Services, which provides companionship for the elderly with a hospice approach. "We are trying to keep Mother's mission alive. She was truly a remarkable woman," Chris Kerr said.

Ironically, Nancy Kerr did not die in a hospice environment. On the afternoon of May 1, 2006, she was killed instantly in an auto accident on Alcoa Highway.

A friend at her funeral perhaps said it best. "Heaven has gained a new angel."

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SARCOXIE, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of the City of Sarcoxie, located in Jasper County, Missouri.

The region where Sarcoxie is located was acquired by the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. One of the first known inhabitants of the area was Chief Sarcoxie, head of the Turtle Band of the Dela-

ware Tribe of Indians. Thackery Vivion became the first permanent settler to Jasper County when he built a log cabin and began farming near Sarcoxie Spring in 1831, and Sarcoxie soon became the first town in Jasper County. Gene Taylor, who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1973 until 1989, was born near Sarcoxie, and the Gene Taylor Library and Museum is located on the town square.

I am proud to congratulate the City of Sarcoxie and its citizens on the 175th anniversary of this historic city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Wednesday, September 6, 2006. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes Nos. 427, 428, and 429. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 427, 428, and 429.

HONORING ALAN BROCKMAN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a distinguished American and constituent, Mr. Alan Brockman, for a successful career and a lifetime of public service exemplified by unwavering dedication to the Fire Island community along the south shore of Long Island.

Throughout his legal career, Alan has been a respected attorney and partner of the New York City law firm, Blank Rome, located in the Chrysler Building. With equal diligence and commitment, he has served Long Island residents as president of the Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association for the past twenty-four years, following six years as treasurer.

Alan's impeccable reputation and strong ties with local, state and federally elected officials have contributed to a record of exemplary representation of the Pines and effective leadership on behalf of the interests of its residents. For over forty years, Alan has opened his home to residents and friends of the Pines. Today, he enjoys traveling the world but continues to call the Pines home, where he will always be affectionately known as "the mayor," a title he has earned for dramatically improving the quality of life on Fire Island, where property values have nearly doubled as a result of his advocacy and hard work.

Alan's commitment to Long Island and the Fire Island Pines is also made evident by his numerous responsibilities, affiliations, friends, and titles, including sixteen years directing the Fire Island Association. His efforts have always been focused toward making the Pines a better place to call home, and that is exactly where Alan's loyalty and his heart remain.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents and civic leaders like Alan who work tirelessly to make our communities more livable and enjoyable. I am proud to congratulate

Alan Brockman for a long and distinguished career, and on behalf of New York's First Congressional District and indeed all of Long Island, I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

- (1) Rollcall No. 427 "yea" (H.R. 2808).
- (2) Rollcall No. 428 "yea" (H. Res. 605).
- (3) Rollcall No. 429 "yea" (H. Res. 875).

HONORING JUKE VAN OSS ON 55 YEARS OF BROADCASTING ON WHTC 1450

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Juke Van Oss for 55 years of broadcasting on WHTC 1450 in Holland, Mich. On Aug. 12, Juke celebrated 55 years of service to the station and his community.

Juke began his career in radio during World War II on the Pacific Front, transporting a radio for his infantry troop and transmitting codes. When the war ended, he returned home and continued to foster his interest in radio, obtaining his amateur license and later securing a job as a radio engineer for WHTC at 27 years old.

It was not until one morning that the announcer failed to arrive on time that Juke was able to sit at the microphone. An instant favorite of listeners, Van Oss began hosting his own morning show, and for the past 45 years he has hosted "Talk of the Town." Juke has become a household name and a local celebrity in the Holland area through his years behind the mic at WHTC.

When Juke started broadcasting in 1951, the United Nations headquarters officially opened in New York, "I Love Lucy" debuted on CBS and Bobby Thomson of the New York Giants hit the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" game-winning home run against the Brooklyn Dodgers to win the National League pennant.

Mr. Van Oss is not only a radio personality, but a community servant. He has served as a member of the Saugatuck Schools Board of Education and Village Council, including three years as Mayor, as well as President of the Chamber of Commerce and a seat on the Region 8 Criminal Justice Planning Council.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this Sept. 7, 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the achievements of Mr. Van Oss and wishes him the best in his upcoming years of broadcast.

BEAM ME UP

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, let me get this straight: The Bush administration won't let the democratically elected President of Taiwan, a staunch ally and longtime friend of the United States, so much as stop to fill his airplane with gas in Alaska.

Yet they didn't hesitate to issue a visa to Muhammad Khatami, the former President of Iran—a country the U.S. has classified as a state sponsor of terrorism for nearly the last 30 years.

What can we expect next from the Rocket Scientists at State Department Mr. Speaker?

Fidel Castro throwing out the first pitch at the next Yankee game?

Kim Jong I spending the weekend at Disneyland?

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir giving a guest lecture on human rights at Cal-Berkeley?

Hugo Chavez playing a round of golf at Army Navy?

As our old friend used to say Mr. Speaker—Beam Me Up.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in my lifetime, no issue has so disturbed our domestic tranquility than immigration reform.

Thanks to the leadership of this House, the American people are convinced we have a serious problem with illegal immigration and the American people know the Senate bill granting amnesty to 12M illegal immigrants is not the answer.

There are many ideas of how we can move forward. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas and I have proposed a compromise that would:

—put border security first and reject amnesty;

—after 2 years of border security only, our plan would set up a new guest worker program using American employment firms outside the United States;

—illegal immigrants would be required to leave the country and apply at these Ellis Island Centers by submitting to a background check and health screening before being issued a 2-year guest worker visa. They also would have to pass an English course to renew it; and

—tough employer sanctions would drive companies and employees into this new system.

Pence-Hutchison puts border security first, and once that is accomplished, it creates a new guest worker program outside the United States without amnesty and without creating a new federal bureaucracy.

Some in Congress think we have done enough. I believe we must do more. Even in this contentious election year, the American people expect us to "be strong, courageous

and do the work" they elected this Congress to do.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTIES JOE MAGEE AND COREY JACKSON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 12, 2006, the swift, determined and heroic actions of Northampton County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Magee and Northampton County Sheriff's Deputy Corey Jackson preserved the peace and protected the citizens of our community in eastern North Carolina.

During the incident, Deputy Joe Magee, a 28-year law enforcement veteran, and Deputy Corey Jackson, a 3½-year veteran of the sheriff's department, bravely took control of an enraged, armed suspect in the courtroom of the Northampton County Courthouse.

Facing a charge of murder, the suspect flew into a rage when Superior Court Judge Alma L. Hinton rejected a request to dismiss his lawyer. Despite being shackled, the suspect managed to wrestle a gun from a nearby state correction officer and fired shots.

Deputy Corey Jackson forced the suspect's arms toward the ceiling after a corrections officer was struck by a bullet in the shoulder and Deputy Joe Magee shot the inmate in the abdomen, ending the threat.

These decisive, heroic and selfless actions preserved the lives of those present and met the highest call of duty. It is my privilege today to commend the officers for their outstanding efforts and for acts of courage and quick thinking that saved the lives of the people they are sworn to protect.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Northampton County, North Carolina, whom it is my privilege to represent, and on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize and thank Deputy Joe Magee and Deputy Corey Jackson. Their tireless dedication and exceptional bravery serve our community and our Nation well.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN TIPPETS, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Tippetts, the president and CEO of American Airlines Federal Credit Union, located in Dallas-Fort Worth on his election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). John has been an advocate for federal credit unions for over 15 years at the state and local level.

I know John will serve with distinction in his new post, as this is just one more in a long

list of accomplishments. In addition to serving as President and CEO at AAFCU, he previously served on the Board of Directors as well. John previously served on the Filene Institute Advisory Council, the Federal Reserve's Thrift Institutions Advisory Council and Fannie Mae's National Advisory Council. Further, John currently serves on the Aspen Institute's Advisory Board for the "Initiative on Financial Security" and on NAFCU's Legislative Committee.

Under John's leadership, AAFCU has continued to grow, serving over 200,000 employees of the air transportation industry. During his time at AAFCU, John has worked hard to ensure that the credit union continue to reflect the original goals of the credit union movement; promoting thrift, encouraging volunteer leadership and cooperative ownership. AAFCU provides helpful, timely, personal service that caters to the needs and financial goals of individual members. It is that service that is the hallmark of AAFCU and the credit union movement.

Again, I wish John good luck in his new position as a member of NAFCU's Board of Directors.

REMEMBERING THE HEROES OF
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today upon the 5th anniversary of September 11, 2001, in solemn remembrance of those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks that befell our beloved country on that tragic day. Americans awoke that day to witness sudden, deliberate, unconventional and planned attacks on our country and on the ideals of freedom and democracy that we cherish and hold dear to our hearts. On Guam, we were ending our day due to the time zone difference. We tuned to the live television news coverage of the attacks and watched in disbelief as the events unfolded.

The scenes from the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in the fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, are etched into our memories. Many of us remember where we were that day when we first learned of the attacks, who we were with, where we first sought refuge and consolation, and where we turned in the days that followed to offer our support to those that lost loved ones, to donate blood, or to simply lend a helping hand in a remembrance project.

On this anniversary we recall the 3,031 innocent individuals whose lives were lost as a result of these terrorist attacks. We remember the valor of those who came face-to-face with the terrorists on the hijacked commercial airplanes, the courage of those trapped inside the targeted buildings, and the bravery of the first responders who came to their rescue. We remember the dedication of the personnel from the Port Authority of New York and the Federal Aviation Administration who worked under extreme pressure that day to safeguard our transportation networks and to protect the lives of passengers, pilots, and flight crews en

route and in the air. Their professionalism brought control and command in an environment threatened with chaos and distress.

On Monday, September 11, 2006, the people of Guam will join the rest of the country in remembering and mourning the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks, as well as the brave men and women who gave of their lives trying to save others in the aftermath.

The events of September 11, 2001, have helped strengthen our country. Today, we are more resilient, stronger, and especially proud of our first responders and law enforcement community. Our commercial aviation industry has rebounded and commercial flight today inside the United States is safe as a result of the professionalism and dedication of airport and airline employees.

We must continue to denounce those who would do evil against our country, and to our allies around the world, and we must continue to support our men and women, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, who fight terror abroad today.

God Bless the families who lost loved ones to the heinous attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, God Bless those who lost their lives fighting terror on foreign shores and those who continue to fight, and God Bless Guam, and God Bless our great country, the United States of America.

ACCOUNTABLE BUDGETING
COMMISSION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, in 1967 the Federal Government spent just over \$157 billion and operated with a deficit that was under \$9 billion. Today, almost 40 years later, the Federal Government spends approximately \$2.7 trillion and has a \$260 billion deficit.

The Federal Government's total spending and oversight has vastly changed from the 1960s, yet it still operates under the basic accounting rules established 40 years ago by President Lyndon Johnson's Commission on Budget Concepts.

Just as an engine of a 1967 Cheverolet Impala would be an automotive disaster in a 2006 Toyota Prius, our economic policies suffer today because we are using outdated concepts and antiquated accounting practices.

Today, I am introducing the Accountable Budgeting Commission. This needed legislation will provide the long overdue review of the underlying concepts that are impairing our ability to properly and effectively analyze and understand the issues we face in the 21st century.

This Commission will provide the necessary oversight and make recommendations on ways to modernize our basic budgetary principles as Congress brings more accountability and transparency to the budget process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important and long overdue legislation.

HONORING MR. RAY L. PERETTI
OF KENT, WASHINGTON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and commend the service of Ray L. Peretti of the Ninth Congressional District of Washington, for his service to his community and the Nation as a member of the National Association of Insurance Agents.

Mr. Peretti recently completed his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and has also served in many positions of responsibility in the association. Mr. Peretti has been a member of the board of directors of PIA National since 1995. He was also a member of the board of directors of PIA of Washington/Alaska, which is now part of the PIA Western Alliance, serving as vice president, president-elect and president and on various committees.

Mr. Peretti has served on the State of Washington Property and Casualty Advisory Committee. He was named Agent of the Year by PIA of Washington/Alaska in 1995, received the Hartford/Jonathan Trumbull Council's Chairman's Award. Mr. Peretti was also honored by the Insurance Fire Mark Society of the Pacific Northwest with its Presidential Award, and is the recipient of a public relations award from the Insurance Women of South King County.

Active in his community, Mr. Peretti is the owner of the Hub Insurance Agency of Renton, Washington. A lifelong member of the Renton Lions Club, he is also a member of the Renton Chamber of Commerce, serving 6 years as a member of its board of directors, and has been a member of the Renton Arts Commission and the Renton Ethics Board.

As a professional insurance agent, Mr. Peretti's dedication to the highest standards of his profession has earned him the respect of his friends, associates, business colleagues, and of the insurance industry as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today to recognize the good work that Ray L. Peretti has done throughout his career as a member of the insurance community, and to again congratulate him on the completion of his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ERNESTO
MERCADER ESPALDON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Ernesto Mercader Espaldon who passed away on August 4, 2006. Dr. Espaldon was a devoted husband and father, an accomplished physician, a dedicated public servant, and community leader.

Born on November 11, 1926, to Cipriano Acuna Espaldon and Claudia Cadag Mercader in Simunul, Sulu Province, Philippines, young

Ernesto Espaldon, established himself as a true Filipino and American patriot. Joining the Sulu Guerrilla Organization as a freedom fighter, the 16-year-old soldier quickly proved his abilities as a soldier and leader. On January 12, 1945, Ernesto and two fellow soldiers fended off a contingent of Imperial Japanese soldiers attempting to take the village of Banaran, Tawi-Tawi. For their heroism, the grateful people of Banaran erected a monument memorializing the battle and the three soldiers.

Spoken in his own words, Dr. Espaldon was a humanitarian who firmly believed that "God gives us gifts that we might share them, not hold them for our own." For 36 years, Dr. Espaldon fulfilled those very words, having made biennial medical relief missions to islands throughout Micronesia. He founded the Guam Balikbayan Medical Mission and pioneered teams of local and national experts on journeys to isolated provinces in the Philippines. Committed to meeting the medical needs of others, in particular children and young adults, his efforts were entirely voluntary. These medical missions set an example of community service for others.

He served six terms in the Guam Legislature. Dr. Espaldon was a dedicated public servant of the people of Guam. His political career was one marked by courage. He sponsored and steered to passage the island's first smoking ban legislation and he did so under the threat of losing his bid for re-election. He was a man who worked hard for the good of the people and the island of Guam.

Having served with Dr. Espaldon in the Guam Legislature, I recall that he was a model citizen-senator. His service was marked by dedication and advocacy for health issues. His devotion to his family and to the people of Guam is an inspiration to our island. His keen attention to detail and thoroughness was a reflection of his medical training. I will always remember Ernie for his spirit, his community involvement, his humanitarianism and his compassion to the condition of those less fortunate.

I am deeply saddened by this loss and know that many people on Guam, in the Philippines, and throughout the Pacific are mourning as well. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leticia Virata Espaldon, M.D., and their six children: Arlene, Vivian, James Albert, Diane Marie, Karl Patrick, and Ernesto Jr. Although he will be missed by his family and friends throughout the Pacific, his legacy of service will live on in our community.

HONORING THE 9/11 FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor the flight crew members that lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

During the horrific attacks that took place on that fateful date, thousands of innocent people lost their lives at the hands of these terrorists. Among them, 25 flight attendants, 5 captains and 4 first officers were lost on American Airlines flights 11 and 77 and United Airlines

flights 93 and 175. Everyone of them acted heroically in the face of the terrorist attacks, the magnitude of which is unparalleled in American history.

In addition, on December 22, 2001, the flight crew members of American Airlines flight 63 responded with courage, determination, and skill, saving the lives of 185 passengers, 12 crew members, and countless people on the ground, by helping to restrain Richard Reid, who was attempting to detonate a bomb in his shoe.

This Monday, September 11, 2006, on the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial Foundation will hold a candle light vigil and dedication of a new memorial to honor these American heroes in Grapevine, TX.

It is my honor for this memorial to be located in my district. It will serve not only as an inspiration to every American because of the courage and fortitude the flight crew members showed in the face of danger on 9/11, but also as a stark reminder of the continuing danger that we all face and the vigilance we must maintain.

RECOGNITION OF PETE HOSKINS,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
PHILADELPHIA ZOO

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander L. (Pete) Hoskins, who has diligently served as President and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo for the past 12 years. Pete is the Zoo's 12th president and the fourth-longest serving leader since it opened in 1874. America's first zoo and one of the region's foremost conservation organizations, the Philadelphia Zoo is home to more than 1,500 animals, many of which are rare and endangered. The Zoo, fulfilling its mission of conservation, science, education and recreation, supports and engages in conservation efforts to protect endangered species around the world.

I am proud to have known Pete, not only as head of the Zoo, but also during his tenure at the Fairmount Park Commission and the City of Philadelphia. Pete has been serving the citizens of Greater Philadelphia for over 30 years. His vision and cultural destination advocacy reaches beyond the Zoo. He championed a plan to promote a network of family-friendly attractions in Fairmount Park, revitalizing the Park and positioning it as a family destination with the Zoo as anchor. The relocated Please Touch Museum will be a key step in making the "Centennial District" a reality. I am pleased that Pete, former chair of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, will continue to work on behalf of the arts and culture community in the Philadelphia region.

During his tenure at the Zoo, Pete led an unprecedented, \$100 million capital investment, including the Zoo's spectacular, \$20 million Bank of America Big Cat Falls exhibit that recently opened. The list of new facilities and other Hoskins-led initiatives includes: New Animal Health Center, PECO Primate Reserve, Reptile House Renovation, Dodge Rare Animal Conservation Center, Lorikeet Landing, Monkey Junction, and Channel 6 Zooballoon.

Pete also has laid the foundation to raise capital for three more master plan projects, including a series of new bird exhibits, a new elephant habitat, and a new children's zoo. In 1997, he guided the Zoo's Board and staff through the development of "Vision 2020" and the Zoo's master plan as the Zoo renewed and strengthened its mission to educate visitors and inspire them to take action in their own lives to protect animals and their natural habitats. All of the Zoo's new exhibits now include key conservation messages and opportunities to engage in conservation outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Pete Hoskins. His knowledge, dedication and vision for Philadelphia are truly an asset. I would like to thank him for his Zoo leadership and sincerely look forward to working with him for the betterment of Philadelphia into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMOGENE HARRIS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Mrs. Imogene Harris, an important community leader in Tennessee, a tireless political activist and my dear friend. Imogene died Saturday in an automobile accident.

Imogene had been active in the Gibson County Democratic Party and the Tennessee Democratic Party for nearly 50 years, during which she was an important part of hundreds of local, state and national campaigns. I was fortunate to have Imogene working in my congressional office. She also worked closely with my predecessor, the late Congressman Ed Jones, former Governor Ned McWherter and Vice President Al Gore, and served as a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions.

She was just as involved locally. A board member at the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and former chair of the Milan Housing Authority, Imogene was also to be sworn in next week as a Gibson County Commissioner.

The driving force behind her work was an attempt to help those around her and make our community stronger. Imogene was known in Tennessee for her take-charge attitude. She knew her opinions, shared them often and acted on them enthusiastically.

Imogene and her late husband, Tom "Skinny" Harris, have two daughters, Jan Anderson of Milan and Pam McAlpin of Trezevant, and four grandchildren, Jake and Clay Anderson, and Jason and Adam McAlpin.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened that you and most of our colleagues in the House of Representatives never got to meet my friend, Imogene Harris. The way she lived her life, the passion with which she acted on her beliefs, and the dedication with which she worked to improve our world, make her the perfect example of effective leadership. She will be sorely missed.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR
RITA AFLLEJE TAINATONGO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Mayor Rita Afleje Tainatongo who passed away on August 13, 2006. Mayor Tainatongo was a caring and devoted public servant who was dedicated to her family and loved by her village of Malesso and all the people of Guam.

Rita was born on January 7, 1949 to Antonio Taitano Afleje and Rosa Tedpahago-Champaco in the village of Malesso. She was raised in a loving and caring home that included her parents, her brother John, and two sisters, Rosita and Regina. Rita credits Felipe Duenas and Josefina Acfalle Candaso as important role models during her formative teen years who helped her develop the character and poise that she was known for as a young adult.

Rita attended Mount Carmel School, in Agat, and graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 1967. Her public service career began in 1985 when she was appointed as a Municipal Clerk in the Malesso's Mayor's Office. She later became the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor. Her reputation as a "can-do" person and her experience led to her own successful run for the Mayor's Office in 2000. She was reelected to a second term in 2004.

During her two terms she re-invigorated the sister village relationship between the Coast Guard and Malesso, improved services for senior citizens and successfully organized the Malesso Fiestan Tasi annual celebrations.

A lifelong Democrat, Rita was a village leader for the party in the gubernatorial campaigns of 1982, 1986 and 1990. Her politics were motivated by a deep sense of purpose and a vision of what government can do to make lives better.

Throughout her public life, Rita gave back to the community through her support of the American Cancer Society and American Red Cross and other civic organizations.

The island of Guam has lost a leader, a humanitarian, and a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rita's husband, Ramon Baza Tainatongo, her children, and grandchildren. We are saddened and at the same time we are inspired by how much one person can accomplish for her community. She has touched many lives and made the island a better place to live for many people, most especially her beloved people of Malesso.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE, TEXAS
UPON 50 YEARS OF INCORPORATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Southlake, Texas for its 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.

In 1956, Southlake was born on the North Texas Prairie as 1.62 square miles of land with less than 1000 inhabitants and now boasts 22 square miles with a population of more than 25,000 Texans.

During the past 50 years, businesses and families alike have migrated to Southlake to plant roots in the stable and warm community. With the growth of the city's size in land and residents, Southlake has worked hard and succeeded at maintaining a comfortable and safe hometown atmosphere.

The American family is thriving in Southlake, Texas with just over 60 percent of families having kids under the age of 18. Whether a faculty member in the accomplished local school system, or a participant in the storied high school athletic programs, these families take great pride in preparing their children for the future. Within these families are hard working employees at locally owned businesses or large corporations who strive for the betterment of the community in which they live.

I commend Southlake's city officials of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of making Southlake a premier North Texas community for families and businesses.

I give my congratulations to the city officials and private residents of Southlake on their Golden Anniversary of Incorporation. I honor Southlake, Texas upon this milestone and look forward to the future as the city continues to be a shining example in North Texas.

It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my Congressional District and give my sincere congratulations upon this Golden Anniversary.

THE REOPENING OF THE SAN
MATEO LIBRARY—A 21ST CEN-
TURY MARVEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, every now and then there are events in the life of a city that

are so monumental they alter the very core of the city and its people. Today, the city of San Mateo, California, which is in my Congressional District, is proudly reopening its public library and I am certain that this new library, a true modern marvel, will change San Mateo for the better.

Today's event is the culmination of seven years of hard work, including close to 50 community meetings, years of fund raising, and two years of construction. However, I can say with complete confidence that it was all worth it.

Mr. Speaker, this new library is the monument to learning that the citizens of San Mateo desire and deserve. This 90,000 square foot modern marvel is three times larger than the old library, contains 75,000 additional books, 10 times the number of computers, and a wireless internet connection throughout the building. Despite its towering size, the building was designed in an environmentally friendly manner. In fact 98% of the original building was recycled during the demolition process. The new library utilizes natural light and the latest technologies; including automated window shades that rise and close based on room temperature to create a "green building" that is expected to save the city 40% in energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, while the library of the past was mainly used to borrow reading material, today's 21st century library is intended to be a focal hub of the community and the new San Mateo library has been expertly designed in that fashion. The library will boast a teen lounge, a multi-media collection, a story time amphitheater in the children's section with stories told in English, Spanish and Chinese languages, as well as a café operated by a local vendor. In addition because the Bay Area is the pinnacle of our nation's biotech industry the library will include a Biotechnology Learning Center, which will be staffed by its own biotech librarian and will include seminar rooms and specialized reference materials. Of course the library will also continue to provide more traditional offerings, such as adult literacy programs, research training for elementary school age students, and Internet classes for the general public.

The roots of the San Mateo library were planted in 1883 when members of the Ladies Guild of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church decided to create "a reading room or place of resort where people could pass their leisure time socializing and improving their minds by reading good books and periodicals". Today, more than one hundred years later the citizens of San Mateo have once again shown incredible foresight to create a citadel of culture and a place where its residents can ensconce themselves in an educational environment.