

The U.S. consular section at our embassy in Seoul is the busiest non-immigrant visa issuing post in the world, processing between 1,800 and 2,000 visa applications each day. It is clear that South Koreans want to visit the United States, and they have good reasons for doing so.

There are currently efforts underway to bring South Korea under the umbrella of the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which already applies to 27 other countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Japan. This program, established in 1986 with the objective of promoting better relations with U.S. allies, also eliminates unnecessary barriers to travel, stimulates the tourism industry, and permits the U.S. Department of State to focus consular resources in other areas.

The South Korean Government has made it clear that it intends to meet all of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the Visa Waiver Program. Seoul is working with the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and State in a diligent fashion to make sure that relevant South Korean governmental agencies have implemented the most up-to-date passport controls, using biometric and other technologies to prevent fraud and abuse. Mr. Speaker, I am almost certain that the Republic of Korea's entry into the Visa Waiver Program will be one of the topics discussed by President Roh and President Bush during their summit meeting this month.

There are, of course, other issues that certainly will be discussed at the White House by President Bush and President Roh, including the free trade negotiations, North Korean nuclear weapons development, and South Korea's active participation in the global war on terrorism and its contributions to the war effort in Iraq. The United States and South Korea have enjoyed a long and productive alliance, which, based on blood ties forged in the Korean war, will deepen into the indefinite future.

The frequent meetings of U.S. and Korean leaders are a clear manifestation of the close relationship shared by our two countries. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to welcome the president of the Republic of Korea, Roh Moo-hyun, to the United States as he visits Washington, DC, and the golden State of California. I invite all Members of the House to join me in offering President Roh our best wishes and hospitality as he visits our Nation's Capital.

CONGRATULATING EAGLEPICHER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize EaglePicher, an advanced technology company that was founded in 1843. Today, EaglePicher provides innovative products for a wide range of industries and employs approximately 3,900 people worldwide.

I would like to congratulate EaglePicher on the achievement of their nickel hydrogen batteries that reached one billion cell hours of successful flight time in space on September 9, 2006. EaglePicher Technologies, which makes these batteries is headquartered in Joplin, Missouri and has a long history of being one of Joplin's leading employers.

I am honored to congratulate the current President of EaglePicher Corporation, David Treadwell and the President of EaglePicher Technologies, Steve Westfall and all of the employees of EaglePicher on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH AND LINDA STEIGERS

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing to the actions of Kenneth and Linda Steigers of Juliaetta, Idaho.

Nine years before the Steigers purchased a section of land in Clearwater County, Idaho, a flood tore through the area. It destroyed many large cottonwood trees and other vegetation in a riparian zone of Lolo Creek which runs through their property. Eventually, grass grew back near the banks of the creek, which attracted grazing cattle. At that time the Bureau of Land Management raised concerns that the cattle may be adversely affecting the water quality of the creek and the salmon spawning beds in the area.

The Steigers, through support from the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, have worked diligently to rectify the problem. They used program funding to build a fence around the riparian area and also developed a spring at the top of a nearby slope to provide an alternate drinking area for the cattle. With the cattle no longer grazing in the area, cottonwood trees and shrubs are growing in the area again. The salmon habitat has improved and elk, deer, geese, ducks, blue herons, and other small water birds have become abundant.

For their actions as CRP participants the Steigers will be presented with the Conservation Reserve Program Outstanding American Conservationist Award by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the actions of Kenneth and Linda Steigers. It is accomplishments like this that make our world a more beautiful and enjoyable place to live.

TRIBUTE TO CENTER POINT INC. AND CEO DR. SUSHMA TAYLOR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both Center Point, Inc. and its President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Sushma Taylor. The agency is commemorating 35 years of service to the people of California while celebrating Dr. Taylor's 25 years of visionary leadership with the agency.

Founded as a small rehabilitation program in Marin County, California, Center Point now offers a continuum of statewide services for

high-risk families, adults, and youths. With 30 sites in California and over 12,000 clients per year, the staff provides a wide array of health, social, and rehabilitative services to combat poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and psychological and substance abuse problems. Sushma Taylor's dedication has been the driving force behind the creation of this expansive and successful agency we see today.

Center Point's mission is to provide a range of affordable support services by offering education, training, health care, and counseling support so that those they serve can claim self-worth and dignity. Dr. Taylor's values and experience have been an ideal match for this mission.

Throughout her career, Sushma's primary focus has been to create opportunities and remove barriers for high-risk clients. She has long been a champion of those requiring social rehabilitation to improve their quality of life and their personal and social responsibility.

Sushma's father was an ambassador for the government of India, where she was born. The family relocated frequently, giving her a multi-cultural and multi-lingual orientation. She moved to Marin County in 1974. With a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and as a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, she had the background to serve as Director of Marin and Sonoma County's Treatment Alternative to Street Crime projects in coordination with each county's mental health department. She worked to develop a unique justice diversion project that was replicated nationally.

In 1981, Sushma became Executive Director of Center Point. Today the agency's clients receive a continuum of individualized services created by Sushma and funded through grants and contracts that she has successfully pursued. Graduates of the treatment programs move on to transitional housing and continuing care services as they prepare to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Sushma has also expanded Center Point programs to the state of Oklahoma has established them in California state prisons, dramatically reducing crime and recidivism. She is one of the foremost authorities in the nation on treatment for women and provides consultation around the world. She also works closely with local state, and federal agencies to form policies that advance the field of addiction treatment.

Mr. Speaker, Center Point's graduates are living proof of the achievement of their mission and of Dr. Sushma Taylor's belief that her true success is the successes of those she serves. Center Point believes that adversity can be overcome and the extraordinary achieved. And with Dr. Taylor's guidance, this has been demonstrated many times over. It is a pleasure to honor Dr. Taylor and Center Point on this memorable occasion.

TRIBUTE TO HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the people of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Portland on their

Centennial Celebration. Holy Redeemer has long held a place in my heart, and I have been honored to represent the people and parish for nearly 30 years. Holy Redeemer is well known for its positive contributions to the neighborhood and the residents of North and Northeast Portland. Since 1906, the church has been a community anchor and a center of education, spiritual support, justice to all people, and good works.

Catholic education has played an important role in Oregon, and more children have graduated from Holy Redeemer School than any other Catholic grade school in Oregon. The gift of education liberates people and in turn has made Portland and Oregon better communities. We owe thanks to the founding priests and brothers of the Redemptorist Order, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, thousands of parishioners, and now the Congregation of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church for making my Congressional District and all of Oregon a better place.

TRIBUTE FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we remembered the tragic events that unfolded 5 years ago on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

We remembered a day replete with loss, but also replete with heroism.

As we reflect on those who died that fateful day—as we mourn those family members and friends whose lives were taken by a group of radical extremists, I would like to pay tribute to the 343 firefighters who were lost in the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

I am often amazed when I reflect back on the acts of those firefighters. For most, the human instinct is to turn and run away from imminent danger. Yet, they were prepared to sacrifice their own lives in order to save the lives of those they had never met. This courage was born from a commitment to service that is shared with thousands more across the Nation.

They are our first responders, and every time America is threatened, whether by an act of God or an act of man, they are the first to arrive, providing certainty out of an uncertain situation. Many Americans, in New York City and around our country, owe their lives to first responders. We owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude, not only for what they have done, but for what they are prepared to do.

We must never forget the tragedy of September 11th, and we should never forget the triumphs of September 11th. America is a better place because of the strength, the courage and the determination of our first responders.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006—A DAY OF
SORROW AND REMEMBRANCE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 5 years removed from the tragedy of

September 11, 2001, our Nation still feels the pain and sorrow from that fateful day. Like no other event in recent history, September 11 brought America together in a time of grief and an outpouring of emotion. Today, we remember the 3,000 innocent lives taken in the blink of an eye by these terrorist attacks.

I still remember watching the news that Tuesday morning and seeing footage of the planes hitting the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Like you, I sat and prayed for the men and women that were trapped in the smoking buildings. Everyone offered our thanks to those brave citizens of New York and Virginia who rushed into the burning wreckage, trying to rescue any possible survivors. And I wept when watching the towers collapse into the streets of New York. These are moments frozen in time that no American could ever forget.

On the anniversary of these horrible attacks, it is fitting for Americans to pause and reflect on the challenges our Nation now faces to defend our freedoms. A committed group of religious Islamic terrorists—fanatics who twist and pervert the teachings of the Koran to meet their extremist goals—are bent on destroying America and its allies in the global war on terror.

We have seen attacks in Britain, Spain and Indonesia that have killed hundreds of innocent civilians. Law enforcement officials have used innovative and modernized counterterrorism policies to help successfully thwart terrorist plots in the Netherlands, Britain, Canada and the United States; plots that may have killed thousands. The lesson learned from these experiences is that we must remain ever vigilant in the global war if we are to defend against this enemy.

Like December 7, 1941 before it, September 11 has become a day of remembrance. It is a time to remember the lives lost that day, as well as the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers deployed on the front lines. September 11 is also a reminder that there is work left to do. It is groups like al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas whose goal it is to destroy America and everything that defines our great Nation. They will continue to plot new and innovative terrorist attacks against our homeland and our people. It is up to the Congress and the President to work together to ensure that September 11 is never repeated again.

America must never forget the events of September 11, 2001. They shaped a generation of men and women across the country and thrust us squarely into the global war on terror. On the fifth anniversary of that day, the United States should pause to remember the thousands of innocent lives lost and the sacrifices of the military men and women who serve around the globe to protect our rights and freedoms.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WESLEY GORDON
II

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable citizen, Mr. Wesley Gordon II of Fort Atkinson, WI. The National Postmaster of the Year award was recently

bestowed upon Mr. Gordon in recognition of his contributions to the community and to the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Gordon, who began his career as a temporary mail carrier in Middleton, has been head of the Fort Atkinson Post Office since 1995. Serving in a number of different capacities and communities throughout his career, Mr. Gordon served as the officer in charge in Highland, Cottage Grove, Brodhead and Fort Atkinson and postmaster in Wisconsin Dells and Monroe.

In addition to his 37 years of work for the U.S. Postal Service, Wesley Gordon has been a longtime soccer and baseball coach, is an active member of the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus and volunteers for St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Atkinson.

In the local postal community, Mr. Gordon is known as a leader who understands the concept of teamwork. He is quick to point out the importance and excellence of his employees as he talks about his vision for the future, which is “to make every post office a place people enjoy coming to and want to return to.”

I am pleased to join with the U.S. Postal Service in recognizing Mr. Gordon’s hard work and dedication. Fort Atkinson and the State of Wisconsin are fortunate and grateful to be the beneficiaries of Wesley Gordon’s work. Thank you, Mr. Gordon, and best of luck with your future endeavors.

COMMENDING REV. THADDEUS
SWIRSKI

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Rev. Thaddeus Swirski, pastor of St. Hedwig’s Church, in Akron, Ohio, for his service to his parish, the community, and our nation.

A member of the faculty of the University of Akron, Rev. Swirski serves as Chaplain for ROTC Army and Air Force, and the Ohio Military Reserve in the rank of Colonel. He has received six distinguished medals for his military service.

Father Swirski grew up in German-occupied Poland. Born on April 26, 1930, and orphaned at age 3, he spent his first years in Warsaw and later in an orphanage near the Russian border. As an elementary school student, he became active in the Polish underground and joined the resistance against Nazi occupation. He was decorated for his participation in the resistance.

At age 14, Father Swirski joined the First Polish Army, which was organized in the former Polish territory then occupied by Russia. As a young soldier, he participated in the battlefield near Moscow, in Warsaw, then in Berlin, and the River Elba as well as in the Baltic region and Western Polish territory. He was highly decorated by the end of the war. After the collapse of communism in East Europe, Father Swirski was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Though he was homeless at the end of the war, he became a full-time student, attending day, evening, and summer classes in order to finish high school, working to support himself as he studied. After completing high school,