

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF MR.
ROBERT B. INGRAM, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob Ingram for his service to the state of Alabama as one of the most influential and respected political writers.

At a celebration of his 80th birthday earlier this summer, State Treasurer Kay Ivey described Bob as an "Alabama Treasure." Throughout his career, he has used his skills as a journalist to make an important contribution toward building a better Alabama.

Born in Centre, Alabama, in 1926, Bob graduated from Cherokee County High School and served with distinction in World War II as a radio operator and gunner aboard the USS *Panamint*. He graduated from Auburn University in 1949 and soon began working for the Cherokee County Herald.

Bob has seen and reported on many of the most pivotal events in Alabama's history including the civil rights movement and the career of former Governor George C. Wallace. While noted for his legendary objectivity, Bob has never been afraid to speak his mind. Be it with praise or criticism, Mr. Ingram has served as a watchdog for the people of Alabama his entire career.

Bob Ingram has been a reporter, a magazine publisher, an author, a television commentator, and a speaker for the better part of a century. In 1968, he also served the people of Alabama as the finance director to Governor Albert Brewer.

Mr. Ingram's life is filled with achievement, and today I rise to honor yet another of these achievements—the 80th birthday of one of our state's most revered journalists and esteemed citizens. May he continue to inform and inspire the people of Alabama, and may his role in our State's history not soon be forgotten.

WWII ACE REMEMBERED

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American warrior, Col. Herschel H. "Herky" Green. Herky Green was a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II and is recognized as one of the sharpest shooters of the war. He passed away August 16, 2006 from cancer at the age of 86.

In his time as a fighter pilot, Herky Green amassed 402 combat flying hours over the course of 100 combat missions. He is credited with destroying 10 enemy aircraft on the ground and 18 aerial victories, earning him the designation of Ace. As the leading Ace of the 15th Air Force, Herky Green dominated the

skies over Europe and Africa from 1943 to 1944. During one mission against a group of German bombers, Green single-handedly destroyed six aircraft.

Green continued to serve in the newly established U.S. Air Force until 1964. Among his numerous decorations, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

HONORING BILL STONE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Stone as the recipient of the 2006 Kings County Agriculturalist of the Year Award. With over 35 years of dedicated service to the Central Valley's agriculture industry and with demonstrated quality leadership, Mr. Stone is truly deserving of this recognition.

A native of Stratford, Mr. Stone moved to Lemoore when he was 9 years old. He graduated from Lemoore High School in 1964 and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1968. His earliest memories of farm life center on days spent playing out on the ranch with the kids who lived in the farm labor camp as well as working around the shop with his father and brother.

Today, Mr. Stone owns and operates Stone Land Company, nestled in the heart of the Central Valley. He credits his employees, some of who have worked for the company for over 40 years, in helping harvest cotton, garlic, onions, tomatoes, garbanzo beans, cantaloupe, wheat, barley, alfalfa and lettuce grown for seed across the 9,000 acre farm. Because Mr. Stone is committed to enhancing the quality of agriculture in the valley, he makes the extra effort to incorporate new technology on his farm. He has been actively involved in operating laser leveling, GPS guidance systems and yield monitoring equipment. He has also taken advantage of computers for bookkeeping and in tracking production. Further, Mr. Stone has worked closely with University Ag Extension programs in testing new products and equipment.

Aside from his commitments out on the farm, Mr. Stone is an outstanding member of the agricultural community. He currently serves as the Secretary of the San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association, Chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Cotton Board, Director of the Ranchers Cotton Oil Company, Director of the California Cotton Growers Association and a Member of the CIIA Cotton Committee. In addition, Mr. Stone is a board member of Mary Immaculate Queen School, Director of the Beltwide Cotton Co-Op and Chairman of the California Garlic and Onion Research Advisory Board. In the past, Mr. Stone served as the Director of Calcot, Ltd. and the Chairman of Kingsburg Cotton Oil Company.

The Stone family has been an important part of California agriculture for over a century. It is for those reasons, that I extend my sincerest appreciation for Mr. Stone's dedication and service and offer my heartfelt congratulation for receiving the 2006 Kings County Agriculturalist of the Year Award.

CONGRATULATING SCOTT TEW ON HIS APPOINTMENT AT AMERICAN STANDARD COMPANIES AND HIS SERVICE TO WASHINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Scott Tew on his hard work and service to the people of Washington County, Alabama, and to congratulate him on his recent appointment as global director of public affairs at American Standard Companies.

After receiving a bachelor of science degree and a master of arts degree at Livingston University in Livingston, Alabama, Scott joined the Ciba-Geigy Corporation in Mobile. He has devoted over 15 years to the Ciba-Geigy Corporation and to Washington County where his dedication and hard work helped the company and the community prosper. At Ciba, Scott served as the head of North American public affairs, the director of community and state relations, the global corporate communications manager, and the manager of public affairs and communications.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Scott also dedicated his time to the community, including: the Gulf Coast Science Exploreum, the American Chemistry Council, Manufacture Alabama, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Business Council of Alabama, the Washington County Business Alliance, and the Alabama Environmental Initiatives Commission.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in south Alabama are sad to see Scott leave our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on this achievement and new chapter in his life. I know Scott's colleagues, his wife Cindy, his daughters Dylan and Katherine, his family, and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the State of Alabama.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. CELESTER ALSTON CLARK

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mrs.

• 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.

Celester Alston Clark who is being honored on Saturday, September 16, 2006 by the North Carolina Federation of Garden Clubs. Mrs. Clark is being honored for her dedicated and loyal service as well as her enthusiasm and creativity. All of these qualities have indeed served to provide a tremendous benefit to the Garden Club. Over the years Mrs. Clark has exhibited an impressive level of leadership to the Garden Club; in that regard, she sponsors a workshop each year when the North Carolina Federation of Garden Clubs hosts its Annual Convention. Further, she serves as the State Youth Director.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Clark is indeed leading the charge for her Garden Club where one of its objectives is to put more strength behind local clubs so that the work of beautifying homes, churches, schools and communities can be achieved more effectively. Mrs. Clark is very instrumental in helping her Garden Club promote a full conservation program within local clubs, placing special interest on wildflowers, native trees, soil, and water. There are about 40 adult and youth clubs that belong to the North Carolina Federation of Garden Clubs which was organized as far back as 1935.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Clark has been a member of the Daisy Garden Club since 1979 and in 1995 she organized the Calla Lily Adult Garden Club. Under her guidance, the Calla Lily Adult Garden Club has projects at the Pinkerton's Street School, Satterwhite Point Lake Camp Site in Henderson, North Carolina and Haywood Missionary Baptist Church in Louisburg, North Carolina. In addition, Mrs. Clark oversees the Calla Lilly Youth Gardeners referred to as Calla Lilettes.

She was born in Franklin County, North Carolina to Benjamin and Mable Alston, and has one brother and five sisters. She attended the Rockford Grade School and graduated from Franklin County Training School. She received her Bachelor of Art degree from A&T College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She married the love of her life, Mr. James Clark of Greensboro, North Carolina. After relocating to Washington, D.C., Mrs. Clark secured employment as a budget analyst with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; with the U.S. Department of Defense in the area of Financial Management; and finally with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons. Upon her retirement, she became a teacher in the Vance County Public School system.

While residing in Washington, D.C., Mr. and Mrs. Clark were members of the Upper Room Baptist Church. Mrs. Clark served as the Youth Director, Member of the Hospitality Committee, and was a member of the choir. She also served as President of the Fort Dupont Civic Association.

Upon returning to Henderson, North Carolina, Mr. and Mrs. Clark reunited with their family home church, Haywood Missionary Baptist Church in Louisburg where she serves as President of the Deaconess; Chairperson of the Hospitality Committee; member of the Mass Choir and member of the Missionary Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to one of my most deserving constituents, Mrs. Celester Alston Clark on this great occasion.

HONORING THE EVANGELHO SEED
& FARM STORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Evangelho Seed & Farm Store as the recipient of the 2006 Kings County Ag Support Business of the Year Award. For the past 25 years, Evangelho Feed & Farm Store has supplied essential farming products and services to the people of the Central Valley.

Rodney and Linda Evangelho opened the farm store on September 1, 1981. They started the business with the help and commitment of family members and three additional employees. The store provided seed to farmers and dairymen, as well as a small amount of cat and dog food to the folks of Kings County. Since then, the Evangelhos have seen their business flourish and they have opened a new pet and farm supply store. Today, they have a total of 13 employees and offer products for all types of animals to clothing and jewelry. In addition, the Evangelho Seed & Farm Store has become the Valley's one-stop shop for members of the 4-H and FFA and they have expanded their areas of service into Kings, Fresno, Tulare and Madera Counties.

The Evangelhos attribute their success to their customers, but it is their knowledge of the Valley's agricultural needs that keeps the business growing. Besides offering seminars for 4-H and FFA members, they are active with the Kings County Farm Bureau and the Dairy Herds Improvement Association. They have also been involved with the Education & Agriculture Foundation (EAT), which brings teachers from urban areas from Los Angeles County to the Bay Area to provide agricultural education for them to take back and share with their students. In addition to their commitments to the agricultural community, the Evangelho family is active in the Hanford Knights of Columbus, St. Peter's Church, Our Lady of Fatima in Laton and the Kings Guild.

Through years of hard work and dedication the Evangelho's investment in their business make them worthy of this recognition. They have managed to stand alone as a family-run and operated business among competitors and have served their local community in immense measures. It is for those reasons that I take great pride and honor in joining the Kings County community in commending the success of the Evangelho Seed & Farm Store and in wishing Rodney and Linda Evangelho continued success and prosperity.

CONGRATULATING MISS ALICE
LEE ON THE OCCASION OF HER
95TH BIRTHDAY AND THE DIS-
TINCTION OF BEING ALABAMA'S
OLDEST PRACTICING FEMALE
ATTORNEY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to

honor one of the most beloved residents of Monroeville, Alabama, Miss Alice Lee, on the occasion of her 95th birthday and her distinction of being Alabama's oldest practicing female attorney.

After graduating from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, "Miss Alice" returned to her hometown of Monroeville in the midst of the Great Depression. For 18 years, she served as the associate editor and partner of The Monroe Journal, a weekly newspaper in Monroeville. She did a little bit of everything at the paper including writing stories, proofing copy and assisting with the printing.

In 1937, "Miss Alice" went to work for the Internal Revenue Service in Birmingham and at night attended law school. After graduating from the Birmingham School of Law and being admitted to the bar in 1943, she returned to Monroeville to practice law with her father at his firm Barnett, Bugg & Lee, where she continues to practice today.

One of "Miss Alice's" passions has been her work for the Methodist church. She was the first woman to head the administrative board of her hometown church, and she was the first woman to chair the Alabama-West Florida Council on Ministries of the Methodist Church.

For 32 years, "Miss Alice" served on the city's planning commission. When she stepped down in 1998, she was presented with a proclamation from the Monroeville City Council.

Mr. Speaker, "Miss Alice" has devoted her life to the service of Monroe County's residents, and along the way, she has been an inspiration to countless young women—and men—for all that she has accomplished. Therefore, it is only appropriate that I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating "Miss Alice" on reaching this milestone. I know her colleagues, her sisters—Louise Lee Conner and Nelle Harper Lee—her family and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of the people of Alabama. May there be many more birthday celebrations to come. God bless you, "Miss Alice."

LONE STAR VOICE—MAGGI
CARTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it has been one year since Hurricane Katrina flooded Texas with evacuees. It's almost a year since welcoming Texans weathered their own storm, Hurricane Rita.

But today there are still shells of smashed buildings left standing. There are still homes where roofs were peeled back by wind and rain. Today only a blue tarp remains over the heads of countless families.

But these victims, these Lone Star Voices, are crying out for help.

Maggi Carter of Beaumont writes, "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita handed the State of Texas an unprecedented housing challenge. To date, there are grossly inadequate resources for the 75,000 victims of Hurricane Rita. We support a 5-step plan to provide housing to the more than 100,000 families living in Texas who are victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita."

Mr. Speaker her plan includes: Transferring long-term housing from FEMA to HUD, the people who understand housing; settling the elderly and disabled into long-term government housing; and developing affordable rental housing while repairing the battered homes of survivors.

We cannot turn a blind eye to survivors. The victims of these natural disasters and their needs cannot be ignored. They need their government to finally help them find the calm after the storm.

That's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT VINCENT
FISCELLA

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Vincent Fiscella a 17-year veteran of the Delaware State Police and the 2006 recipient of the Legacy of Honor Award presented by the Ronald G. Williams Foundation.

In 2003, The Ronald G. Williams, Jr. Foundation instituted the "Legacy of Honor" Award to recognize Delaware law enforcement officers who distinguish themselves through exemplary integrity and devotion to character. Sergeant Fiscella is a very worthy recipient of this award and I'm proud to honor him today. Sergeant Fiscella also serves as the President of the Delaware State Troopers Association.

The Legacy of Honor Award was created in memory of Delaware State Trooper Ronald Williams who was dedicated to the ideals of honor, duty, loyalty and service to others. Sergeant Fiscella joins two other distinguished individuals who have received the Legacy of Honor Award: Chief Kevin McDermby of New Castle County Police and Major Joseph Papili of the Delaware State Police.

Sergeant Fiscella's desire to become a Delaware State Trooper was born out of a will to be a part of an organization with rich tradition and history. Since 1923, the Delaware State Police have been serving the people of Delaware and now more than ever, the importance of effective law enforcement is apparent. Thankfully, there are officers like Sergeant Fiscella serving and protecting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again, commend Sergeant Fiscella on his achievement and thank him and all law-enforcement officials for all the tireless work they undertake to make our streets and communities safe places to live. I'm sure Sergeant Fiscella is and will continue to be an inspiration to his colleagues and future law-enforcement officers.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
JIM EMFINGER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Emfinger of Mobile, Alabama,

for his dedicated, inspiring work as an umpire at Mobile Municipal Park. For over 25 years, Jim, affectionately known as "Big Blue," has given his own special touch to the game of baseball and the development of little boys and girls who are learning at a very young age the rules of America's pastime.

All across America, baseball is an important part of our lives, full of history and tradition. From little league games in small towns, to enjoying a box of Cracker Jacks and a hot dog at a major league ballpark, there is no other sport that is as American as baseball. Jim Emfinger has enriched this tradition with a sense of kindness and humanity for which we should all strive both on and off the field.

Jim is well known for helping out the young girls and boys at Mobile Municipal Park, calling a time out if a player needs help or lending a hand if someone gets hurt while sliding into home. On more than one occasion, Jim has pretended to help tie a youngster's shoe while secretly telling him how to hold the bat. I have heard nothing but praise for Jim from the countless parents, coaches, and players who have been lucky enough to be a part of one of the many little league games that Jim has umpired. As the father of a little slugger myself, I can say I have witnessed first-hand the numerous times Jim Emfinger's love of children and love of baseball have come together to make a positive difference.

With a remarkable sense of patience and class, Jim Emfinger is a man who not only honors the game of baseball, but he is a role model to all of the parents and children he meets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Jim's family and friends, along with past and present ball players, join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the city of Mobile and all the future "Hall of Famers" who live there.

TRIBUTE TO REV. JOSEPH CALVIN
NEAL

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Rev. Joseph Calvin Neal, from Carroll County in my district in Georgia.

Rev. Neal began life in Carroll County as one of 12 children of a single mother. As a young teen, he took a job at the Green Front, a locally owned restaurant, and was renowned for his ability to take the orders of multiple patrons with no notes and never missing a beat.

Rev. Neal became so beloved by key community leaders that they got him a job at Sunset Hills Country Club and eventually encouraged and supported him at Paine College in Augusta, where he received a degree in music.

The Lord called Rev. Neal to the ministry, and after his training was complete, he began serving as the pastor of several Methodist churches in west Georgia.

But his service at his churches wasn't his only job. During his time as pastor, he also

worked for the Douglas & Lomason Company, one of the major producers of car parts in the country. Even after the plant in Carrollton closed down, the company trusted Rev. Neal with the oversight of the company property for years afterward.

But even in working two jobs, Rev. Neal never lost sight of his ministry. Normally, a Methodist pastor serves one church and is moved from church to church every five or so years. But Rev. Neal was so beloved by his congregations that he served as the pastor of 3 churches simultaneously—in Newnan, Georgia for 32 years. These churches are Smith Chapel UMC, Wesley Chapel UMC, and Clark Chapel UMC. During those years, his churches were recognized twice as "church of the year" by the North Georgia Methodist Conference, another testament to his leadership and skill. Rev. Neal also continued his education by receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

But Rev. Neal also lived out what he preached regarding the importance of family—he cared for his mother until she passed away, and he continues to live in her house with an older brother.

He has also been invaluable to the community in Carroll County. He has served on the planning commission for the city of Carrollton, the Carroll County Water Authority, and on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to name a few. Even while working two full-time jobs, Rev. Neal still found time to serve his community.

Rev. Neal has earned the respect and love of the people of Carroll County. Even today, when Rev. Neal does something as simple as go out to a restaurant to eat, people know him and come speak to him about their lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring a life of service like that of Rev. Neal before the House. He is an example to young people across this Nation of the type of spirit we need in our citizens—he looks beyond what it means to gain notoriety for himself, and focuses on serving others. Servant leadership. Something we would do well to practice here in Washington, and something that Rev. Neal exemplifies by his life. We all wish him the very best in his retirement and continued service to my State and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE EDWARDS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dianne Edwards of Santa Rosa, California, who is retiring after ten years as Director of Human Services for Sonoma County,

Dianne's job required overseeing one of the largest departments in County government. Human Services provides essential services to one in nine residents including cash aid, medical assistance, and food stamps to low income individuals and families; employment and training services; assistance to the elderly, disabled and veterans to maintain quality of life; and child welfare and child protective services. Dianne managed the 600 staff and their supervisors responsible for these activities at 8 locations.

Children are among our most vulnerable populations, and during Dianne's tenure the County, with the assistance of other organizations, built the Valley of the Moon Children's Home, an emergency center for child victims of abuse. The department also manages the Redwood Children's Center for a safe, supportive environment for child victims of sexual abuse.

Dianne holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and has spent the last 34 years in social services in California at both county and state levels. She began her career as an eligibility worker, worked 2 years as State Chief of AFDC and Food Stamps Policy for all 58 California counties, and served as Director of Adult and Employment Services for Orange County just before moving to Sonoma.

Locally, Dianne has shared her expertise with the community including the Board of Directors of United Way, commissioner on the Children and Families Commission, and member of the Mayor's Gang Task Force for the City of Santa Rosa. She has also participated, as a member and officer of the County Welfare Directors Association of California, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of County Human Services Administrators.

Mr. Speaker, Sonoma County has been fortunate to have Dianne Edward's leadership for the Human Services Department, a department which is responsible for the welfare of many of our community's most vulnerable citizens. We appreciate the skill, proficiency, and dedication with which she has guided these crucial services for 10 years.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2784, which authorizes the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest expression of national appreciation for exceptional service and for lifetime contributions. The medal has been awarded to individuals from all walks of life. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, Pope John Paul II, the Navajo Code Talkers, Rosa Parks, Frank Sinatra, and Elie Wiesel are among those who have been honored. The Dalai Lama is well qualified to join the list of individuals who have received this most distinguished of honors.

Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama is recognized in the United States and throughout the world as a leading figure of moral and religious authority. He is the unrivaled spiritual and cultural leader of the Tibetan people, and has used his leadership to promote democracy, freedom, and peace for the Tibetan people through a negotiated settlement of the Tibet issue, based on autonomy within the People's Republic of China.

This Dalai Lama has led the effort to preserve the rich cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage of the Tibetan people and to promote the safeguarding of other endangered cultures throughout the world.

For his efforts on behalf of humanity, this Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. His efforts to promote peace and non-violence throughout the globe, and to find democratic reconciliation for the Tibetan people through his "Middle Way" approach has won him world-wide acclaim.

This Dalai Lama has significantly advanced the goal of greater understanding, tolerance, harmony, and respect among the different religious faiths of the world through interfaith dialogue and outreach to other religious leaders and, perhaps most important, he has used his moral authority to promote the concept of universal responsibility as a guiding tenet for how human beings should treat one another and the planet we share.

For these reasons, I strongly support S. 2784 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2784 to award a congressional gold medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding.

I am honored to support the Dalai Lama to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. He has dedicated himself to the Tibetan people and the pursuit of freedom. He is the head of state and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people—the epitome of strength and courage, revered around the world for his commitment to the cause of human rights and religious freedom—a man who wants only to be able to return to his country in peace and to lead his people in the practice of their religion. He had led the effort to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Tibetan people.

I traveled to Tibet in 1997 and saw with my own eyes the suffering the Tibetan people endure. I visited monasteries and talked with many people. Several monks spoke to me in secret and shared with me the horrors taking place in Tibet. I heard stories of monks and nuns who were dragged away to prison and tortured.

These monks and nuns are not alone. Religious persecution is spread across China. Catholic bishops are in prisons and labor camps. Protestant House Church leaders are routinely harassed and detained. Large numbers of Muslims in China are in prison because of their faith. Young Muslim Uighur boys and girls are not even allowed to enter a mosque until they are 18-years-old.

I have been standing on the floor of this House talking about human rights in China and the Dalai Lama for two decades. The world is now looking for resolutions to the human rights problems in China and Tibet. There has been a dialogue taking place between the Dalai Lama's envoys and the Chinese, and that is good. But we now need to see some concrete results from these talks. The Tibetan people deserve to live in peace.

I am proud to support the Dalai Lama for the Congressional Gold Medal. He has kept the cause of human rights alive in Tibet and in other places around the globe. He is a true hero to me and many others throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF MARK MOCZULSKI FOR HIS 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ANTIOCH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chief Mark Moczulski who is retiring from the city of Antioch Police Department after 29 years of serving Antioch and the entire region.

Mark Moczulski began his distinguished career with the city of Antioch Police Department in 1977. In 1985, he was promoted to police corporal, and in 1987 received the ranking of sergeant. Three years later he became a lieutenant, and in 1996, he was promoted to captain.

In 2000, Mark Moczulski was promoted to police chief for the city of Antioch. As chief, he has been instrumental in helping the police department expand in size and quality of service and supporting community-wide efforts to maintain a high quality of life for city of Antioch residents during the region's punctuated growth.

During his tenure, Chief Moczulski oversaw the completion of several projects to support the department's expansion. Some of these accomplishments include managing the completion of the build-out of the police department's main facility and the establishment of a sub-station at the Prewett Family Water Park.

As Chief, Mark Moczulski was also responsible for several technology improvement projects including the implementation of a new state-of-the-art information and records system as well as acquiring important safety equipment including portable radios for all officers and automated external defibrillators. These expansion projects were important for the police department and even more invaluable for residents of the Antioch community, who now receive more value-added police services than ever before.

Chief Moczulski also worked to improve the quality of department services during his tenure at the Antioch Police Department. His work included the creation of a professional standards and training bureau as well as the development of a continuous testing process for hiring new employees.

As a resident of Antioch with his wife Robin, Mark Moczulski is both a member and leader of the community. Mark has one daughter, Jennifer, who is 24 and a son, Eric, who is 24.

For 29 years, Chief Moczulski has served the Antioch Police Department and surrounding community. His hard work has improved the safety of the city and the community as a whole, and has ensured an enduring legacy of public service in Antioch. Today, I am proud to commend him for his service to the community, his dedication to duty and his commitment to the people of Antioch.

TRIBUTE TO M&M FOOTBALL
GAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a time honored tradition observed in my district and, specifically, in my hometown of Menominee, Michigan. Nearly every year, since 1894, Menominee High School's football team, known as the Maroons, has played their rivals just across the Wisconsin border, the Marinette High School Marines. The annual rivalry is known as the M&M (Marinette & Menominee) game. In many ways, it parallels the annual contest in the professional football between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers, another longstanding rivalry.

Since 1894, the M&M game has developed into one of the oldest interstate athletic competitions in the United States. In fact, until 2005, the National Federation of State High School Associations recognized the M&M game as the oldest interstate series in the United States. Last year, the National Federation of State High School Associations found that two other interstate athletic series were older. Nonetheless, the proud tradition of the M&M game remains the oldest interstate high school football competition in the Midwest and the third oldest in the nation.

To understand what this competition means to the people of Menominee and Marinette, one needs to know a little about the area. These two communities are separated only by the Menominee River, which serves as the state border. The communities are so closely tied together economically that in many ways the residents think of the two cities as one, disregarding the state border that separates the two states.

However, every fall, town pride boils up and the team colors come out as the two towns prepare for the annual game. Together, Marinette and Menominee are transformed into an exceptional Midwestern fall festival as area residents organize a celebration of this great tradition. Through events like parades, tug of war contests, battles of the drums, a community yell contest, a powder puff game, fireworks and a bonfire, the people of Menominee and Marinette celebrate their shared history through good natured competition.

Over the years, the Menominee-Marinette competition has produced a whole range of football stars, many of whom went on to play football for Big Ten schools like the University of Wisconsin, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The two schools have also produced athletes who played in the National Football League. A particularly remarkable photo from 1958 shows three NFL players—Billy Wells, Dick Deschaine, and Earl "Gug" Girard. All three were on the field at the same time during a Pittsburgh Steelers-Cleveland Browns game and, interestingly, all three hail from the Menominee-Marinette area.

This year is particularly important for these two communities and for this tradition. While this rivalry originated in 1893, for a variety of reasons, the two schools did not play each other a few years, making 2006 the year that Menominee and Marinette will play their one-hundredth game. The Marinette-Menominee

community will mark this centennial with a number of special events, including the first ever M&M Twin Cities Parade, the first parade that will originate in Menominee, proceed through town, cross the Menominee River and the Wisconsin border and then finish in Marinette, Wisconsin. Every year, the teams rotate where the game will be played and this year the game will take place at Higley field in Marinette, Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, high school football is a uniquely American institution and tradition that brings our communities together. Rivalries between neighboring schools serve to remind us of our roots and why our hometowns are special to each of us. The older and deeper the rivalry, the greater the passion it elicits from fans and alums. The Menominee-Marinette rivalry is unique in many ways. Holding the title of the third oldest interstate high school competition makes this game special.

Perhaps what is most unique about the annual M&M game is that such an intense rivalry draws two communities together into a spirit of shared kinship. These two cities, separated only by a river and a state line, rediscover their unique identities every fall by rooting for the Marinette Marines or the Menominee Maroons. At the same time that these two communities celebrate their rivalry, they also acknowledge their longstanding shared history.

As the Menominee Maroons and the Marinette Marines prepare to don their respective maroon and purple uniforms for their one-hundredth game, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the players of today and yesterday as well as these two communities for continuing this unique tradition.

ON THE DEATH OF TEXAS
GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to report to the House the loss of an American original and the First Lady of Texas politics, the great Ann Richards. Governor Richards died yesterday after a long battle with throat cancer. She was 73.

Dorothy Ann Willis Richards began her career in politics in the early 1970s after having raised four children. A Democrat, she served as County Commissioner in Travis County, Texas from 1977 to 1982. Richards was elected to the first of two terms as Texas State Treasurer in 1982. We who knew and loved her will remember her always as a forcefully articulate and amusingly folksy speaker. She first gained national prominence with her keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. In 1990 she was elected governor of Texas, the first woman chief executive of Texas in more than fifty years.

Dorothy Ann Willis was born in Lakeview, Texas. She grew up in Waco, Texas, and graduated from Waco High School in 1950, participating in Girls State. She received a bachelor's degree from Baylor University while on a debate scholarship. She married her high school sweetheart, David Richards, and moved to Austin, Texas, where she earned a teaching certificate from the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduation, she taught social studies and history at Fulmore Junior High School in Austin, Texas from 1955 to 1956. She had also two daughters and two sons in the following years, and she campaigned for Texas liberals and progressives such as Henry B. Gonzalez, Ralph Yarborough, and Sarah Weddington. One of her daughters, Cecile Richards became president of Planned Parenthood in 2006. Throughout her life Ann Richards was a forceful champion for economic and social justice for all Americans, especially women and the disadvantaged.

In 1976, Richards ran against and defeated a three-term incumbent on the Travis County, Texas Commissioner Court, holding the position for six years. She then was elected State Treasurer in 1982, becoming the first woman elected to statewide office in more than fifty years. In winning the Democratic nomination for treasurer, Richards ended the career of a Texas politician with the same name as a president (but no relation), Warren G. Harding. In 1986, she was re-elected treasurer without opposition.

Ann Richards delivered the keynote address to the 1988 Democratic National Convention, a move which put her in the national spotlight with the line "Poor George [H.W. Bush], he can't help it . . . He was born with a silver foot in his mouth." The speech set the tone for her political future; she described herself as a real Texan (in supposed contrast to George H.W. Bush), established herself as a feminist, and reached out to African-Americans and Hispanics. In 1989, with co-author Peter Knobler, she wrote her autobiography, *Straight from the Heart*.

In 1990, she sought and won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination besting such venerable vote getters as Texas Attorney General James "Jim" Mattox and former governor Mark White. In the general election she defeated multi-millionaire rancher Clayton Williams after a brutal campaign and was inaugurated the 45th governor of Texas in January 1991.

The Texas economy had been in a slump since the mid-1980s, compounded by a downturn in the U.S. economy. Governor Richards responded with a program of economic revitalization, yielding growth in 1991 of 2% when the U.S. economy as a whole shrank. She also streamlined Texas's government and regulatory institutions for business and the public. Her efforts helped to revitalize and position Texas's corporate infrastructure for the explosive economic growth it experienced later in the decade. Her audits on the state bureaucracy saved Texas taxpayers more than \$6 billion.

Governor Richards reformed the Texas prison system, establishing a substance abuse program for inmates, reducing the number of violent offenders released, and increasing prison space to deal with a growing prison population (from less than 60,000 in 1992 to more than 80,000 in 1994). She backed proposals to reduce the sale of semi-automatic firearms and "cop-killer" bullets in the state.

The Texas Lottery was also instituted during her governorship—advocated as a means of supplementing school finances; Ann Richards purchased the first lotto ticket on May 29, 1992. However, most of the income from the lottery went into the state's general fund rather

than specifically to education, until 1997, when all lottery net revenue was redirected to the state's Foundation School Fund, which supports public education. School finance remained one of the key issues of her governorship and of those succeeding hers; the famous Robin Hood plan was launched in the 1992–1993 biennium which attempted to make school funding more equitable across school districts. Richards also sought to decentralize control over education policy to districts and individual campuses; she instituted "site-based management" to this end.

In March 2006, Richards announced that she had been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and will be seeking treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The disease has a five-year survival rate of 25 percent. Despite the statistics, Governor Richards vowed to beat her illness and battled valiantly until the very last day, when she finished her journey on earth and ascended to the heavens.

None of us who knew and loved Ann Richards will ever forget her or the way she brightened the lives of all the people she served. She was one in a million and she will be deeply missed. She will never be replaced. She was an American original. She was my friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME BETWEEN MARINETTE, WISCONSIN AND MENOMINEE, MICHIGAN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the Marinette Marines from Marinette High School and the Menominee High School Maroons as they prepare for the 100th meeting of their football teams.

This celebrated gridiron contest began over a century ago when the teams first met on Thanksgiving Day in 1894. Over one hundred years later, the Marinette and Menominee High School football game is one of the oldest interstate high school football rivalries in the nation.

In true Midwestern football spirit, the historic game between Marinette and Menominee is one of the biggest events of the year for locals. While many shops and factories close for the day to enjoy the game, others decorate their storefronts with school colors. Without a doubt, the stands are filled each and every year with screaming fans—all anxious to show pride in their school and town.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to recognize this historic football game and pay tribute to the one hundred years of tradition surrounding it. On behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District, I want to say congratulations, best of luck, and go Marines!

HONORING 2006 PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN THE 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize 20 exceptional high school students in my Congressional District that were the recipients of the 2006 Presidential Freedom Scholarship. The immeasurable amount of time and effort that these students have volunteered this past year has helped countless citizens of my district, and has made New York's 20th a better place to live.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship promotes student service and civic engagement by recognizing high school students for outstanding leadership in service to their community and neighbors. This year's recipients in my Congressional District include:

David Casazza, Paige Hanselman, Andrea E. Holmes, Chad M. Shippee, Vanessa A. Merrill, Kathleen B. Price, Renee C. O'Toole, Eric R. Reeve, Craig Millward, Nicholas Kitsock, Patrick K. Gavin-Brynes, Meghan G. Michael, Brian Driscoll, Katelin M. Meehan, Michael Fueston, Stephen R. McGrath, Philip J. Schools, Kathleen Dillon, Jaimie N. DeJager, and Vincent A. Newell.

By completing at least 100 hours of community service, these high school students are solving problems in their communities, demonstrating compassion for others, and assisting those who need support.

Our neighborhoods and communities are stronger because of volunteers and these students are truly a role model for our nation and their peers. It is my privilege to honor such selfless and dedicated members of my district. On behalf of the United States Congress, I offer my best wishes to them for continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET E. "PEARL" MILLER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Margaret E. Miller, a generous and dedicated member of the community who will be greatly missed in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Miller, known to her many friends as "Pearl", was a woman of character, ability and charm, and we shall all miss her very much.

Pearl Miller was renowned for her unwavering loyalty to her friends and family. She worked to make a difference in the lives of others and everyone who met her was warmed by her friendliness and hospitality.

While establishing her reputation as a loving wife and mother, Pearl also distinguished herself as a gracious hostess and active supporter of many admirable causes. Pearl Miller was a woman of integrity, compassion, and

dedication. She carried out her responsibilities as mother, wife, hostess, campaign advisor, and friend with a grace and style, which few could match. Her loss is felt deeply throughout Delaware County, particularly in Springfield, the town she proudly called home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Pearl Miller, a dedicated friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Pearl's husband, Rutherford S. "Ford" Miller, Sr. and family my heartfelt condolences. May they find comfort in knowing that the many people she impacted deeply value her dedication and generosity and the example of her life and work.

DETROIT SHOCK CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Detroit Shock were crowned 2006 WNBA Champions after their 80–75 victory in Game 5 against the Sacramento Monarchs. This is the Shock's second WNBA title in franchise history. The Shock also won in 2003.

The Shock proved they have "got game" by becoming one of three teams to win two championships. Houston and Los Angeles are the others. The Shock's two titles in four seasons rank them among best in league history.

Flint native Deanna Nolan was named Most Valuable Player, MVP of the 2006 WNBA Finals.

Former Detroit Piston Bill Laimbeer is the Head Coach; former Detroit Pistons Rick Mahorn is an assistant coach. Cheryl Reeve is the other assistant coach.

The Shock's regular season record was 23–11.

This is the WNBA's 10th anniversary. Women's basketball announced "We Got Next!" when the NBA Board of Governors approved the WNBA concept in 1996.

The Detroit Shock serve as examples to young women everywhere. Their accomplishments encourage others to make HERstory. They demonstrate how you can achieve success by setting goals, doing your best, and practicing teamwork.

Shock Players include Jackie Batteast, Kara Braxton, Swin Cash*, Cheryl Ford*, Kedra Holland-Corn*, Deanna Nolan*, Sabrina Palie, Plenette Pierson, Elaine Powell*, Ruth Riley*, Katie Smith, and Angelina Williams.

*Members of the 2003 and 2006 teams.

HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, each night nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless. They live on the streets, in alleys, in cars, in barns and under bridges. Many other veterans are just one paycheck away from being homeless.

The Government Accountability Office has just reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs' largest program to provide homeless

veterans with safe shelter has a shortfall of nearly 10,000 beds.

While VA and community providers try to do right by homeless veterans, the GAO report found that the capacity is not there to meet demand.

The situation will get worse because recent combat veterans are already homeless. Just last year, VA served nearly 600 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan in its Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

On September 30th, the authorization for two key programs for homeless veterans—the VA Grant and Per Diem program and the Homeless Providers Technical Assistance Grant program—is set to expire.

If we fail to reauthorize these programs, we will be leaving homeless veterans behind. Homelessness is a problem that we can solve.

I urge my colleagues to enact H.R. 5960, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006, which reauthorizes key programs for homeless veterans and fortifies VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

HONORING BEVERLY YOUNG FOR
HER COMMITMENT TO OUR
WOUNDED HEROES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a good friend whom most of us have the pleasure to know, Mrs. Bill Young, or as she prefers to be known to our wounded troops, simply "Beverly." Beverly has been recognized by the United States Marine Corps for her extraordinary commitment to our wounded troops with The Dickey Chapelle Award.

This annual award recognizes civilians who have given extraordinary contribution to the Corps. It is named in honor of the memory of the late Dickey Chapelle, an American correspondent who was killed while covering the actions of Marine infantrymen engaged in combat against enemy forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-deserved honor. Beverly and her husband, my friend and colleague, Chairman C.W. "BILL" YOUNG, of Florida, have quietly shown a level of sincere, personal compassion and devotion to our fighting men and women that is not often seen in Washington. They do it without fanfare or seeking recognition in a way that reminds me of the greatness of the American spirit.

The men and women who fight for this country have an uncanny ability to overcome extraordinary odds, both on the battlefield and in life. However, when they are lying in a hospital bed in excruciating pain from terrible, debilitating injuries, there simply is no more difficult personal challenge in this world than trying to recover, physically and mentally.

To Beverly Young, each and every one of them is her child. If she could, I have no doubt she would go into battle with them. Instead, she must content herself with fighting for them in the hospital wards and the bureaucratic halls of Washington as a volunteer.

In truth, "content" is probably the wrong word. Beverly has never been patient when

seeing to it that the troops are receiving what they need and has no qualms about making her feelings known when she sees a problem where they are concerned. She takes action in a way that immediately gets attention and results. As a former drill sergeant myself, it strikes me that she would have made a good one. Affectionately known as "The Hurricane" in the halls of Bethesda and Walter Reed hospitals, she says and does whatever it takes to see that the troops have their needs taken care of. This includes everything from chewing out staff to writing to the President. In neither case does she mince words.

One soldier who was slipping into a catatonic state from so much pain medication credits her with saving his life, literally. She did this by walking out on the experts who were discussing putting him in a psychiatric ward, running into his room and yelling in his ear that he must fight to get better or she and the Commandant would "kick his ass." The soldier promptly "snapped to," and is now back home working in Idaho.

When she got wind that the rules about soldiers receiving donations were being tightened at some bureaucratic level in the Pentagon, she shot off a letter to President Bush expressing her outrage and demanding immediate attention to correct the grievance to her beloved troops. She has impacted the lives of the troops in countless ways, from prompting major policy changes through her vocal advocacy to the generous gift of her personal time one-on-one with the wounded.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their stay. She is fiercely protective of them. She is not formal or aloof; she insists that the troops call her Beverly. She vastly prefers spending time in the company of these wounded heroes to attending stiff official Washington functions. She will hold their hand for hours when they have no one else to be with them. She feeds them, brings them contraband, slips cash to their families from her own pocket, and hits up everyone she knows, including her own doctor, for all types of donations, whether in-kind or monetary. She LISTS to each and every one of them to find out what they need and if they don't have it, she goes and gets it, whatever it is, from wherever she has to get it from, and brings it to them. She and BILL regularly take them out to dinner.

And perhaps most importantly of all, she sits with them and tells them how much they are loved.

This, Mr. Speaker, is no small contribution to this country. I know of no one who has given more time and energy to making sure these young men and women know that someone cares about each and every one of them and that they can make it through this horrific experience of being wounded in battle. With her intense, unique, passionate style and commitment, Beverly has earned the respect of everyone she meets, military and civilian, politician and bureaucrat. I have no doubt in my mind that Beverly Young has made a tremendous impact in the lives of our service men and women. This country is a better place for her example.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I come to the People's House to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Beverly Young for her selfless service to

our brave young men and women who courageously defend this country. Congratulations, Beverly, and thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR
FRANCIS G. TASY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Monsignor Francis G. Tasy. Monsignor Tasy brought great peace and happiness into the lives of the entire community of Kerman. A great loss to all those touched by his benevolence, he passed away on August 2, 2006.

Monsignor Francis G. Tasy was born on October 15, 1925 to Hungarian immigrants who moved to America in the first years of the 20th century. As a young boy at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Msgr. Tasy aspired to lead a devout life. He attended St. Charles College in Roland Park, Maryland and went on to complete his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Catonsville. Monsignor Tasy was ordained on May 1, 1952.

Following his time at St. Patrick's Parish in Watsonville, California; Msgr. Tasy began his work in the Valley with two years at the Naval Weapons Testing Center at China Lake, followed by one year at St. Francis in Bakersfield. In 1957, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Kerman where he spent the next 26 years. During this time Msgr. Tasy worked tirelessly to transform a small farm church into a thriving Catholic community of active and faithful individuals. Many greatly valued his love for the church and respected his devotion to its success. The Costa Family has wonderful memories with Msgr. Tasy in Kerman and his extraordinary efforts to reinvigorate that parish community. For his outstanding leadership and endless support for those in need, he will be forever remembered.

In 1983 Monsignor Tasy brought his goodwill to Reedley, California after accepting a transfer to the St. Anthony's Parish there. As he did in Kerman years earlier, Monsignor Tasy revitalized the faithful community in Reedley. Faced with a deteriorating church and fading Catholic community, he relied on his sound administration, conventional teaching and complete devotion to restore the church and the local grammar school, St. La Salle.

Monsignor Tasy was an excellent model of success, devotion, and commitment to the well-being of entire communities. He was exemplary in every way with a work ethic worthy of respect and admiration. For all that he accomplished, all that he worked tirelessly for, and all that he hoped for, we will always remember him with gratitude and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLORIDA
LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2006

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Lighthouse Day 2006, which

will be celebrated on September 16, 2006, at Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse which is located in my district.

This lighthouse was first proposed for Hillsboro Inlet in 1851, although funding did not become available until the early 1900's. The lantern room and cupola were displayed at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition prior to the final construction which lead to the lighthouse being completed and lit in 1907. The light from the Fresnel lens could be seen for 25 miles. This was the last onshore lighthouse built in Florida and it remains in service today.

In 1992, the rotation mechanism failed in the lantern and the U.S. Coast Guard planned to retire the original Fresnel lens. This action would have destroyed the historical integrity of the lighthouse. I was pleased to work with the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, local U.S. Coast Guard personnel and the Coast Guard Auxiliary to facilitate the agreement to restore the lens. On August 18, 2000, I was honored to speak at the re-lighting ceremony hosted by the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

In 2003, the Hillsboro Lighthouse was chosen to represent Florida lighthouses by the U.S. Postal Service on their lighthouse stamp series.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give special recognition today to the members of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. Established in 1997, this organization is dedicated "to promote the history of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours."

I look forward to joining my friends this Saturday as we celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day 2006.

IN HONOR OF TOM McMURRAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom McMurray of Springfield, Illinois, on his retirement on September 30, 2006 as a Taxpayer Advocate for the International Revenue Service. He has more than 33 years of federal service and has spent a majority of that time as an advocate for the American taxpayers.

Mr. McMurray has been a friend to citizens having disputes with the Internal Revenue Service, and through his work as the IRS' Taxpayer Advocate, Mr. McMurray has assisted countless citizens with tax questions. I congratulate Mr. McMurray, his wife Patti and their children, Traci and Scott, on his retirement from the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Advocate Office. I wish Mr. McMurray all the best for an enjoyable retirement.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF THE 12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 1 million senior citizens and people

with disabilities who call the Nation's 36,000 assisted living and residential care facilities "home." Every day, quality assisted living and residential providers are striving to ensure that their services are harmonious with residents' desires.

I am certain that virtually each and every one of us here is cradled by the comfort of knowing that our grandma or grandpa, mom or dad, aunt or uncle, friend or neighbor is being cared for by the noble workers and volunteers at assisted living facilities.

Personally, Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the assisted care facility whose faithful employees provide around-the-clock care for my mother, Litta.

As we celebrate the 12th annual National Assisted Living Week, I stand today with my colleagues to salute the dedicated workers of assisted living facilities across America, and to salute the 1 million seniors and people with disabilities that call those facilities "home."

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE WETHERELL

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions and character of former Idaho State Senator Claire Wetherell, an Idaho woman who is the very embodiment of civic virtue, community involvement and—most of all—class.

A municipal park named in her honor on Monday, September 18, 2006, is a testament to the admiration and affection that the people of her hometown of Mountain Home, ID, hold for Senator Wetherell.

Earlier this year, she was presented with both the key to the city of Mountain Home and a lifetime achievement award from the Elmore Medical Center Auxiliary, which she served as its first president in 1955.

Senator Wetherell also led the bond issue campaign that resulted in construction of the original Elmore Memorial Hospital. In addition, she put her experience as a U.S. Navy nurse during World War II to work as one of the first nurses at the new hospital.

It was my great privilege to serve with Senator Wetherell for 10 of my 14 years as Idaho's lieutenant governor and presiding officer of the Idaho Senate.

Her 12 years in the Idaho Senate, and her 8 years on the Mountain Home City Council, showed that no public official could have a better friend than Claire Wetherell, or a more determined political adversary.

It didn't matter whether you were a Democrat or a Republican; if she liked you she would go out of her way to extend the hand of compromise and conciliation. Yet there was almost nothing an opponent could do that she wasn't fully prepared to challenge.

Senator Wetherell served the public interest with a passion for justice and equal rights, and she applied the same standards to herself. She would make her case with great intensity, but also would be the first to admit when she was mistaken. She was quick to pursue the truth, and just as quick to acknowledge those rare occasions when that pursuit went astray.

Senator Claire Wetherell deserves the congratulations of Congress, and a grateful Na-

tion's thanks for her lifetime of contributions to the people of Mountain Home and all the people of Idaho.

LAKE BARKLEY WATER LEVEL PILOT PROGRAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I introduced today to create a Pilot Program to extend the summer water level of Lake Barkley, KY, until after Labor Day.

Barkley Dam impounds the Cumberland River near Grand Rivers, KY, creating Lake Barkley, which was taken over by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1966. In order to create this body of water, communities were flooded in the 1960s. Today, people still talk about Eddyville and "Old Eddyville", as well as Kuttawa and "Old Kuttawa". The "Old" areas were the portions of the cities that were left above the water after the areas were flooded. The present day cities were created after the lake was formed. Old foundations, streets, and highways, including U.S. Highways 68 and 62, are still visible in shallow water areas. The Illinois Central Railroad was also relocated and can also still be seen underwater from lowflying planes above.

One mile above the dam is a canal connecting Lake Barkley with Kentucky Lake, forming one of the greatest freshwater recreational complexes in the country. The lakes run parallel for more than 50 miles with Land Between the Lakes recreational area located between them. This site has been used for numerous fishing tournaments and other outdoor events, which have helped to create an economic boon for the Lake Barkley area.

Lake Barkley is 134 miles long with over 1,000 miles of shoreline. The lake's water levels fluctuate from summer to winter "pool levels" for flood control purposes. During the "summer pool" months, recreation and wildlife thrive at the lake. However, the draw down for "winter pool" begins in early July and this becomes extremely dangerous for boaters as tree stumps, old road beds, and other obstructions have caused fatal boating accidents. In addition, the "winter pool" level has become a serious concern in the past few years due to the prolonged siltation, which has made the lake even shallower since its creation.

This pilot program will allow us to test under normal weather conditions what an extended summer pool lake level would mean to enhanced boating safety, recreation, navigation, fishing, and tourism activities, while also enabling us to gauge the economic impact of longer and higher water levels. I believe that these new water levels will make the lake safer for boaters and have a positive impact on the wildlife and the overall lake environment. To that end, this pilot program will ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Lake Barkley, KY, and improve recreation, navigation, and the economic vitality of the lake's region.

COMMENDING THE TOURETTE
SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the national Tourette Syndrome Association for their hard work to have Tourette Syndrome listed as a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

On August 4, 2006 Margaret Spellings, the Secretary of the Department of Education, announced the final regulations enforcing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which now lists Tourette Syndrome in the category of "Other Health Impaired." This new classification means that students with Tourette Syndrome will no longer find themselves in limbo—knowing that they are legally entitled to receive the necessary educational accommodations but unable to point to specific language in the law that would protect their rights.

For years, many students with Tourette Syndrome who sought accommodations were labeled as having behavioral or emotional problems and not a neurological disorder. This incorrect designation sometimes placed students with Tourette Syndrome into classrooms with behaviorally or emotionally disturbed children. By including Tourette Syndrome in the law, the Department of Education is sending a clear message to schools across the country that Tourette Syndrome is a neurological disorder. The category is no longer a subject of debate and one more hurdle has been cleared for students with Tourette Syndrome.

The Tourette Syndrome Association and its members have been steadfast in working with Members of Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Education for this designation in "Other Health Impaired." Over the years, they have held hundreds of meetings with many of my colleagues in this body and have sent us thousands of letters explaining the necessity and value of having Tourette Syndrome listed in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This victory for the Tourette Syndrome Association and its members has been long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would personally like to thank my friend Jeremy Scott, the Tourette Syndrome Association's Director of Public Policy, for his dedication and leadership to ensuring that Tourette Syndrome be added to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This accomplishment will positively impact the educational experiences of hundreds of thousands of children with Tourette Syndrome.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, due to the primary election in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea", to H.R. 5428—Joshua A. Terando Princeton Post Office Building Designation Act and "yea", to H. Res. 175—Recognizing the

importance of establishing a national memorial at the World Trade Center site to commemorate and mourn the events of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.

I was also absent on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no", on H. Res. 996—Ordering the Previous Question; "no", to H.R. 4893—to amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming and "yea", to H. Res. 994—expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on H.J. Res. 88, H.R. 2808, H. Res. 605, H. Res. 875 and H. Res. 981. Had I been present, I would have voted for each of these measures.

I also missed votes on H.R. 503 and the Edwards motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 5122. Had I been present, I would have voted against these measures.

In addition, there was a vote on a motion to close portions of the defense authorization conference to the press and public when matters of national security are under consideration. Had I been present, I would have voted for this.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), to instruct the House conferees to support the maximum level of hurricane and storm damage protection for the communities of coastal Louisiana and Mississippi.

Two weeks ago, this nation honored the 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the devastating impact this storm had on the Gulf Coast communities. Over the past year, we have had the ability to reflect on the lives and livelihoods that were forever changed by Hurricane Katrina, as well as on efforts to restore some sense of normalcy to the families and communities impacted by the storm. Few national efforts have been more important than those to rebuild the City of New Orleans, and the surrounding communities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Not surprisingly, in the days immediately following Katrina's devastation, the Federal government spoke with one voice to support the rebuilding of Gulf Coast communities.

President Bush assured the residents of New Orleans and the outlying parishes, includ-

ing St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes, that "people are paying attention to them," and it was the Federal government's duty to "help the good folks of this part of the world to get back on their feet."

A few days later, the President stood in Jackson Square, New Orleans, and made a commitment to rebuild Gulf Coast communities "better and stronger than before the storm."

Recognizing the importance of flood protection of the Gulf Coast communities, the President assured its citizens that the "Corps of Engineers will work at [the side of state and local officials] to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been before."

Unfortunately, in the time that has elapsed since the President proclaimed these words from the heart of New Orleans, the administration's commitment to the Gulf Coast communities has wavered, and his pledge to rebuild all of the affected communities "better and stronger than before the storm" has fallen by the wayside—promises that have fallen victim to politics, and a renewed interest in fiscal conservatism.

While the administration may waiver in its commitment to help the families affected by Hurricane Katrina, I support this motion to instruct the conferees to renew Congressional commitment to adequately protect the entire Gulf Coast region.

Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic that this administration, which has gone on the offensive criticizing any individual who would question U.S. policy in Iraq as "cutting and running" would feel comfortable walking away from the plight of its own citizenry in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

On Monday night, marking the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, President Bush, speaking of Iraq, proclaimed to the American people that "We would not leave until the work is done." However, it would appear that the message to the residents of in many Gulf coast communities is that the U.S. government will leave before the work has even commenced—and you may be on your own in rebuilding your lives.

That is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons learned from experiences of Hurricane Katrina is the importance of well designed, and properly maintained flood control structures in protecting lives and livelihoods in the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. These structures literally define the areas considered safe for homes and businesses to locate, and without which, communities, such as the City of New Orleans, could not exist.

While Hurricane Katrina did not destroy all of the more than 350 miles of flood control structures protecting southeast Louisiana, it did expose the weaknesses in a system vital to the more than one million residents of the region. Katrina was also a stark reminder of the importance of proper planning, construction, and maintenance of flood protection projects, because these projects literally protect the lives of families living behind these structures.

Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, is important for two reasons.

First, it renews the commitment of Congress to provide the maximum level of flood protection for areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina to help its citizens restore their lives and livelihoods. Without adequate flood protection,

many citizens of the Gulf Coast simply cannot start the process of trying to rebuild their lives, because, without protection against flood and storm surge, they may be unable to obtain affordable flood insurance, mortgages, or other financial arrangements necessary to begin the process of rebuilding.

This fact is especially true for the residents of St. Bernard Parish, which I inspected on foot this past April, and Lower Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana—the communities that bore the initial force of Hurricane Katrina. In Plaquemines Parish, close to one-half of all residents experienced some flooding or structural damage to their homes, and in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward, this number is close to 100 percent of homes.

It is inconceivable that this administration would walk away from communities that experienced such a traumatic devastation, especially after reassuring citizens that the government would help rebuild their communities “better and stronger than before the storm.” We, in Congress, need to stand with one voice in support of rebuilding all of the communities affected by this storm.

The second reason for supporting this motion is that it draws attention to the fact that hurricanes are more than just high wind events, but also carry the threat of massive storm surges. It is these “walls of water” that caused the greatest extent of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Those most affected by the hurricane are well aware of the impact of storm surges, and the headaches that have ensued in the aftermath trying to rebuild these communities. I have heard numerous stories of the difficulty in convincing insurance companies that hurricane damage can take the form both of wind damage and flooding damage. Any Member of Congress that has visited this region has heard that insurance companies are balking at settling claims for water damage, arguing that these damages are not covered by storm policies, because they are not wind damage.

However, a storm surge is the direct result of wind-driven water. As Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, it pushed water in front of the storm, and caused the sea to rise by as much as 25 feet in areas of coastal Mississippi. But for the hurricane, there would have been no storm surge.

As we move forward with efforts to protect communities along the Gulf Coast, we must be mindful of the impact both from a hurricane's winds, but also of the impact that such massive storms can cause from wind-driven waters. In authorizing new or restored flood protection projects to protect the communities of the Gulf region, the Corps must ensure that projects are designed and constructed to protect against both the dangers of hurricane force winds, but also the threat of massive storm-driven waters resulting from these storms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct, and to renew the Congressional commitment to restore the lives and livelihoods of all residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

GROUND BREAKING CELEBRATION
FOR THE GEORGE P. PITKIN, MD
EMERGENCY CARE CENTER AT
HOLY NAME HOSPITAL IN TEA-
NECK, NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the groundbreaking for the new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Holy Name Hospital was founded in 1925 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. To assist the sick and indigent of Bergen County, New Jersey, Dr. George Pitkin and Dr. Frank McCormack worked with Mother General Agatha Brown of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace to purchase a suitable hospital site to provide administrative and nursing care. In 1925, Holy Name Hospital opened with 115 beds.

Today, Dr. George Pitkin's far-reaching vision is realized in an institution known locally, statewide and nationally for health care excellence, dedicated and skilled nursing care, and cutting-edge technological advances. Each year more than 17,000 inpatients, 44,000 Emergency Department patients, and 18,000 outpatients receive state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment, and health management services in cancer care, cardiovascular services, dialysis treatment, women's health care and neurology services.

The new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center at Holy Name Hospital will feature 21,000 square feet of space, 41 patient treatment rooms, patient- and family-friendly facilities, leading-edge trauma procedure rooms, contiguous radiology and laboratory services.

My congratulations and very best wishes to the President and CEO, Michael Maron, and Board of Directors at Holy Name Hospital, and to all of their health care professionals and associates as the outstanding new George P. Pitkin, MD Emergency Care Center is dedicated.

HONORING GOVERNOR ANN
RICHARDS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I rise today in tribute to Governor Ann Richards of Texas whose death leaves a void in the national scene and in the lives of all of us who knew and admired her.

Governor Richards was a woman of tremendous achievement and her professional accomplishments are well-documented: teacher, state treasurer, governor, chair of a national political convention. She was also a loving mother, a loyal friend, and a strong woman who bravely faced all adversaries, both political and personal. Whether confronting the demons of illness or the disappointment of political defeat, she emerged from each struggle

wiser, wittier, and ever more welcome on the public stage.

For me, and many women in and out of politics, Ann Richards was a role model and a mentor. She showed us by example that a woman could succeed in what appeared to be a man's world. For those of us who share her commitment to education, equal opportunity, social justice and the rule of law, she carved a path for us to follow . . . and left big shoes (and boots) for us to fill.

When I was first running for Congress in 1998, and then during my re-election campaign in 2000, Governor Richards made time in her schedule to come to Madison, Wisconsin on my behalf. Her support was invaluable. In her inimitable Texas twang, she knew how to rally a crowd, work a room, and deliver a message better than any politician, male or female, I've ever seen. To a young woman coming into the national political arena, her wisdom and warmth were a priceless gift for which I will always be grateful.

I shall miss her incredibly and emphatically. Today, I remember Ann Richards in my heart and in these words. But I know she would prefer all of us to remember her in future deeds . . . deeds that push and prod us to be better people and better citizens.

I send heartfelt condolences to Governor Richards' family and sincere thanks for sharing this remarkable woman with us.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE “PEPE” L.
GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose “Pepe” L. Gonzalez who recently passed away on September 8, 2006, at 82 years of age. He will be forever remembered for his passion for higher education for our youth and his commitment to public service.

Mr. Gonzalez was born in the City of Laredo on June 16, 1924 and left the city to serve in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Force in the Aleutian Islands, and later served with the United States Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant in Laredo. He then attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1950, followed by a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1964.

Thus began his legacy of providing health care services to the citizens of Laredo by developing the Laredo-Webb County Health Department, often cited for its achievements in disease control, health promotion and chronic disease prevention, and innovative programs in environmental health. He will be forever remembered for his work in promoting environmental health through his collaboration with organizations such as the Pan-American Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, the Texas Health Advisory Committee, and the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. The last project he was involved in was the Rio Bravo Foundation, which aims to improve the health of residents along the border region along with the “Nuestra Gente” project which focused on improving living standards for the colonias along the border.

In addition to his public service, he was dedicated to his Roman Catholic faith as a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and as a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church in Laredo. Mr. Gonzalez was also a large part of community events such as the famous Washington Birthday Celebrations Associations and established the bridge ceremony that is one of the hallmarks of the Washington Birthday Celebration. Mr. Gonzalez was also a proud alumnus of the University of Notre Dame and dedicated his life to the University by being the Notre Dame recruiter of South Texas, passionately recruiting young scholars for the past 21 years to attend Notre Dame in addition to being on the Hispanic Board of Alumni for 15 years.

Mr. Gonzalez was preceded in death by his wonderful wife, Margarita V. Gonzalez, and is survived by his daughters, Alejandra G. Brady, Gabriela G. Tawil and his grandchildren, Ryan Joseph Brady, Joseph Jakob, and Elliot James Tawil. He is also survived by his brother, Ignacio Gonzalez, brother and sister-in-law, Jorge and Olga Verduzco, and the rest of his family. He has left behind a remarkable legacy, and without that legacy, the City of Laredo has suffered a sad loss in one of its greatest members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the legacy of Mr. Jose "Pepe" L. Gonzalez.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF SAN FRANCISCO'S JAPANTOWN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our San Francisco Japantown and celebrate with them on their 100th anniversary as a community. Affectionately called J-town, San Francisco Japantown is the oldest and joins San Jose and Los Angeles as the only remaining Japantowns in the continental United States. A century ago, there were more than 50 in California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Japantown is more than just a physical location where Japanese people migrated after the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, a distinctive area where Japanese culture is on display, or a tourist destination. Japantown represents more than 100 years of a unique immigrant experience, which started with the arrival of the first generation—the Issei.

Prior to 1906, Japanese immigrants gravitated to ethnic enclaves where rents were affordable and they felt accepted. The arrival of picture brides through Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay after 1906, many of them meeting their future husbands for the first time, was the genesis of the second generation—the Nisei. The 100 years included the emergence of the activist third generation the Sansei—who are now "baby boomers" and the parents and grandparents of the fourth and fifth generations—the Yonsei and Gosei.

As the younger generation makes their mark on our global society, I hope they will recognize the critical role of family and community in their successes. I was recently made aware of an example of what is possible. NASA As-

tronaut Daniel Tani represents the next generation of Japanese Americans in space, following the tradition of Astronaut Ellison Onizuka, who tragically lost his life on the same mission as teacher Christa McAuliffe in 1986. Astronaut Tani flew the 2001 *Endeavour* mission. He is a shining example of the boundless possibilities of the immigrant experience. His family has roots in J-town.

The road was not always easy: in fact, Japanese Americans often persevered under great hardship to overcome prejudice. In its 100 years in San Francisco's Western Addition, the community suffered segregation in local schools, a racially motivated exclusionist immigration policy, and a shrinking community with each redevelopment. During World War II, eligible Nisei men volunteered for military duty while their families remained behind barbed wire without due process, many of them United States citizens. Our government under the guise of war forced Japanese Americans from their homes and escorted them under armed guard to internment camps throughout the United States. Most of the San Francisco Japantown community was interned in Topaz, Utah. It took three generations until redress was made in the form of monetary reparations and our government's apology, though no amount of compensation or apology could ever adequately replace or repair what Japanese Americans lost. The lessons that we learned during the internment should serve as a reminder of how we must continue to fight for our freedoms today. Protecting civil liberties must be a constant priority of our government.

As San Francisco's Representative in Congress, and House Democratic Leader, I am grateful that I can count on the steadfast strength of our San Francisco Japantown community and its extraordinary leaders, too many to name individually.

Congratulations Japantown for more than 100 years in San Francisco.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI DURING NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleagues today in recognition of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

Missouri's Fourth Congressional District is the home of Lincoln University, located in Jefferson City, Missouri. Yesterday, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Carolyn Mahoney, the President of Lincoln University, during her visit to Washington, DC.

Like all HBCUs, Lincoln University has a proud history. The school was founded in 1966 by soldiers of the 62nd and 65th Colored Infantries who established Lincoln Institute for African Americans interested in continuing their education. Today, Lincoln University has the most diverse population of colleges and universities in the state of Missouri. U.S. News and World Report ranks Lincoln University as fourth in the Midwest for campus diversity and

seventh in the Midwest for its international student population.

Although the University has many outstanding academic programs, I have been particularly impressed with Lincoln University's Cooperative Extension and Research programs, which provide valuable outreach to under served populations. I am also very proud of the University's ROTC programs, which train tomorrow's military leaders and continue Lincoln University's military heritage. I look forward to participating in the Blue Tiger Battalion's Veterans' Day commemorations this November, just as I have done for more years than I can remember. Lincoln also hosts an outstanding public radio station, KJLU-FM. In April 2006, KJLU was named the Black College Radio Station of the Year at the 28th Annual Black College Radio and Television Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the students and staff of Lincoln University for their accomplishments and in wishing them the best as we celebrate National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

EXTENDING THANKS TO DEFENSE POW/MISSIONG PERSONEL OFFICE FOR EFFORCTS TO ACHIEVE ACCOUNTING OF ALL AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR AS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn of the recovery of one of our Nation's fighting women who had been missing in Kyrgyzstan for more than 3 days. After being kidnapped, Maj. Metzger spent 80 hours in captivity before escaping her abductors. Her resilience is remarkable and her resolve serves as another example of the superior character of the men and women of our Air Force and our other Armed Services.

I am most pleased to hear of her safe return. I wish the very best for the Metzger family, and continue to pray for the safe return of Sergeant Keith "Matt" Maupin, United States Army Reserves, who has been missing since April of 2004.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT NATHANIEL "BRAD" LINDSEY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero. Sergeant Nathaniel "Brad" Lindsey was a family man, a fellow Oregonian, and a proud American. He understood the actions that needed to be taken so that his countrymen could continue to enjoy the blessings of freedom.

Last Saturday, Brad made his final sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation while on patrol in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

Three days ago Americans gathered to mark the passing of another September 11th and to honor those who perished on that horrible day and in the five years since. Since that day we have been a nation at war. Since that day we have fought that war by asking men and women like Brad Lindsey to travel to points across the globe to defend our ideals, to protect our communities. And it is to their credit that these men and women have never shied away from this request.

Brad had always dreamed of joining the military. He spent four years in the Navy before joining the Oregon National Guard in 1996. Always one to volunteer for a mission, he was dedicated to his country's needs, whatever they were. During his time in the National Guard, he spent time in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and New Orleans before heading to Afghanistan this past June.

It was in New Orleans that our paths crossed. I was there to see first hand the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and to talk with the Oregon National Guardsmen and women who were stationed there. Brad served as my driver during my time in Louisiana.

It was obvious that his devotion to his country was only exceeded by his devotion and love for his family; his wife Joyce and his four children. I am sure that it was a source of continual pride that his oldest son had chosen to follow in his footsteps and joined the Oregon National Guard.

We in this chamber have an obligation to see that Brad's children inherit a land worthy of their father's sacrifice. We must find the resolve necessary to do that which must be done, as Brad did so many times.

I join all Oregonians, and all Americans, in expressing my deepest condolences to the family of Brad Lindsey for their loss. Our state, and our nation, is greater because of Brad's presence and we are lessened by his passing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCOME-DEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2006

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Income-Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA) Act of 2006. This legislation would provide a new consolidation option for federal Stafford student loan borrowers with an improved repayment schedule through direct IRS collection of payments, along with other new protections for borrowers and taxpayers.

I believe that the IDEA Act will address the oft-overlooked side of federal student loan assistance: repayment. For over four decades, most of the discussion regarding federal student loans has primarily focused on making ever-increasing amounts of money available to students to keep up with the rising costs of college tuition. Of course, that is critically important, and I was pleased to support the Deficit Reduction Act earlier this year which raised loan limits and increased loan options for graduate students.

However, providing students with larger loans to attend college leads to another, more complex challenge after graduation. How

should students be expected to repay these taxpayer-funded loans? This is an area that has received relatively little attention until recently. With students graduating with ever-increasing debt loads, averaging over \$18,000 this year and projected to continue to rise, students are finding it increasingly difficult to make loan payments on time and in full.

Unfortunately, little has been done by way of providing more flexible repayment options for borrowers after graduation. Traditionally it has been expected that the borrower will pay the amortized loan over a standard period, usually 10 years, with the same repayment amount on day one as on the last day. However, this model of repayment fails to take into account that students often face periods of significant unemployment or underemployment during the first years after leaving college.

As of now, for the most part, the only options available to borrowers are to request a period of forbearance or slip into default, which is bad for both borrower and taxpayers. We simply cannot keep providing more and more money for education if graduates then enter the workforce saddled with payments they can't afford.

While there have been some attempts to provide more diverse repayment options, such as the ICLR repayment program that has been in existence for over a decade, borrowers have failed to adopt them, usually due to a lack of information or current program limitations. The bottom line is that Congress needs to develop better repayment alternatives for federal student loan borrowers, especially as students continue to take out larger and larger loans in coming years. I believe the IDEA Act does just that.

This legislation would allow any Stafford loan borrower the ability to consolidate into a direct IDEA loan with a repayment schedule that corresponds to the borrower's income once in repayment. This new schedule requires regular payments; however, it ensures that such payments reflect the borrowers' capacity to repay under their current income status. This feature would be particularly useful for those pursuing lower-income, public-service careers. It also would help relieve some of the stress that borrowers face during periods of unemployment or underemployment following graduation.

Another critical component of this legislation is the direct collection of payments from the borrower through IRS withholdings. By incorporating the IRS directly as the collection entity, the borrower's income is automatically calculated into the repayment system and reduces the odds of fraud or abuse on the part of the borrower or the collection agency. Furthermore, direct IRS collection would simplify the process for borrowers and reduce their paperwork burden as the agency would already have the necessary information on file and in place for processing the payment amounts and schedules. Finally, the IDEA Act stipulates that borrowers that go into default and have exhausted all relief from the loan holder would automatically be consolidated into IDEA loans in order to help them get their payments back on track and avoid costly defaults. Thus the taxpayers' investment will be protected from the damaging effects of borrower default, which currently affects 4.5 percent of federal student loans each year.

Mr. Speaker, the IDEA Act of 2006 is an innovative solution to the growing problem of

unmanageable debt loads for students. Students would be able to borrow what they need, up to the current Stafford limits, and later consolidate into IDEA loans knowing that their repayment amounts will be within their income levels and ability to pay. On the other hand, taxpayers can count on those loans being repaid as they are collected through the IRS. This is a responsible approach to a serious and growing problem for student loan borrowers.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HAGAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Hagan, who is retiring from his position, held since 1998, as Trial Court Administrator, Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, Fremont Hall of Justice in Fremont, California. He has served more than three decades of exemplary service in the California judicial branch of government. Prior to coming to Alameda County, Mr. Hagan served in court administrative positions in Imperial and Los Angeles counties.

Mr. Hagan was Clerk of the Court and Administrative Officer for the Fremont-Newark-Union City Judicial District from 1977 through 1998. During this time, the court doubled in size as the tri-city area became one of the major residential and commercial regions of the San Francisco Bay Area. Under Mr. Hagan's administration, the court received the prestigious Ralph Kelps Award from the Judicial Council of California for an innovative traffic citation collections program which allowed the driving public to pay their traffic fines at anyone of fifteen Southern Alameda County branches of Fremont Bank.

He is past president of the California Association of Municipal Court Clerks. In this capacity, Mr. Hagan worked with the California Legislature on several key pieces of legislation affecting the administration of the state courts.

Mr. Hagan's service to others is noteworthy. He is past president of the Union City Lions Club. During his term, an entire civil defense field hospital, including three ambulances, was donated to three public hospitals in the Philippines. For his humanitarian effort, Mr. Hagan received special commendations from a host of public officials in the Philippines.

Mr. Hagan is actively involved in his local community, having served as founding president of the New Haven School Foundation. The Foundation, under his leadership, has raised thousands of dollars to insure the continuation of sports and fine arts programs in public schools. He is past president of the Washington Township Men's Club; member of the school board; past chairman of Mission Hills Christian School in Fremont and was instrumental in establishing the Union City Youth Soccer League. He is a member of the Lay Advisory Council for the Northern California Conference Seventh-Day Adventist Church and was a leader in the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Park in Fremont.

A retirement dinner is planned for Mr. Hagan on September 22, 2006. I join his colleagues in thanking him for his service to the courts and his community and wish him well on his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ MANUEL
CARABALLO BRAVO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Manuel Caraballo Bravo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba and has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of the tyrant's villainous regime. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was a target of the totalitarian regime.

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression. The courageous men and women, such as Mr. Caraballo Bravo, who write the truth are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was arrested just before the heinous crackdown of March 2003. Reporters Without Borders also reports that he was sentenced to three years in the totalitarian gulag for "forging documents."

Let me be very clear, Mr. Caraballo Bravo is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate peoples from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. In the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Manuel Caraballo Bravo.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY AND SHOGHAGAT ARMENIAN CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church located in Swansea, Illinois.

The Church has historically been an integral part of the Armenian community. Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301 A.D. So it was natural that the Independent Club, an organization of Armenian Americans, would seek to start a church for their community in 1956.

The new Church, then named Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church, began in a small white structure at 13th and Summit Avenue in East St. Louis, Illinois. A neighboring parish house and additional parcel of land were later acquired.

Circumstances required that the original church properties be sold in the early 1970's and for several years the congregation had to celebrate the liturgy in different local churches. Throughout this difficult period, the parish family stayed together and finally, in 1978, the new Church in Swansea, Illinois was consecrated.

On the occasion of their 50th Anniversary, in addition to celebrating that milestone for their local Church, the members of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church are paying tribute to their ancestors who were victims of the Armenian Genocide, both those who lost their lives and those who survived. A large khatchkar, carved in Armenia, will be dedicated to honor those who suffered during that terrible period in history.

For 50 years, Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church has served, not only as a place of worship, but as a unifying religious center for the local Armenian community. Though their numbers may be small, their dedication to their Church and their culture remains strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church and to wish the best to them for many years to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, every one of us in this chamber mourns the murder of the nearly 3,000 innocent people on September 11th. We all want to take the fight to the terrorists and protect America from those bent on harming us. Each of us wants to commemorate the deaths of the innocent and reaffirm our creed to never forget with an honest, humble, non-partisan Resolution.

We have shared goals, and we can come together and write a Resolution we can all support and of which the American people can be proud.

I am saddened today that partisan politics have entered into the debate of this Resolution today, and that language was deliberately used in this Resolution which is divisive and unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this Resolution, but I regret that it could not have been more

unifying, and I regret that the debate in the House could not have risen above the political fray for just one day.

HONORING 9/11

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, five years ago this week, our generation was defined by the heroic actions of hundreds of first responders, brave Americans and innocent victims who gave their lives on September 11, 2001. That day, 19 Al Qaeda hijackers murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people. Those terrorists had a simple cause: inflict the highest loss of life and the most damage they could to our Nation. They may have succeeded in murdering thousands of people going about their daily lives, but they failed miserably to defeat the patriotic spirit of America and of freedom everywhere.

In the days, weeks and months following the tragic events of September 11th, we saw the patriotic spirit of every American emerge and rally in support of repair and recovery. We saw a nation unified in finding the perpetrators of these crimes and bringing them to justice, and we saw the free world awakened to the possibility of terrorist attacks anywhere and at any time. Simply, 9/11 changed our Nation and the world forever.

Not only did these terrorists steal the lives of thousands, but they opened our eyes to our false sense of security. Like someone who has been robbed at home by a vicious criminal, we must now lock our doors and windows at all times to make sure that those who mean us harm are not allowed to break in.

That being said, I believe that we are safer at home today than we were 5 years ago, but we are still not safe. Our borders are more secure, our intelligence services are more robust and now work closely together, and our armed services have routed out the terrorists in their homes and brought them to justice. But we are still at war. We cannot afford to stand idly by while terrorists operate in this or any country around the world, because we cannot afford another 9/11. Never again can this happen. We owe to the American people who depend on us to provide a safe and secure homeland, and we owe to it the hundreds of thousands of Americans who throughout history have died defending the democracy and freedom we enjoy today. Most of all we owe it to the thousands of innocent victims who died 5 years ago.

We have been battling terrorism for a long time, but September 11th was the day our enemies woke the sleeping giant. Since then, we have seen success in the Global War on Terror and captured some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. We have also made great strides to cripple the organizations and countries that support them. However, we are still faced with an evil enemy who is supported by a rogue nation that's determined to develop nuclear weapons and use them on their enemies. Allowing a nation like Iran, who sponsors terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, to

possess nuclear weapons would be a dishonor to those who died on 9/11 and an insult to those who continue to defend America's freedom.

We promised to help make the world a safer place, free from the threat of terrorism at the hands of mad men. Keeping that promise means preventing terrorists and their supporters from getting weapons of mass destruction. Let's remember those who gave their lives on 9/11 by keeping our promise.

When we remember the events of 9/11, we remember not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans. We must remember the police officers and firefighters that responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon who went in to save lives, but gave their lives in the process. We remember the first responders from every corner of our nation who came to ground zero in the days after to lend their strength, skills and support. And we must remember the innocent people—the husbands and wives, the parents and children and the entire families who were torn apart the day the towers fell.

We must always remember. That is our duty as Americans—that is our charge as patriots.

BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL, 83
YEARS YOUNG AND BETTER
THAN EVER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in November 2000 the voters of San Mateo County in California, many of whom are my constituents, made a wise decision to approve a general bond measure that would fund the renovation of the six local high schools. The fruits of this investment will proudly be displayed on September 16, 2006 when the newly-remodeled Burlingame High School is officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Burlingame High was built in 1923 as a northern addition to the fast-growing San Mateo High School. Originally named "San Mateo High School—Burlingame Branch," it quickly came into its own, and 4 years later Burlingame High gained its own identity. That year, many longstanding BHS traditions were born, including the Little-Big Game with San Mateo High, the adoption of the school colors—red and white—and the establishment of the student newspaper, the Burlingame B, with its extraordinary motto, "Not the Biggest, but the Best."

Since its inception 83 years ago, Burlingame's enrollment has swelled from 350 to more than 1350 students and its teaching corps has doubled. Recognized for its academic excellence as a California Distinguished School, Burlingame has also been ranked in the top 1.5 percent of high schools in America by Newsweek magazine. The students and their families deserve great credit, but it is also thanks to the efforts of a dedicated faculty and administration that, on average, 97 percent of the school's graduates attend college.

Mr. Speaker, the modernization efforts being recognized at the ribbon-cutting ceremony have preserved the original building's historically significant appearance for generations of students to appreciate. In addition to maintain-

ing the main building's exterior and interior—including a unique WPA-era mural—this project included two new, seismically sound structures to house a library and a two-story classroom building.

The new library will accommodate 25,000 volumes and provides much-needed storage space for textbooks. It also includes a state-of-the-art computer lab. The treasured work areas where thousands of students through the years have hit the books in the old library are replicated in this modern version.

The new, two-story classroom structure replaces an antiquated music building. It now not only accommodates the renowned Burlingame High School music program, but also seven large science labs, special education classrooms and nine classrooms designed specifically for math instruction.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers of San Mateo County made a crucial investment in their children's education by approving that bond measure 6 years ago. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Burlingame High School's wonderful renovation, which will ensure that future generations continue to receive an excellent education at this historic institution.

FREDERICK MENNONITE
COMMUNITY 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederick Mennonite Community, an elderly continuing care community, on its 110th anniversary.

This community has been providing outstanding service to its more than 300 residents on eighty acres in western Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This bucolic setting is large enough to accommodate a wide variety of lifestyles, yet small enough to maintain a sense of community. Residents have the option to live in independent living cottages, apartments, assisted living, and nursing care facilities. The organization's goal is to offer housing and support options for every individual preference and need. Frederick Mennonite Community strives to promote and encourage every individual to live life to their fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Frederick Mennonite Community on its 110th anniversary. I hope that this community is able to continue to live out its mission statement: "In the spirit of Christian love, Frederick Mennonite Community cares for and enriches the lives of older adults, while valuing the staff, volunteers and community that serves them."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ON NATIONAL BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in preparation for National School Backpack

Awareness Day, taking place on September 20, 2006, I would like to recognize the many occupational therapists (OT) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) that live and work in my district. Each September, members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), students, and other health professionals join forces to alert the public, particularly teachers, parents, and children about the dangers of improperly wearing overweight backpacks.

Occupational therapists are health, wellness, and rehabilitation professionals, dedicated to maximizing the independence, function and performance of their clients. In other words, they provide them with the "skills for the job of living". Concerned that increasingly heavy backpacks may be putting school children at risk for long-term health problems, AOTA is sponsoring its fifth National School Backpack Awareness Day. Thousands of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in school systems, pediatric hospitals, and other health care facilities, in order to help children develop the skills they need to participate fully at school, home, and in play.

The goal of the National School Backpack Awareness Day is to reduce the load students carry to 15 percent or less of the child's weight. More than 350 participants in schools, stores, and health fairs from all 50 states will help "weigh-in" thousands of children to ensure their backpacks meet the 15 percent weight goal. They will also help educate students about the risks of carrying too much weight, and will teach them the proper way to pack and wear a backpack. As part of the National Backpack Awareness Day, therapists at the General Greene Elementary School in Greensboro, NC will educate students and teachers about the importance of loading and wearing backpacks the right way in order to avoid back and shoulder pain, stooped posture, muscle pain, and headaches.

I am particularly aware of the role occupational therapists play within our public schools as one of the members of my staff previously worked as a school system occupational therapist. OTs use their unique expertise to help children perform important learning and school-related activities that are part of their role as a student. Additionally, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants play a critical role in training parents, staff, and caregivers regarding the education, health, and success of students with diverse learning needs.

Please join me in support of all the occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, school children, and other participants whose efforts will make the 2006 National School Backpack Awareness Day such a success.

HONORING REVEREND WAITSTILL SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP, AMERICAN HEROES OF THE HOLY-OCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Waitstill Sharp and his

wife, Martha Sharp, who were true heroes of the Holocaust who risked their lives to save Jews from the atrocities of the Nazi regime.

The Sharps' incredible story was told this morning at a very moving ceremony at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where family, friends, and admirers gathered to pay tribute and remember the selfless and laudatory actions of this amazing couple. Their story was also a powerful reminder that all of us have the moral obligation to do anything we can to end violence and genocides where ever and when ever they occur.

On June 13, 2006, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel honored the Rev. Waitstill Sharp, and his wife, Martha Sharp, posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The Sharps are only the second and third Americans to be so honored. Varian Fry, with whom the Sharps worked, was the first.

Our colleagues in the Senate passed a resolution on September 8 of this year honoring the courageous service of the Sharps. My colleague from Massachusetts, where the Sharps once lived, and I soon will introduce similar legislation in the House remembering the Sharps and their story and heroism.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps left everything behind, including their home and two young children, to answer a call from the American Unitarian Association to go to Czechoslovakia in February of 1939. The Sharps were not content merely to feed the hordes of refugees passing through Czechoslovakia; they also began to assist anti-Nazi dissidents and Jews to escape Nazi oppression. In the very shadow of aggression, they helped thousands flee to safety elsewhere in Europe and the United States.

One month after the Sharps' arrival in Prague, Nazi forces occupied Czechoslovakia, making their work much more dangerous. The Sharps could have escaped, but they refused to leave the refugees helpless. Though the Nazis descended upon the Unitarian mission in Prague, ransacking the office and throwing the furniture into the street, Reverend and Mrs. Sharp continued their mission. They began working out of private residences, boldly defying Nazi restrictions.

The Sharps did whatever was necessary to help Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime to escape Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, in spite of the considerable risk to their own lives. They entered and exited the border repeatedly, crisscrossed Europe to obtain needed travel documents, even escorted some of their clients by train through Germany itself, all the way to Great Britain. Focused on serving others, the Sharps ignored warning that they were in danger from the Gestapo.

On August 30, 1939, six months after they arrived in Czechoslovakia, the Sharps concluded their first mission and returned to the U.S. Their exit was just one day before Gestapo agents came to arrest Martha, who had earned a reputation for her daring disregard of Nazi rules.

After returning home for two years, the Sharps issued a report with the American Unitarian Association about the dangers faced by refugees all across Europe. As a result of this report, the Sharps were asked to set up a parallel operation in France under the newly founded Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In 1940, the Sharps answered this call,

courageously returning to Europe to aid more people flee the horror of the Nazi regime.

By the time the Sharps arrived in Europe, the Nazis had already occupied France, but the Sharps were undaunted. They set up the American Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Lisbon, Portugal, from where they continued to assist many more refugees from war-torn Europe escape to safety.

In all, the Sharps and their Unitarian colleagues worked to save approximately 2,000 men, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps' courageous, sacrificial and selfless example should motivate all of us to do everything we possibly can to prevent the horrors of genocide taking place anywhere on this planet. As the only survivor of the Holocaust in Congress, I have a special commitment to raising this.

This morning's ceremony at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded with a visit to the special exhibit on Darfur, Sudan. We were reminded that when the horrors of the Holocaust were made public, we often heard the phrase "Never Again!" But since World War II we have seen such genocidal tragedies occur in Cambodia, Rwanda, and now Darfur.

The most moving and important message from the story of the Sharps is that they had the foresight and courage to leave their children and comfortable home behind—not just once, but twice—to go to the dangerous, gray, uncertain war zone of Europe to save people they probably did not even know. Their first trip was just days after *kristallnacht*, when the persecution of the Jews was just beginning to get more violent and ugly. Concentration camps were not yet even a glint in the Nazis' eyes.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps, and those who helped them to be able to do this, deserve the gratitude and admiration of all of us. Each and every one of us should make every effort to learn more about the wars and genocide occurring around the globe this very day, strive to have the courage of the Sharps, and act with equal resolve to do everything each of us can do to stop these horrors.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this selfless and dedicated couple, whose response to the Holocaust and to inhumanity and brutality is one that men and women everywhere should emulate.

HONORING PFC. TRAVIS CLYDE
ZIMMERMAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Pfc. Travis Clyde Zimmerman, who died on April 22, 2006 while serving his country in Iraq.

Pfc. Zimmerman was on a combat reconnaissance operation when an improvised explosive device exploded near his observation post. This young man's high school goal, as stated in his yearbook, was to serve in the United States Army. Neighbors, friends, and former teachers have all testified that Travis was a courteous, cooperative, and compassionate young man. Dr. Harry Morgan, the Boyertown School District Superintendent, told students that Travis's death "was a great loss

to the family and the community and our sympathy goes out to them. We are grateful for his service to our country."

Travis was a life-long resident of Boyertown, Pennsylvania and is the son of Gail Camperson and Lloyd Zimmerman. After Travis's graduation in June of 2005, he attended basic training and then joined the Army's 101st Airborne unit. Travis's unit deployed to Iraq in February 2006.

Scarlett Kulp, Travis's life long friend, wanted to make sure that the community did not forget the commitment and sacrifice he made to serve his country. Scarlett took action and worked with the local community to create a memorial fund to honor Pfc. Zimmerman and other local military heroes. Local schools took Scarlett's lead and held events such as "Hats Off to Travis Day" at Colebrookdale Elementary School, Travis's elementary school from kindergarten to sixth grade. The students and staff at Boyertown Jr. High West and the Senior High-School held tributes and helped Scarlett gather funds for the memorial military bear statue.

By Memorial Day weekend, Scarlett, with the help of the community, had raised enough money to order a six-foot military bear statue and create the "Pfc. Travis Zimmerman Memorial Fund". This permanent fund will not only provide for the cost of the creation and maintenance of the memorial, but it will also help area military personnel as they readjust to civilian life upon their return from services overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to a hometown hero, Pfc. Travis Zimmerman, as his community honors him and other service members during the September 17, 2006 Hometown Heroes parade and ceremony. Heartiest congratulations, out to all the individuals who have helped to make this lasting memorial possible, and our utmost gratitude and respect conveyed to Travis's family for his unflinching devotion and sacrifice for our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR ANN
RICHARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart on the passing of my dear, trusted and long-time beloved friend, the late Governor Ann Richards. I also rise to pay tribute to her many contributions and her sincere dedication of public service to our great State of Texas and to extend my deepest sympathies to her family and friends everywhere who share in my sadness.

I not only lost an esteemed colleague with whom I could always count on for support, since so often we agreed on social and political issues, but also a dear and trusted friend whom I shared many fond moments and with whom I shared a vision for our great State of Texas.

Our friendship expanded more than 40 years; I first met Ann when she lived in Dallas before moving to Austin where she ran for Travis County Commissioner in 1976 and I was elected to serve at the Texas House of

Representatives. Our first taste of government was as outsiders and sideline players who were mainly called upon to help others win the races. Texas in the 70's wasn't open to allowing women a seat at the political table so our admittance was earned vote by vote. As women in Texas politics, we shared the same struggles and the many sacrifices which are often not asked of men in politics.

In her popular address to the Girls State in 1993, she commented that 'as a woman you cannot count on Prince Charming to make you feel better about yourself or to take care of you, like some funhouse mirror that reflects you at twice your real size because Prince Charming may be driving a Honda and telling you that you have no equal ...but that won't do you much good when you've got kids and a mortgage. . . and he has a beer gut and a wandering eye.'

Ann believed in telling people the truth, especially young girls who were in danger of not maximizing their full potential. For those of us who knew Ann, she would be pleased that her many distinguished accomplishments as a woman in the male dominated Texas politics represented a beacon of hope to many young women who shared her unconventional aspirations.

In 1982 when a seat opened as the State Treasurer, Ann sought the Democratic nomination after the incumbent withdrew from the race. As State Treasurer and as a true pragmatist with a keen eye for technology, she transformed the Texas Treasury into a modern operation which encompassed electronic funds transfer, modernized investments and cash management systems. Along the way, Ann earned the respect and admiration of the business community who appreciated her foresight and vision.

In 1990 as the first woman Governor of Texas in 50 years, Ann aligned herself with the late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and Comptroller John Sharp and together formalized a statewide performance review of agencies that inevitably led to much needed recommendations for change.

In her tenure as Governor she was adamant about appointing minorities on state boards and commissions. Ann wanted Texas Government to reflect the people of the State and was proud of the rich cultural and vast diversity engrained in every corner of Texas.

Ann is survived by her four children: Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen and their spouses: Kirk Adams, Linda Richards, Sharon Zeugin and Greg Johnson and her much beloved eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker in closing, it is worthy to mention Ann's legacy as an independent thinker, a strong-minded and compassionate woman with a sharp wit and charming personality who loved her State and the people of Texas so much she dedicated 12 years of her life to serve them. I am saddened at the loss of Governor Ann Richards but I am certain that her legacy will live in the minds and hearts of young women everywhere who now have Ann to remind them that there is nothing as women they cannot accomplish.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of 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. Mr. Tisch died, at the age of 79, on November 15, 2005, at his home in Manhattan, New York. The cause of his demise was a brain tumor, as said Jeffrey Stewart, spokesman for the family. New Yorkers knew Mr. Tisch as Bob and will always remember his stupendous economic support and leadership on several civic initiatives committed to the betterment of the city.

Having made his fortune from the real estate business in New York, Bob Tisch was a dedicated man who truly loved this city and exemplified the belief that the prime responsibility and highest calling of those fortunate enough to have achieved financial security was to use the resources and capacity to improve the lives of other people. Many New Yorkers were helped by the generosity of Mr. Tisch's civic commitment.

In May 2005, Mr. Tisch was interviewed for the online edition of Education Update magazine by Joan Baum, Ph.D. Dr. Baum described him as an "extraordinary life of public service and philanthropy". Mr. Tisch's service as Postmaster General of the United States in the 90s was mentioned. As well as his participation in a partnership program to fund community programs, sitting on the board as a founding member of Citymeals-on-wheels, and as an essential driving force behind the new Giants Stadium.

In 2000, Mr. Tisch founded a program known as "Take the Field", which benefited public schools by restoring athletic fields in New York to provide spaces for children to both practice and play. Since its inception "Take the Field" has already successfully restored 41 of 43 athletic fields in New York. By May 2005 Mr. Tisch's efforts had raised \$135 million in private and public funds for "Take the Field." Ernie Accorsi, Giants General Manager, 1998-present stated: "Bob Tisch was a historic man in New York City history. His contributions ranged from government, both National and local, to the entertainment world to the sports world, but most important, to incredible charitable acts. His 'Take the Field' program was one of the most innovative and beautiful efforts in athletics in this country. But in addition to these things and to his co-ownership of one of the great franchises in American sport, in addition to his brilliance and dynamic New York presence, was the soul of a good and decent man who cared about people and did countless deeds to help those less fortunate, acts which never received notice."

Mr. Tisch wanted to improve health and increase the academic performance of not only students, but also of the communities as well. Mr. Tisch was very interested in education.

Evidence of this is the Tisch School of the Arts and the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports at New York University.

Mr. Tisch also served as Mayor David N. Dinkins "ambassador" to Washington, he was chairman of host committees for the 1976 and 1980 Democratic National Conventions, and also led the way in building a new convention center on Manhattan's West Side. He was the Chairman and Director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies.

In 1991 he purchased the New York Giants and loved to attend practices and share opinions with coaches. Mr. Tisch improved the Giant's business by sharpening the team's marketing strategies. As a member of the National Football League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, Mr. Tisch attained prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

We all mourn the loss of Bob Tisch, who left an indelible mark on our society. He will always be alive in our hearts and minds. As a friend, I will greatly miss a remarkable man whose companionship I treasured, and whose energetic, enthusiastic, and enormously big heart will never be forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH 28TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the People's Community Baptist Church, which is located within my congressional district, on its 28th anniversary, which will be celebrated September 15-17, 2006.

Since its founding in 1978, the People's Community Baptist Church has established a legacy built on spiritual empowerment, social action and community outreach. Its outstanding leadership in the community has touched lives throughout Montgomery County, Maryland and beyond.

With the strong foundation laid by the late Reverend Dr. Thomas Jeremiah Baltimore, this ministry has shown benevolence through ministries such as the Social Action Agency, a church ministry that addresses social concerns of the community in all areas affecting quality of life. Under its umbrella, numerous initiatives have been started, including family health programs, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous chapter meetings, cancer support groups, voter registration drives, and the SHARE program (low-cost monthly food distribution). A prison ministry was also begun, bringing the message of hope and redemption to the incarcerated.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this progressive and distinguished ministry and extend my best wishes for continued success to The People's Community Baptist Church on this special occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in New York related to the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC. As a result, I missed votes on September 6 and September 7, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 427, regarding the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 428, Recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 429, Congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 430, providing for consideration of the Horse Protection Act; "no" on rollcall vote No. 431, an amendment offered by Mr. Goodlatte; "no" on rollcall vote No. 432, an amendment offered by Mr. King of Iowa; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 433, final passage of the Horse Protection Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 434, A Motion to Instruct Conferees on the National Department of Defense Authorization Act of 2007; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 435, closing portions of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 Conference Report.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on the fifth anniversary of the worst attack on American soil, my Republican colleagues have disgracefully politicized what should have been a solemn and sincere resolution. This week we are mourning the tragic losses of innocent lives as well as commemorating the unsurpassed heroism that was on display that day. We are expressing our gratitude to our Nation's law enforcement officers for their tireless dedication to make our country safer; and we are reaffirming our Nation's resolve to combat terrorism and secure our homeland. But rather than offering a bipartisan resolution that unites us on this solemn occasion, the Republican leadership converted the bill into an endorsement of the PATRIOT Act, punitive immigration bills, and other highly controversial measures, which many of my constituents oppose. This bill was cynically transformed from a memorial resolution to an endorsement of President Bush's failed policies. The Republicans show enormous disrespect to the 9/11 victims and families by playing election year politics with something as solemn as the fifth anniversary of 9/11; I will vote against the bill.

HONORING NORMAN R. AUGUSTINE FOR LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent Norman R. Augustine, a recipient of the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. The prize annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education in this country and whose accomplishments are making a difference today.

Mr. Augustine is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Lockheed Martin Corporation. He is a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the Advisory Board to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the American Philosophical Society, and is a fellow of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Augustine has been chosen to receive the prestigious 19th annual award for his role as Chairman of the National Academies Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy and its work on the highly acclaimed report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." This report illustrates the importance of improving K-12 education in mathematics and science, the nation's commitment to long-term basic research, and United States capacity for technological innovation.

Mr. Augustine's credentials as a public servant and engineer are impressive. A five-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense's highest civilian decoration, the Distinguished Service Medal, he has served as a lecturer at Princeton University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Augustine for his outstanding contribution to education and ongoing commitment to public service.

IN HONOR OF PENN SOUTH SENIOR SERVICES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Penn South Program for Seniors for an outstanding 20 years of service to the naturally occurring retirement community in and around the Penn South cooperative on Manhattan's West Side.

When President John F. Kennedy dedicated Penn South in 1962, he said, "It is the task of every generation to build a road for the next generation. This housing development . . . can provide a better life for the people who come after us, if we meet our responsibilities." Indeed a subsequent generation of Manhattanites has benefited from the vision of the earliest residents of Penn South. Many of the original members of the cooperative still live in Penn South, and many of the current residents are senior citizens. The Penn South Program for Senior continues to provide dedicated support to those people who helped make Chelsea the vibrant neighborhood it is today.

Originally built to house members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and their families, Penn South sparked a renaissance on Manhattan's West Side when "urban renewal" was a phrase used only among city planners. As growing demand for affordable housing prompted Penn South to open itself to the public, the cooperative became a thriving community that truly transformed the neighborhood.

Widely regarded as one of the best-run cooperatives in the state of New York, Penn South has made contributions beyond its own community. During New York City's budget crisis in the 1970s, residents of Penn South scraped together enough money to prepay their property taxes and help the City through that difficult time.

The Penn South Program for Seniors was our Nation's first Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) program, and has become a nexus of senior services. Since 1986, it has provided care management, entitlement screening and advocacy, homecare coordination, health services, counseling, support groups, referral services, recreation, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, a social adult day care program, and an intergenerational garden for both seniors and children. The program also links West Side residents with community services such as Meals on Wheels, home care, and transportation. Later, because Penn South was selected as a training site for psychiatric fellows, two medical centers have opened on-site geriatric practices and residents have access to free psychiatric consultations.

Most importantly, the program allows seniors to continue living in their homes as part of the Penn South community. This chance is vital to hundreds of long-time residents, especially at a time when financial concerns and high real estate costs are forcing many of New York City's seniors out of their apartments.

Again, I commend the Penn South Program for Seniors for its tireless support for the generation of New Yorkers who brought Chelsea back to life.

TRIBUTE TO MIDDLE VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Middle Valley Church of God in Hixson, TN, and join them in celebrating 60 years of community service on November 1, 2006.

In 1946, 17 devoted charter members established Middle Valley Church of God under the leadership of L.W. Ledbetter who served as the first pastor. Within a year of its organization, charter members built the first church on that site and held the first service there on July 12, 1947. Since then, 19 pastors have served this church, including current pastor Mitch McClure, the church has undergone major renovations, and the congregation has grown to 250 members including the only surviving charter member, Ruth Underwood Porter.

For the last 60 years, Middle Valley Church of God has focused on community ministry.

They have developed partnerships with Memorial North Park Hospital, Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Angel Food Ministries, Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School, Smokey Mountain Children's Home, Church of God Chaplains Commission, Church of God World Missions, Operation Christmas Child, and various other organizations. In addition, the church hosts a grief support group through Legacy Funeral Services and serves as a voting precinct for the Hamilton County Election Commission. They soon hope to host a community meeting to address the methamphetamine crisis our region is currently battling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking the congregation of Middle Valley Church of God and Pastor Mitch McClure for 60 years of commitment to their faith and service to the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Task Force is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crucial services such as mentor training, volunteer mentor recruitment, and organizational and technical support to community organizations and institutions that work to develop mentoring programs.

For over 15 years the Task Force has been a pillar of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has joined us in the battle against gang-related violence through its day-to-day efforts and its upcoming annual conference entitled "Challenging the Gang Lifestyle—Strategies for Prevention." The conference will be held on the Rockville Campus of Johns Hopkins University on October 12, 2006.

Thanks to the tireless and steadfast efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's children and adolescents have been given a real opportunity to become positive, active, and socially conscious citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fifteenth annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM SKIVINGTON, SR., AND WILLIAM SKIVINGTON, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr., for their service in the United States Armed Forces. William, Sr., and

William, Jr., are being honored today at Nellis Air Force Base as part of the 2006 POW/MIA National Recognition Day ceremonies.

Private First Class William Skivington, Jr., or "Skip" as most referred to him, disappeared on Mother's Day in 1968 during a ground battle near the Laotian border. Thirty-eight years after being declared missing-in-action, his remains have finally been returned to his family. A graduate of Western High School, William, Jr., was presumed killed or captured after his observation post at Kham Duc was overrun by a brigade of North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong. For his bravery and service William, Jr., was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a number of medals from the Government of Vietnam, he will be laid to rest with his fellow American heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

William, Jr., learned the value and honor of service from his father, William, Sr., who served our country with bravery and nobility in the European Theater during World War II. For his valor, William, Sr., was highly also decorated. I applaud Bill not only for his service to this country, but also for his support for all prisoners of war and missing in action and their families, and his dedication to his son, William, Jr. He is currently raising money to preserve an olive tree, The Freedom Tree, which was planted in 1972 and dedicated to his son, and all POW/MIA.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr. Their service in our Nation's armed services is admirable and shows that they are both true patriots and American heroes.

HONORING NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Grandparents Day. Designated as the first Sunday following Labor Day of every year, Grandparents Day began in 1979 by a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter. Unfortunately the vital work of grandparents frequently goes unrecognized and underappreciated. Not only do grandparents provide ties to our past, they often times provide care to the Nation's children.

Grandparents make up 5.7 million households living with over 6.1 million children, evidence that many of these grandparents are often times caring for more than one child. It is important to note that 42 percent of grandparent caregivers are the sole providers for the most basic needs of one or more of the children in their custody. Alarming, 35.8 percent of grandchildren under the age of 18 live in homes with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other form of public assistance, and 460,000 of these grandparent led households fall below the poverty line.

Chicago, alone, is the home to three of the top ten congressional districts for children living in the homes of grandparents or other relatives. In my congressional district there are 23,397 grandparents living with grandchildren and over ten thousand grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren's needs; indeed the 7th District of Illinois, my congres-

sional district, has the highest percentage of children living in kinship care in the entire Nation. Not only does my district have the highest incidence of grandparent-headed households in the Nation, it also has a disproportionate number of African American grandparent caregivers, around 82 percent of all grandparent-headed households. It is an unfortunate fact that the problem of grandparent-headed households disproportionately affects African-American grandparents who serve as kinship care providers at higher rates than other racial/ethnic groups; a fact that federal policies need to understand and address.

B.C. Forbes said, "Upon our children—how they are taught—rests the fate—or fortune—of tomorrow's world." The fate of our children and their future lies with the millions of grandparents who tirelessly raise their grandchildren. Grandparent-headed households are an unrelenting force on our Nation's children and deserve our gratitude and support.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this legislation to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. His Holiness is a spiritual beacon for thousands, and he has traveled the world to develop common ground among different faiths. He stands for and embodies peace and harmony.

I also honor the Dalai Lama for his continuing work to expand freedoms for the Tibetan people. Under Chinese rule, the human rights situation in Tibet is reprehensible—religious and political freedoms are severely curtailed and thousands of Tibetans have died. Practicing compassion and non-violence, the Dalai Lama has met with world leaders and has attempted to engage the Chinese government to reach a solution that will give freedom to his people. Regrettably, the Chinese government has been stubborn in its resistance, but I hope they will soon have a change of mind and heart about the situation in Tibet.

As a spiritual force and as a head of state, the Dalai Lama shows us all the meaning of peace and compassion. He deserves this honor, and I thank the leadership for bringing the bill before us.

"ART ON LABELS" CONTEST WINNERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding young students who live and go to school in my district in Houston, Texas. Alejandra Garcia, 10, of Crockett Elementary School and Alina Arevalo, 8, of Sherman Elementary School recently won a national art competition in support of afterschool programs called the

"Art on Labels" contest, sponsored by Torani, the specialty syrup maker, and the Afterschool Alliance, an organization dedicated to advocating for quality and affordable afterschool programs for all children by 2010. The girls' artwork was chosen from hundreds of entries nationwide and will be featured on two of Torani's soda syrup products this fall.

Both students attend the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment program and were encouraged to enter the contest by their afterschool teacher. Afterschool programs play a critical role in the lives of many students who need a safe and nurturing place to go after the school bell rings. In communities today, 14.3 million children take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six to eight. Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs—but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate in afterschool—if a program were available.

Afterschool programs keep children engaged in learning and work to find students' hidden talents as an alternative to going home alone to watch television all afternoon. It is important to continue to support afterschool programs like the ones Alejandra and Alina attend, which increase academic achievement, keep kids safe, and help working families.

It is an honor to be able to congratulate two wonderful young ladies, Alejandra and Alina, for their tremendous accomplishments and to thank their afterschool program providers for helping to develop their talents.

INTRODUCING BILL TO ESTABLISH
MINERAL COMMODITY INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this bill to establish the Mineral Commodity Information Administration in the Department of the Interior.

This bill would make the Mineral Information Team (MIT) with the United States Geological Service an independent agency in the Department of the Interior, with much the same charter as the Energy Information Agency housed in the Department of Energy.

The MIT collects and disseminates data on virtually every commercially important non-fuel mineral commodity produced worldwide, information that is critical to businesses, the government, and importantly, the Department of Defense (DOD) to help manage the National Defense Stockpile. Due to the importance of the data, the MIT should be an independent agency reporting to the Secretary of the Interior.

Virtually every manufacturing sector, from aviation to textiles, relies on the unbiased, thorough, and comprehensive data reported by the MIT. This data is essential for effective use of our natural resources and for accurate forecasting. The information for a number of the MIT reports is derived from proprietary information given by our members precisely because the government is a trusted third party.

The United States is the world's largest user of mineral commodities, with processed mate-

rials of mineral origin accounting for over \$487 billion in the economy in 2005 (an increase of 8 percent over 2004 on top of an increase of over 13 percent in 2003).

In 2002, the administration's FY 2003 budget proposed to eliminate the collection of international mineral commodity information. The attempts to eliminate international mineral commodity information collection have continued with each subsequent budget proposal. The congressional appropriations committees have wisely continued to reject calls to eliminate this critical data.

This information from the MIT is critical to the effective use of the nation's natural resources and for accurate forecasting. Without a reliable source of worldwide commodity information, the U.S. would be blind to any impending supply shortages. MIT data was critical in calming the markets during the cement and steel shortages of 2004, identifying the problem as one of logistics, not supply.

Our Nation is facing a global resources future where we are more dependent than ever on foreign sources of energy and minerals while at the same time no longer "guaranteed" to be the major recipient of energy and minerals from our traditional foreign suppliers. Considering businesses operate in a global economy, and imported raw and processed mineral materials increased in value by more than 14 percent from 2005 to \$103 billion, the comprehensive data provided by the MIT becomes ever more important.

Clearly the Federal government understands the importance of worldwide data on energy production as demonstrated by the increased funding for the Energy Information Administration. Currently, the continued viability and availability of mineral commodity information is mired in the bureaucracy and under budgetary assault. It is imperative that the importance of the MIT mission be recognized by establishing it as an independent agency of the Department of the Interior.

This is the goal that my bill will accomplish. The mission of the newly created Mineral Commodity Information Administration will be to continue to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on the domestic and international supply of and demand for minerals and mineral materials essential to the U.S. economy and national security.

CONGRATULATING THE LUTHER
BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT ON
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Luther Burbank School District in San Jose, California on its 100th anniversary.

Luther Burbank School District's noble mission is to educate students from kindergarten to eighth grade. Although diversity is welcomed, significant challenges confront this public school system. In the 2003–2004 school year 85 percent of the students were Hispanic, 5 percent Black and 7 percent White. Of all the District's students, 78 percent participated in the National School Lunch Program and 64 percent of the students were

English Language Learners. Despite the challenges to comprehensive multicultural and multilingual education, Luther Burbank School District has met the challenges of racial, ethnic and religious diversity within the public school system.

Over the past 5 years, Luther Burbank School District has increased its California Academic Performance Index by over 200 points, thereby exceeding the state average. As the test scores and the school district's rankings have risen, so has the recognition that Luther Burbank School District has received. The school district is now a school of choice in San Jose, California.

Luther Burbank School District is a center of activity and growth in the community. Local residents are continuously invited and involved in many aspects of the school district. Luther Burbank School District welcomes parent and community involvement in the education and activities of the school and English as a Second Language classes are provided to the community during the evening hours to more closely connect the residents of this culturally diverse neighborhood.

The school district utilizes innovative teaching methods that include technology in the classroom and current instructional materials. The school district focuses on the academic growth of their students so that they may make positive contributions to their community and to society.

I am hopeful that the innovative and exemplary model portrayed by the Luther Burbank School District remains in my congressional district and spreads to many other lucky neighborhoods in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING THE METROPOLITAN
ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA ON
THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF THE
ENSHRINEMENT OF "OUR LADY
OF CAMARIN"

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron and the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana on the occasion of the enshrinement of "Our Lady of Camarin" in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Our Lady of Camarin, "Santa Marian Kamalen" as she is known in the Chamorro language, is the Patroness of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana and of the Mariana Islands. I also congratulate the Guam chapters of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas who have taken an active interest in the cause of enshrinement and who are well represented in Washington for the ceremony on September 17, 2006.

The Santa Marian Kamalen is an important historic symbol of faith to the people of Guam and the Mariana Islands. The Santa Marian Kamalen statue, which arrived on Guam in the 17th century, was a significant part of the Spanish introduction of the Catholic faith on Guam and has been an enduring symbol of the growth of the Catholic Church in the Mariana Islands for the past three centuries. The Santa Marian Kamalen statue is representative of the resilience of the Chamorro people

who have turned to the Patroness in times of distress to receive her comfort. This religious symbol has survived fires, earthquakes, and typhoons and inspires the faithful who seek her intercession for protection from famine, earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis.

During the occupation of Guam in World War II, believers turned to Santa Marian Kamalen for help and some risked their own safety by saving the statue from confiscation and destruction by the occupiers. Today, Santa Marian Kamalen continues to inspire the Catholic faithful on Guam and throughout the Marianas. She holds an exalted position above the altar in the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagåtña, Guam. As the Patroness of Guam and the Mariana Islands, her feast day is celebrated each year on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with a procession of thousands of the faithful in Hagåtña.

On Sunday, September 17, 2006, a replica of the Santa Marian Kamalen will be enshrined at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Hundreds of followers from Guam, the Northern Marianas, and throughout the nation have converged in a pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Camarin.

The enshrinement of Santa Marian Kamalen is recognition by the Church of the deep faith of the Chamorro people and a distinct honor for the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana. The ceremony will celebrate the love of the devotees of the Patroness of the Mariana Islands.

The enshrinement of Our Lady of Camarin would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many people, most notably the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap., DD, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana, the clergy and religious on Guam and the Mariana Islands, officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana, and all of the faithful. Biba Santa Marian Kamalen!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUTHBUILD TO THE NATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5837, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for a YouthBuild program and to recognize the many achievements and accomplishments attributed to YOUTHBUILD USA.

The YouthBuild program started in my Congressional District of East Harlem in 1978 as a response to the failed public school system, the lack of workforce development programs available to young adults and the growing number of youth who were being driven into the criminal justice system. YouthBuild's mission is to provide a pathway to successful productive careers. YouthBuild started in the interstices between these three systems as a community-based comprehensive program designed with and for youth. It became simultaneously an alternative school, a job and career training program, a point of re-entry for adjudicated youth, a way to serve one's com-

munity by building the highly valued commodity of affordable housing, and a way to gain leadership skills to improve the community in the long run and to become somebody who could make a difference.

This combination has been highly attractive to the disconnected youth, and has created a pathway to a productive future for tens of thousands of young adults across the country.

YouthBuild spread from East Harlem throughout New York City, and from there around the country. It became a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program in 1992, and with HUD's help has spread to 226 of America's poorest urban and rural communities. It has been incubated as a federal program in HUD—still outside of the existing public education, workforce development, and criminal justice systems. At HUD, the emphasis has been on broad community development.

YouthBuild has shown itself to be highly attractive to communities seeking a solution for the fact that 32 percent of America's youth are dropping out of school, a hundred thousand are aging out of foster care each year and need a supportive transition, and tens of thousands are returning to their neighborhoods from incarceration needing a guiding hand.

Now YouthBuild is being moved as a response to its success. It is consistent with the priorities of the Department of Labor to engage the most disadvantaged youth in education and job training in high-demand careers through a cost effective community-based solution. While it is consistent with HUD's general community development goals, it is consistent with the Department of Labor's central priorities for young adults.

YouthBuild programs are also working well as re-entry programs under a special grant with the Department of Labor and with various state governments. They are working as AmeriCorps programs especially designed for low-income youth in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service. They are also working with local public school systems and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—40 YouthBuild programs have become diploma-granting public charter or alternative schools, expanding the reach of limited federal funds by attracting additional local public education funds and deepening YouthBuild's role as an alternative school. Since it has become simultaneously a school, a job-training program, a re-entry program, and a national service program, it is working now on the creative edge of all these systems.

Local YouthBuild programs are led by entrepreneurial and committed professionals rooted in local communities. They are knit together by a national non-profit organization, YouthBuild USA, that works in partnership with the federal government to hold local programs to high standards, to train them in best practices, and to recognize innovative promising practices. This public/private partnership has also proven itself to be a good delivery system which has been responsible for the effective implementation of a creative program design.

At a time when America is seeking solutions to the disconnection from school and work of over 5 million 16- to 24-year-olds, 2.4 million of whom are poor, at a time when we are realizing that some of our existing systems are not working for this sub-set of young adults, it is a good moment to highlight YouthBuild as a solution, and position it in the Department of

Labor for its next stage as a visible and viable pathway to success for tens of thousands of young Americans.

AZERBAIJAN—TIME TO FREE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mrs. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice goes to New York for the opening of the 61st United Nations General Assembly she is expected to meet with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammad-yarov of Azerbaijan. His country is becoming an important geo-strategic player in the Caspian region and Central Asia. It has worked closely with the United States on the critical oil pipeline from the Caspian to the Mediterranean and other issues.

There are some important obstacles to realizing the full potential of our strategic relationship with Azerbaijan. Of particular concern is the deteriorating human rights situation and the growing number of political prisoners in that country's jails.

During her confirmation hearings before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations earlier this year, Ambassador Anne Derse stressed the importance the United States attaches to freedom, democracy and human rights as high priorities in our relationship with Azerbaijan. The Bush administration's emphasis on the critical importance for nurturing democracy, not only in bringing freedom to people but in helping make this a safer world at a time of growing threat from Islamofascism, is of particular concern in Central Asia. Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim state, thus making the development of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law ever more critical in such an unstable region of the world.

Azerbaijan is also an important American interest in energy and security cooperation. As our economic and political cooperation grow, our relations with Azerbaijan become more critical. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has spoken of his commitment to democracy but, unfortunately, the gap between promise and performance is widening, not shrinking.

I am particularly concerned about the need for an independent judiciary, commitment to the rule of law and a transparent justice system. An alarming number of political prisoners are held in Azeri jails, most notably former Minister of Economic Development Farhad Aliyev and his brother Rafiq Aliyev (The brothers are no relation to President Aliyev). Farad Aliyev was arrested on trumped-up political charges of planning a coup, and to that was later added a charge of murdering the editor of Monitor magazine, Elmar Huseynov. The actual confessed murderer, Haji Mammadov, a former official of the Interior Ministry's Criminal Investigation Department, reportedly accused Farhad Aliyev of ordering the killing. Independent media reports demonstrate that the accusation is not taken seriously and believed to have been pushed on the killer, perhaps in a deal for a lighter sentence, as part of the government's desire to strengthen its weak case against Aliyev and eliminate a potential rival for the president.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Secretary of State Rice to take up this matter at the United Nations

with Foreign Minister Mammadyarov and stress that the United States seeks assurances that all political prisoners are allowed free access to counsel of their choice, are safe and provided all necessary health care, receive humane treatment and, if it goes that far, receive a free, fair and public trial. More appropriately, they should be freed at once as a demonstration of Azerbaijan's commitment to democratic reform and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The Azeri Democracy Initiative, a non-partisan, international non-profit organization headquartered in Washington and dedicated to strengthening U.S.-Azerbaijan ties on a basis of shared values, has joined in calling on the European Court of Human Rights to investigate the politically-motivated arrest of Farhad Aliyev, the reformist former Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan.

The case before the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg was filed by a group of British lawyers and alleges human rights abuses. They pointed out that Azerbaijan, as a member of the Council of Europe, is legally obligated to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights as a condition of membership of the Council of Europe.

Lord Lester QC, one of Europe's leading barristers on human rights issues, said the brothers were detained arbitrarily, put in solitary confinement and held "without justification". He has been denied access to the men.

"The Aliyev cases illustrate how far the Republic of Azerbaijan has to change before it can be regarded as a truly democratic state respecting the European rule of law and the fundamental human rights and freedoms of its citizens," Lord Lester added.

Many members of the brothers' families, business associates and acquaintances have been "harassed, arrested and persecuted following Farhad and Rafiq's arrests," according to Lucy James, one of the London attorneys. "Many have been detained on trumped up charges or without charge" and many have reportedly lost their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Secretary of State and Ambassador Derse in Baku to raise this critical human rights issue at the highest levels and call for the freedom of political prisoners.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROBERT JENNINGS ON HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the alumni, students, faculty, and friends of Alabama A&M University, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Robert Jennings on his inauguration as the University's tenth President.

Alabama A&M is a prestigious 131-year old land-grant university located in Normal, AL. Its faculty and students are nationally recognized for their work in and out of the classroom.

A&M selected Jennings as President in January of 2006. A graduate of Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Jennings is a Fulbright-Hays Fellow and a highly respected and accomplished professor and administrator.

Prior to his appointment at A&M, Dr. Jennings served many years as a professor and administrator at Atlanta University Graduate School. Dr. Jennings has also held positions at Norfolk State University, Albany State University, and North Carolina A&T State University. Most recently, he served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Wake Forest University's Future Focus 2020, a program designed to encourage urban communities to more actively participate in discussions about the future of the country.

In addition to his impressive academic record, Dr. Jennings is a distinguished diplomat and civil servant. In 1999, he represented the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. State Department as a consultant and trainer at the University of Naimey in Niger, Africa. He also previously served as a Loaned Executive to the Office of the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as an Equal Opportunity and Employee Development Specialist and Lead Trainer for the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.

Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 11th, the Alabama A&M community is celebrating Dr. Jennings' inauguration. I believe that his impressive resume and numerous academic accomplishments have more than prepared him to lead Alabama A&M University to new heights. I look forward to working with him and all of the faculty, students, alumni, and staff to build on the University's proud tradition of excellence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I cannot vote for this bill, for several reasons.

To begin with, as the debate in the Resources Committee made clear, this is not the kind of measure that should be considered under a procedure that rigidly limits debate and prevents consideration of any amendments. Instead, it is a controversial proposal that can affect many parts of the country. All members whose districts could be affected—or who have concerns for other reasons—should have the opportunity to propose amendments that they think would improve the legislation.

But regardless of the procedures controlling debate today, I think the bill has such serious flaws that it should be rejected—which was why I voted against it in committee.

As others have noted, it would make a drastic change in current law regarding the regulation of Indian gaming, changes that do not properly reflect and respect the status of tribal governments and that have led the majority of tribes and tribal organizations to oppose the legislation.

I do not think such far-reaching changes are necessary to address the problems cited by the bill's supporters. On the contrary, I think the Interior Department already has ample authority to resolve those problems through regulation.

Finally, some have suggested that the legislation should be passed to resolve questions

raised in 2004 when two tribes now based in Oklahoma asserted a claim to lands in Colorado. However, I do not think that is accurate.

Nothing in this bill would prevent tribes from making such land claims in the future. And because no legislation can bind a future Congress, the bill would not prevent a legislative settlement of such claims—the professed goal of those asserting the Colorado claim—which could involve authorization of Indian gaming on some of the lands involved.

I urge the House to reject this bill.

“IRAQ WATCH”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, back in June the Democratic Caucus began a series of weekly special orders and floor speeches as a part of our ongoing “Iraq Watch.” Midway through September, we’re still watching, and what we’re seeing is not encouraging. Other members will elaborate on the escalating death toll, the continued drain on our Treasury, and our inability to provide even the most basic services that might show the Iraqis that our invasion has improved their lives in some way. That there were no weapons of mass destruction, no link between Saddam and Al Qaeda, and no threat to America in Iraq continues to be demonstrated with each new report released and each study published. We know that we went in without a plan to manage the country after we toppled the government, contrary to military recommendations. Indeed, we now know that Secretary Rumsfeld actually threatened to fire staff who kept insisting on making some attempt at post-war planning. The generals in the field have told us, again, that their mission cannot be accomplished without tens of thousands, perhaps even a hundred thousand or more troops. Yet, according to an official army report referenced in the article I include, for the record, there are no more troops to send.

Mr. Speaker, we’ve been watching as this quagmire gets worse by the day. But I can’t help wondering if the Republicans are watching the same conflict I am. To listen to what the Administration and its backers in Congress are saying, one might think that the invasion happened just last month, rather than three and a half years ago. You might think we were greeted as liberators, or even that we helped the Iraqis form a functioning democracy. You might even draw the conclusion that fanning the flames in Iraq is somehow, in some way making the American people safer.

Operating on the same flawed assumptions they used to mislead us into this mess in the first place, the Administration still has not given us an exit plan out of this bloodbath. We’ve heard plenty of slogans. “As the Iraqis stand up, we’ll stand down.” “Stay the course.” But, Mr. Speaker, empty rhetoric is not a strategy. Hearing these slogans again and again, I’m reminded of one definition of insanity: to take the same action over and over and expect different results. Our continued occupation of Iraq without any kind of strategy or plan to resolve the conflict simply makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and horrified when I heard that Vice President Cheney went

on a talk show last weekend and said, and I quote, "if we had it to do over again, we'd do exactly the same thing." Is our vice president misleading us again, or does he really believe that our Iraq policy is working? Is this administration so arrogant, so stubborn, so unwilling to admit its mistakes that it wants to continue the occupation of Iraq "exactly" as it has for three and a half years? The Administration's continued failure to level with the American people and learn from its errors is an affront to all of us, but most especially to the memory of the 2,671 brave young men and women who have given their lives for this war of choice. The Republicans have shown that they lack the humility and the vision to change our disastrous course in the Middle East. We've lost not only lives and treasure but our standing in the world as a beacon of freedom and democracy. It is time for a new direction.

[From Washingtonpost.com, Sept. 14, 2006]

WHY WE CAN'T SEND MORE TROOPS

(By Lawrence J. Korb and Peter Ogden)

In "Reinforce Baghdad" [op-ed, Sept. 12], William Kristol and Rich Lowry argue that the United States needs to deploy "substantially" more troops to Iraq to stabilize the country. Aside from the strategic dubiousness of their proposal—Kristol and Lowry's piece might alternatively have been titled "Reinforcing Failure"—there is a practical obstacle to it that they overlook: Sending more troops to Iraq would, at the moment, threaten to break our nation's all-volunteer Army and undermine our national security. This is not a risk our country can afford to take.

In their search for additional troops and equipment for Iraq, the first place that Kristol and Lowry would have to look is the active Army. But even at existing deployment levels, the signs of strain on the active Army are evident. In July an official report revealed that two-thirds of the active U.S. Army was classified as "not ready for combat." When one combines this news with the fact that roughly one-third of the active Army is deployed (and thus presumably ready for combat), the math is simple but the answer alarming: The active Army has close to zero combat-ready brigades in reserve.

The second place to seek new troops and equipment is the Army National Guard and Reserve. But the news here is, if anything, worse. When asked by reporters to comment on the strain that the active Army was under, the head of the National Guard said that his military branch was "in an even more dire situation than the active Army. We both have the same symptoms; I just have a higher fever."

Already, the stress of Iraq and Afghanistan on our soldiers has been significant: Every available active-duty combat brigade has served at least one tour in Iraq or Afghanistan, and many have served two or three. Likewise, the vast majority of Army National Guardsmen and Reservists have been mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, some more than once.

Thus the simple fact is that the only way for Kristol and Lowry to put their new plan into action anytime soon without resorting to a draft—and thereby dismantling the all-volunteer Army, which, as the authors themselves would certainly admit, could be strategically disastrous—is by demanding even more from our soldiers by accelerating their training and rotation schedules. While there is no question that the soldiers would respond to more frequent calls to duty, it is doubtful that they would be supplied with proper equipment and training for their mis-

sion in the near term. Moreover, the long-term toll on the cost and quality of our troops would be threatened by the added strain.

First, the equipment shortage that the U.S. Army faces at the moment is making it difficult to train troops even at current levels. The service has been compensating for this \$50 billion equipment shortfall by shipping to Iraq some of the equipment that it needs to train nondeployed and reserve units. Increasing the number of deployed troops would compound this readiness problem and leave the Army with little spare capacity to respond to other conflicts around the globe that might demand immediate and urgent action.

Second, the long-term costs of leaning even more heavily on our ground troops to fight what is an unpopular war will take its toll on the quality of our Army. At present the Army is compelled to offer promotions to an unprecedented number of its personnel to retain them. Some 98 percent of captains were promoted to major this year, and the quality of the next generation of military leaders will suffer if this process is not made more selective once again.

In addition, even the quadrupling of recruitment bonuses since 2003 has not been enough to attract adequate numbers of talented men and women to meet the Army's personnel goals. Although the Army has accepted more troops with lower aptitude scores and raised its maximum enlistment age, it still must grant waivers to about 1 out of 5 new recruits and has had to cut in half the number who "wash out" in basic training.

While we disagree with Kristol and Lowry's contention that sending more troops to Iraq would bring peace and stability to the country, the U.S. Army and National Guard and Reserve should nevertheless possess the capacity to respond to such a plan or other deployments without undue strain and long-term costs. The solution is to do two things that the Bush administration has not: permanently increase the number of troops in the active Army and fully fund its equipment needs. Let this, not the expenditure of more blood and treasure in Iraq, be the "courageous act of presidential leadership" that Kristol and Lowry desire.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA BUTLER COSTIGAN

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing my dear friend and colleague, Linda Butler Costigan.

Linda Butler Costigan passed away peacefully on Sept. 6, 2006 at Sutter Roseville Medical Center after a long battle with metastatic breast cancer. She was born on Dec. 20, 1946 in White Plains, NY to the late George and Faye Butler. She is survived by her beloved husband of 42 years, Richard S. Costigan, Jr. (Dick) of Granite Bay, CA and sons, Richard, III and wife Gloria of Granite Bay, CA and Chris and wife Gabby, who now live in Hong Kong.

She was the devoted "Gram" to her three grandchildren, Eric Samuel, Emma Laraine and Andrew Butler, of Granite Bay, CA. She is also survived by her sister, Mary Catherine Butler-Adkins and husband, Frank of Virginia Beach, VA.

Linda spent the first half of her life in Norfolk, VA., but she lived in many places, including Miami, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Sydney Australia, and Danville, CA, before settling in Granite Bay over 16 years ago.

Though Linda would want to be remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother, she made many contributions to the communities in which she lived. In Norfolk, VA she was President of the local Catholic Youth Organization. In Danville, she was president of the St. Isidore's PTA and started a fund raising auction at De La Salle in Concord that is still going on; she replicated that program for La Salle College High school when the family moved to Philadelphia.

During those years, she was very active in Marriage Encounter and served on various boards. She loved college football, becoming a devoted follower of the University of Georgia where Richard and Gloria attended and the University of Alabama where Chris was a wide receiver on the 1989 SEC Championship team. She and Dick would often travel to both schools from California. She was involved in California politics for years, including serving as the State Private Sector Chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) for the state of California for a number of years and as the national Private Sector Chair in the early 1990s. For her service, she received the Thomas Jefferson Award.

She ran an event planning company that helped to bring policy makers together with advocates and those impacted by policy decisions. Her clients included Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson. She was also the secretary of the Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Council for a number of years when Dick served as the Chair. She also served on Board of the Arthritis Foundation of Northern California.

In 2001, after her husband became sick, they moved to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina where they thought they would spend the rest of their lives. When she was re-diagnosed with cancer in 2004, they moved back to Granite Bay. She was greatly admired by many and continued to positively touch many lives even in her last days fighting this disease. Her legacy as a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and dear friend will be remembered and cherished by all she touched.

HONORING ANNE-MARIE GNACEK

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Ms. Anne-Marie Gnacek upon her retirement after 50 years of managing, designing, and developing simulations to evaluate our Nation's ability to intercept and destroy foreign missiles.

Beginning in 1956, Ms. Gnacek worked for a variety of defense related engineering companies. With the exception of choosing to stay at home to raise her two sons in the 1960s, she has worked continuously on developing software simulations to help develop our Nation's space and missile development programs, including the Navy's Polaris missile and the development of our National Missile Defense initiative.

Most recently, Ms. Gnacek was involved in the independent verification and validation testing of the Ground Based Midcourse Defense System's Battle Management Command and Control and In-flight Interceptor Communications systems, and development of simulation training aid for the soldiers who will operate the system.

Ms. Gnacek also led a team of engineers that developed real time simulations of mission experiments and activities to train astronauts for NASA's SPACELAB 1 and 2 shuttle missions.

Mr. Speaker, this month, Ms. Gnacek will retire after 50 years of exceptional service. Throughout her career, she has devoted herself towards improving our Nation's space and missile development programs and has diligently worked to enhance these vital systems to meet the ever-changing needs of our country.

I rise today to join her colleagues, family, and friends in congratulating her on a job well done. I wish her and her family the very best for the future.

THOMAS J. MANTON POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 6033 which would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39–25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, as the “Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building”.

As you know, we lost our dear friend Tom just a few short months ago, and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to one of the most distinguished Members who ever served in this great House, than to see this renaming become a reality.

The character of Tom Manton's life might be summed up in a few words: he was a man of great commitment, hard-working, an inspiring leader, and he was dearly passionate about the causes he believed in and the work he did on behalf of his constituency.

Manton was a man of great intellect. During seven terms in Congress, from 1985 to 1998, he was an important figure on reauthorization of the Superfund program, which provides for

the cleanup of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. However, most of his legislative initiatives were focused on various local issues: stopping the Long Island Rail Road from building a waste-transfer station in western Queens, barring the creation of composting plants for sewage sludge in New York City, and using amendments to the Clean Air Act to aid local businesses. As well, he also sponsored a law that made benefits to permanently injured police officers, on par with payments to officers killed in the line of duty.

This loving husband and devoted father was also a very dear friend and colleague to me through all the years we worked together here in the Congress.

It was my privilege to know him and to work with him on matters involving not only our Nation, but the great State of New York. He combined with his charm, an unlimited energy and the highest integrity and work ethic.

Tom Manton was indeed a well respected and revered Member of this institution who gave of himself diligently, and was ever zealous to carry through to its ultimate conclusion, the cause of those who would benefit from his direction. No one is likely to forget neither the courage of his faith nor the warmth of his friendship.

In Tom's memory, let us move this bill forward.