

Commissioned in 1943, the USS *Intrepid* is a unique educational resource that promotes public awareness of the history and future development of the sea, air and space sciences.

The *Intrepid* fought valiantly in World War II, was a primary recovery vessel for NASA and then was sent to Southeast Asia where it launched the jets that supported our ground forces in Vietnam.

During World War II, the carrier was hit by five Japanese Kamikaze suicide planes in separate incidents that killed dozens of crewmen and injured many others.

Nonetheless, the ship exacted its toll on the Japanese air force, downing 43 planes and 4 kamikaze planes in one day.

During the post-World War II period the *Intrepid* exemplified the United States' leadership and devotion to freedom.

Unfortunately, despite its glorious past, there came a time when the ship was due to be scrapped.

Zachary Fisher, founder of the Intrepid Foundation, rescued the ship in 1978 and arranged for it to be brought to Manhattan where it opened as a Museum in 1982.

Visitors can explore some of the innovative aircraft that made America's air force the strongest in the world, from vintage World War II planes to the latest supersonic jets.

The *Intrepid's* unique educational programs reach 40,000 school children each year, while the Foundation's Vocational-Technical program has helped hundreds of at-risk youth develop work and life skills.

The Nation's men and women still serving in uniform are always at the forefront of the Foundation's activities.

Its Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund provides financial support for the families of United States military personnel who have been lost in the line of duty, while Fleet Week is a celebration honoring those who are currently serving in our nation's military.

Other Fisher Foundations serve the military in numerous ways.

Zachary Fisher established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation, which has provided funding to numerous military families who have lost loved ones under tragic circumstances.

His Armed Services Foundation provides scholarship funds to active and former service members and their families.

In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher began the Fisher House program, dedicating more than \$20 million to the construction of 26 comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel.

Since the program's inception, more than 35,000 families have stayed in Fisher Houses while their loved ones are receiving treatment.

Thus, the Intrepid Museum is merely the most visible symbol of an enterprise entirely dedicated to serving our nation's men and women in uniform.

Unfortunately, this great symbol of support for our armed forces is aging.

During the past 24 years, the *Intrepid* has resided at Pier 86 in Manhattan, where she has been subjected to the storms, the vicissitudes of the Hudson River and a vast buildup of silt. All of that has taken a toll, and the Foundation has arranged for the ship to receive some loving care.

The ship will spend 18-24 months in Bayonne, New Jersey being refurbished, while the pier is completely rebuilt. At the end of

that period, the ship will return, better able to pursue its mission of honoring our Nation's heroes, educating the public and inspiring youth.

As Robert Burns famously wrote, "The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley."

Like many visitors to New York, the *Intrepid* simply did not want to go.

Despite spending \$1.6 million to dredge 15,000 cubic yards of mud and silt that had built up over the past 24 years, the ship could not be budged in the first try.

With the support of my office and others, and under the leadership of Chairman YOUNG, we have reached out to the Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, who has agreed to spending \$3 million to free the ship from New York harbor. We are deeply grateful to him and to the Navy for their help with this effort.

I would also like to thank and recognize, Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense who has responded quickly and professionally to our requests and continues to keep us updated.

Given the enormous support the Intrepid Foundation gives to our armed forces, and the extraordinary education visitors to the *Intrepid* receive, this is money well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Fisher family, the Intrepid Museum, the Intrepid Foundation and the remarkable men and women who have made the *Intrepid* an extraordinary public resource.

HONORING ROBERT PAUL LOSEY,  
MD, OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous contributions Dr. Robert Paul Losey has made to the lives of infants and families in Napa County. As the founder of Healthy Moms and Babies, Dr. Losey has created a successful, non-profit community health initiative that has yielded tangible results in children's health.

Dr. Losey was born in Pasadena, California, where he attended high school before serving in the Marine Corps from 1957 to 1959. After leaving the Marine Corps, he attended college in southern California where he earned degrees from Pasadena City College and the University of California, Riverside. He earned his medical degree from Creighton University in Nebraska in 1966 before returning to California to complete his internship and residency in Los Angeles.

Dr. Losey moved to the Napa Valley in 1986 when he was hired as the medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Queen of the Valley Hospital. His work has further developed Napa County's only facility for the care of premature or critically ill infants. Through his successful private practice at Harvest Pediatrics, Dr. Losey has continued to serve the families of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Healthy Moms and Babies was founded in 1988 with the vision to provide comprehensive healthcare for low-income and uninsured women in order to guarantee that every baby is born healthy. By educating expectant women about their own health during

pregnancy, Healthy Moms and Babies has brought a dramatic increase in infant health to the Napa Valley. Healthy Moms and Babies has also made special efforts to develop bilingual resources and do outreach into communities that have traditionally been medically underserved. Napa County has the healthiest babies in the State of California, and Dr. Losey and Healthy Moms and Babies have greatly contributed to this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to thank Dr. Robert Paul Losey for his many contributions to the community and families of Napa County. He has been active in a variety of health care- and youth-related causes, and his work as the founder of Healthy Moms and Babies has brought a new standard of care to all who live in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE NOAA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the NOAA Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In September 2005, as Hurricane Rita was approaching the coast of Southwest Louisiana, the WFO Lake Charles developed a life saving partnership with elected officials and emergency managers that was instrumental in minimizing deaths from the storm. While Rita destroyed critical infrastructure and forever changed the landscape of Southwest Louisiana, WFO Lake Charles lived up to the motto of the National Weather Service by "Working Together to Save Lives."

With up-to-date storm-tracking information, elected officials, law enforcement and emergency response personnel were able to lead a safe and thorough evacuation. In recognition of their heroic efforts, the staff of the WFO Lake Charles was recently awarded the Bronze Medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as a special award from the American Meteorological Society.

Although Hurricane Rita has changed the coast of Southwest Louisiana, it has also reinforced the belief in all of us that preparation is the key to ensuring our families, and our homes, are safe from future disaster. To that end, I commend the WFO Lake Charles for their outstanding job and dedication to the people of Southwest Louisiana.

HONORING THE SMYRNA BULLDOGS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Smyrna Bulldogs. On Saturday night, the Bulldogs capped their football season with a convincing win in the 2006 TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl.

My father taught science and coached girls basketball at Smyrna High. As a result, I feel a special connection to the purple and gold.

With their victory over the Ravenwood Raptors, the Bulldogs secured their first ever football title and finished the season with a school record 13 wins. While it was their first appearance in the BlueCross Bowl, Coach Philip Shadowens and the Bulldogs left no doubt that they belonged on the field. They overcame a 14–6 deficit against the defending champs, scoring 29 unanswered points on their way to victory.

During their playoff run, the Bulldogs avenged their two regular season losses to Riverdale and Ravenwood. In the quarterfinal round, they defeated the Riverdale Warriors for the first time in school history.

I commend the Bulldogs and their head coach, Philip Shadowens, for a fine season and an outstanding championship win. Steve Carson, Jason Pitts, Shawn Middleton, Kent Pippenger, Will Hawkins, Will Forkum, Scott Keasler, Travis Schrimsher, Alex Robbins, Luke Shepherd and Justin Morton serve as the team's assistant coaches. Robert "Bud" Raikes is Smyrna High School's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2006 5A State Champion Bulldogs: Sonny Gray, Antoine Hendricks, Rod Wilks, Orlando Martin, Will Martin, Tyler Slater, Kyle Frazier, Andrew Wiggins, Eddie Lalap, Joseph Butler, Sam Youree, Josh Crouch, Cleave Shaw, David Sanders, Jonah Hendricks, Maceo Harris, Cody Williams, Tony Window, Lonnie Turner, Tony Alexander, Quentin Burford, Cotie Dickson, Chris Yoder, Cordarius Johnson, Donovan Craig, Reuben Shadrake, Jarvis Hicks, Justin Martin, Sean Mckay, Michael Hosford, Michael Bolton, Singleton Garrett, Johnathan Vaughn, Laith Al Tamimi, Kelly Thomason, Brandon Hendricks, Josh Day, Karrar Al Hassan, Dawson Wooten, Reese Haywood, Tony Carr, Cody Sutherland, Cody Gower, Johnathan Wilcox, James Hudson, Matt Rofrano, Quentin Allen, Kyle Carter, Josh Pfeiffert, Bradly Folds, Alex Hill, Keith Martin, Westley Cadena, Darrell Goad, Tyler Eady, Anthony Khamphenphet, Pham Trungtin, Nathan Cantrell, Keiton Hendry, Cassidy Spence, Brandon Jaradat, D.J. Johns, James Williams, Davion Baxter, Tyler Montgomery, Jordan Bell, Cody Hagar, Daivid Pierre-Paul, Mickey West, Jeremy King, Jesse Torres, Blair Willis, Tre Tunstill, Richard Maynard, Nick Richardson, Harrison Gill and Nathan Torres.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE, AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES ACT OF 2006"

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Study of Ways To Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act of 2006." I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HINCHEY (D-NY), GRIJALVA (D-AZ), and CONYERS (D-MI) in introducing this legislation. On May 7, 2006, the Washington

Post reported allegations that American taxpayers are being shortchanged by oil and gas companies in the royalties that they are paying to the Federal Government ("Firms Harvesting Energy from Public Lands May Owe U.S."). Jack Grynberg, a plaintiff in a false claims action against seventy-three energy and pipeline companies, was featured in the article. Based on his expertise, the legislation I am introducing asks the National Academy of Engineering to conduct a study regarding improving the accuracy of collection of royalties on production of oil, condensate, and natural gas under leases of both onshore and offshore Federal lands and onshore Indian lands.

These valuable resources are owned by the American people, who should be fairly and accurately compensated. I believe that this study would prove invaluable in accomplishing this important goal and will tell us if there is a problem, including the extent of the problem, with the collection of royalties from Federal lands and Indian lands.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF POINT ARENA, CALIFORNIA

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church in Point Arena.

St. Paul's was the first Protestant church on the rural and relatively isolated south Mendocino coast. It started out with 24 parishioners and was led by Rev. David H. Haskin as its first pastor. In 1906 it was consecrated as a Methodist church.

Tragically, on April 18th, 1906, a fire occurred in the aftermath of the San Andreas earthquake and destroyed the original St. Paul's Church and elementary school. With the support of its community, the church and elementary school were quickly rebuilt.

Three items were rescued from the fire: the organ, two rectory chairs and the pulpit, all of which still grace the sanctuary. The most interesting item rescued was a unique, hand-carved pulpit made of three simulated Bibles. Mr. Ole Jensen, a church member and immigrant from Denmark, who was trained to make figureheads for ships, created it.

St. Paul's Church has enriched the lives of its parishioners and fellow community members through weekly religious services and an elementary school. The church is a pillar of the community on the coast.

Mr. Speaker, we honor this church for its contributions to the community and the continued resilience of its parishioners. It has been a welcoming haven and example of community strength since its original founding. It is appropriate at this time that we recognize St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church on its 100th anniversary.

FREEDOM FOR EFRÉN FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ

### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Efrén Fernández Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernández is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an opponent of the tyranny in Havana. In March of 2003, Mr. Fernández was arrested as part of an abhorrent island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists who were calling for the most basic of human rights for Cuba. His participation in a collection of signatures in support of a call for some elemental rights for Cubans was all that the communist regime needed to incarcerate him.

In a sham trial, Mr. Fernández was sentenced to 12 years in the totalitarian gulag. He has endured numerous prison transfers and solitary confinements based only on his captors' whims and arbitrary reasons. Since his "sentencing", he has managed to survive against all odds in the most deplorable of human conditions. Mr. Fernández' bravery and commitment to freedom has not wavered even though since his unjust incarceration he has lost more than thirty pounds and suffers from frequent fits of vomiting and chronic intestinal problems.

According to Carta de Cuba, on September 7, 2006, Mr. Fernández was administered antibiotics intravenously for an unidentified bacterial infection affecting his kidneys. Immediately following that treatment, Mr. Fernández fainted and complained of experiencing severe heart palpitations and arterial tension.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Fernández is languishing in the totalitarian gulag simply for believing that every Cuban citizen has the fundamental right to live in freedom with the most basic of human rights and protections of their individual liberties. He suffers the consequences, no matter how brutal or at what risk to his health, and continues his dignified struggle for freedom on that oppressed island.

It is unconscionable that a mere ninety miles from our shores, men and women are suffering in the darkness of totalitarian repression. Mr. Speaker, this constitutes a crime against humanity. Mr. Fernández's only crime is to demand that basic human rights be restored to the people of Cuba.

It is incumbent on all of us who serve in this great democratic body to recognize and remember the terrible plight of those brave men and women like Mr. Fernández who suffer the living nightmare of despotic totalitarianism. Let us all join in demanding the immediate release of Efrén Fernández Fernández and all political prisoners in Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EEEVE LEWIS

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, I