

proved to be an invaluable member in support of the city's police force. Recognizing her abilities, the police department trusted Margaret with further responsibilities, and through the 1980's Margaret served her community with distinction as Emergency Radio Dispatcher.

More recently, Margaret has benefited the Tucson community by volunteering as Reserve Deputy of the Pima County Sheriff's Department, in addition to her duties as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Her dedication to the well-being of the residents of Tucson makes her an outstanding citizen and public servant, and I am honored to recognize her efforts.

RETIREMENT OF DR. LINDA J. FURIGA OF THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Linda J. Furiga, who will retire from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on January 3, 2007. Her distinguished government career spans 40 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon herself and upon the organizations with which she has served. Her contributions to the National Defense will be missed as she moves on to new opportunities.

Dr. Furiga is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has received numerous awards during her 40-year career. Most recently, Dr. Furiga was recognized for her outstanding service with the President's Distinguished Rank Award.

She began her civil service career as a Secretary Stenographer with the Air Force in 1967. With great drive and determination, Dr. Furiga quickly transitioned to a professional career field in financial management with the Defense Logistics Agency.

Dr. Furiga has since held numerous financial management positions in DLA and was also briefly the Director for Resource Management at the Defense Acquisition University. On July 7, 1997, Dr. Furiga became the DLA Comptroller and served in this capacity until her retirement.

As Dr. Furiga transitions from her role as a key financial leader in the Department of Defense to other pursuits, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Furiga on her retirement. Her dedication and service to the Federal Government is a model for others to follow, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. ANSON ELLIOTT

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, for being named the Agriculture Leader of the Year by the Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program. He has

dedicated 38 years to not only being a leader himself, but mentoring many of today and tomorrow's agricultural leaders.

As head of the MSU Department of Agriculture, Anson oversees seven undergraduate comprehensive degree programs and collaborates on the administration of three Masters Degree programs. Additionally, Anson is responsible for the budgets of three off campus agriculture centers and has budgetary responsibilities for various foundation accounts including oversight of private, public and foundation grants. Anson has several publications, including a chapter in an American Society of Agronomy book on the hybridization of crops. In addition to administrative responsibilities, Dr. Elliott teaches three classes on a yearly basis and serves as an advisor to student organizations.

Anson Elliott is making a difference in America's agricultural community. As an advisor and a friend of mine, it gives me great pleasure to offer these words of congratulations to a true leader in Missouri agriculture.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT LOCKWOOD, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in joyful remembrance of the life and work of Robert Lockwood, Jr., a giant of Delta blues, whose music and spirit will leave a lasting legacy in Cleveland, his hometown since 1961.

Born in Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, Robert Lockwood, Jr., began playing the guitar at the age of 11. Under the tutelage of master bluesman Robert Johnson, Lockwood was playing professionally by the age of 15.

Over time, Lockwood developed a unique musical style of his own, going beyond the Mississippi Delta Blues he mastered as a youth. Two of his albums, "I Got to Find Me a Woman" and "Delta Crossroads" were nominated for Grammy Awards. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the National Heritage Fellowship presented to him by HILLARY CLINTON in 1995, two National Blues Music Awards from the Blues Foundation, induction into the Blues Hall of Fame, and honorary doctorates from Case Western Reserve and Cleveland State Universities.

Home of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland's diverse cultural community thrives on music and art. Robert was a regular performer for years in the popular Fat Fish Blue, a blues-themed restaurant and bar in Cleveland, and in venues all over the city. Robert's infectious music and hypnotic finger-picking has left an indelible stamp on Cleveland as well as a whole musical genre.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and legacy of Robert Lockwood, Jr., protege to Robert Johnson, mentor to B.B. King, and entertainer to generations of fans. His soulful blues and personality will live on in our hearts.

CONGRATULATING ASHLEY BYRD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ashley Byrd for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the Nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the State.

As a senior at Denton Ryan High School in the 26th District of Texas, Ashley manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. Ms. Byrd has led the Lady Raiders to their first playoff berth since 2000, and was named the District 4-5A Most Valuable Player.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Ashley Byrd and wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. This measure will empower Native American tribes, organizations, and colleges as they seek to preserve Native languages and cultures.

In many Native American communities, Native languages are disappearing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will bolster the effort to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. In fact, the legislation requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Native American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is our intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also our intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental

permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. All parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and this bill provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND TITLE 17, UNITED
STATES CODE

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, and I introduce a bill to amend Section 119 of Title 17 of the United States Code. This modest, consumer-focused measure would simply allow a court to accept a negotiated settlement between parties to a lawsuit in which it is alleged that a satellite television provider has engaged in copyright infringement by providing the signals of out-of-market television stations to ineligible homes.

I, like many of our colleagues, have been flooded with phone calls over the last several weeks from concerned constituents who subscribe to EchoStar's DISH network satellite television service. They are upset and confused because their access to the signals of out-of-market network television stations was suddenly cut off, and many of them are now unable to receive any network television service from DISH. Many of the affected households are in rural and underserved areas with a limited choice of alternative video programming providers to turn to. In my district alone, thousands of people have lost service, and nationwide, 800,000 are affected.

The Satellite Home Viewer Act (SHVA), which was enacted with my support in 1988, allows residents to receive by satellite the network signals they cannot receive over-the-air from their local broadcast television stations. As a result, thousands of Southwest Virginians and millions of Americans who cannot view local television signals over the air today receive by satellite ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC network channels that originate from markets outside of their own communities. In some areas of the United States, particularly in mountainous regions like Southwest Virginia, a home may be predicted to receive a strong over-the-air signal from a local television station but not actually get a quality picture. Receipt of good local television signals is effectively blocked by obstructions between viewers' homes and the local station. These households have come to depend on the distant network channels for important news and emergency information, as well as network programming. Without SHVA, millions of Americans, particularly those in remote areas, would be denied network television programming.

Since December 1, 2006, EchoStar's DISH network has been prohibited by a permanent injunction from providing out-of-market signals to any of its subscribers due to violations of SHVA. The court which enjoined EchoStar also rejected a settlement negotiated by EchoStar and affiliates of the ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC networks which would have avoided

mass consumer disruption by allowing DISH to continue to provide most out-of-market channels. I am deeply disappointed that the court found that it could not accept the settlement, an outcome which was acceptable to the defendant and four of five plaintiffs in the case and which would not have prevented the fifth plaintiff from availing itself of the remedies provided by statute. In virtually any other lawsuit, the parties may settle at any time, even after the jury or judge has rendered its decision. I am gravely concerned that the result of the court's action has been a denial of network programming to hundreds of thousands of households located primarily in remote areas.

The simple, straightforward measure we introduce today would merely clarify that the court has the option of accepting a settlement between the parties to a distant signal copyright infringement lawsuit. It would enable the court to protect consumers, who are the true victims here, from the abrupt cutoff of all network television service. The ability to receive network television programming is important to Southwest Virginians, and I am committed to assuring its availability by satellite throughout my district.

I therefore urge my colleagues to protect rural households by adopting this measure and clarifying that a court may adopt a settlement to which the parties in a lawsuit have agreed.

WELCOME TO FIRST LADY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, MRS.
MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the new co-chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, it is a privilege to join with my good friend, the gentleman from Texas and fellow co-chairman SOLOMON ORTIZ, to welcome to Washington, DC, the first lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva.

We welcome Mrs. Aliyeva as a member of the Azerbaijan parliament—Milli Majlis—and as chairperson of the United States-Azerbaijan Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.

This week, Mrs. Aliyeva and a delegation of parliamentarians from Azerbaijan are meeting with Members of Congress and administration offices to further reinforce understanding of Azerbaijan and encourage dialogue between Congress and the Milli Majlis.

Members of the parliamentary delegation include: Gultakin Haciyeva, New Azerbaijan Party; Ganira Pashayeva, Independent; Evda Abramov, Independent; Malahat Hasanova, New Azerbaijan Party; and Ali Huseynov, New Azerbaijan Party. Also part of the delegation is Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, a former ambassador from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States.

We thank our distinguished colleagues for their visit and encourage continued support of the Inter-Parliamentary Working Group and coordination with the Republic of Azerbaijan, one of our important strategic allies.

TRIBUTE TO KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the country of Kazakhstan on the occasion of its 15th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. Kazakhstan has been at the crossroads of trade and empires for centuries along the ancient Silk Road, and today plays an increasingly important role in the stability and security of the Central Asian region, and of our world.

I had the privilege of visiting Kazakhstan along with Congressman JIM MCDERMOTT, Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY and former member Don Bonker in January of this year to see first hand the accomplishments that have been made since 1991. While in Kazakhstan we spent considerable time with members of the President's Cabinet and the current speaker of the senate, Nurtai Abykayev learning about current work going on in their country and their endeavors in making Kazakhstan a real leader in Asia and the world.

In the first few years after independence, Kazakhstan successfully rid itself of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and closed the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, an unwanted legacy from the U.S.S.R., and continues to be a model for the global community. In 2005, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution congratulating Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of the removal of all nuclear weapons from the country and commended Kazakhstan-U.S. cooperation in this sphere as a "model." Earlier this year, this House unanimously adopted resolution 905 congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world's second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Kazakhstan condemned the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and has been a staunch supporter of the U.S. led international coalition against global terrorism since. Kazakhstan provides free overflight rights and a major international airport for U.S. and coalition aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan works with the international community to bring peace and stability to Iraq following the U.S. led campaign to end Saddam Hussein's regime. Kazakh military engineers in that country have destroyed more than 4 million pieces of ordnance since 2003.

On a visit to Astana in 2005, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Today, Kazakhstan is poised and ready to break a path for a new Silk Road, a great corridor of reform . . . A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will once again energize the global transmission of learning, and trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. This nation has a glorious past and it is destined for a hopeful future. Kazakhstan's greatest days lie ahead of it. And the United States wants to be your partner."

During his 2006 visit to Washington President Nazarbayev and President George W. Bush signed a joint statement which says, "We are satisfied with the progress made by