

county as a citizen and a businessman. In 2003, he received the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Walton M. Vines Free Enterprise Award. Additionally, R.C. was a founding member of the Gulf Shores Golf Club and served as chairman of the Gulf Shores Utility Board. His contributions to Baldwin County and the state of Alabama will be long remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

R.C. Craft loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 56 years, Jane Wingo Craft; his son, Robert Craft; his sister, Janie Johnson; two grandchildren; as well as countless friends and admirers that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID  
HUGHEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Hughey for his continued dedication and volunteer work to his community.

This year, David was named Volunteer Supervisor of the Year at the Interagency Volunteer Recognition Program Ceremony. He was nominated for the award by Lake Mead National Recreation Area Superintendent Bill Dickinson for his dedication to the volunteer program, park visitors, and the recreation area in general. The program is coordinated by employees from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service, aimed at improving and maintaining public lands in Southern Nevada.

David supervises about 25 volunteers and has helped the volunteer program grow throughout the years. He is known for treating his volunteers with respect and kindness while maintaining his post. He holds weekly staff meetings in order to keep everyone informed, organizes monthly recognition barbecues for the volunteers, ensures that they have the proper training and tools necessary, and allows himself to be available to his volunteers at all times.

Maintenance around the park is a high priority for David. He's involved with several of the beach and park clean up events, including the Great American Clean-Up, National Public Lands Day, Eagle Scouts Projects, and other corporate and civic group sponsored public service works. David and volunteers also help rake the campgrounds, work on irrigation systems, plant and prune trees, and provide information to visitors about the park. Not only does he do this, but he also coordinates the day-to-day maintenance work of paid employees and volunteers. "We are fortunate to have dedicated employees like David Hughey on our staff," said Superintendent Dickinson.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Mr. David Hughey for his selfless devotion and undying enthusiasm to his staff and

to the community that frequents his park. I commend him for all his efforts and wish him luck with all his future endeavors.

HONORING MAJOR DAVID HAN

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Major David Han upon his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 22 years of dedicated service. Major Han is a constituent who lives in Ashburn, Virginia. He spent 12 years as an enlisted Marine and another 10 years as an officer, completing assignments across the country, including his last assignment in our Nation's capital.

During Major Han's last 2 years of service in Washington, DC, he has been the administration officer in the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity he was able to support members of Congress and congressional committees, working on issues related to the Marine Corps and national security. During this time, Major Han volunteered to deploy to Iraq, serving with II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward at Camp Fallujah. While at Camp Fallujah he served as a protocol officer, coordinating, planning, and executing over 150 visits to USMC units in Iraq by generals, foreign dignitaries, congressional delegations, the vice president, and the secretary of defense.

These assignments are only a small glimpse of Major Han's many accomplishments as a Marine. I have no doubt that Major Han has made a lasting contribution in the capability of today's Marine Corps and has helped to shape the future of the Marines. His performance and dedication to duty over his 22-year career has been exemplary. I want to take this opportunity to wish him, his wife Cassandra, and two daughters, Anna and Madeleine, all the best as he retires from the Marine Corps. *Semper Fi!*

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF FIRST HOUSES,  
THE BIRTHPLACE OF PUBLIC  
HOUSING IN THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to First Houses, the first public housing development in the United States. This year, the New York City Housing Authority is celebrating the 70th anniversary of First Houses and the worthy ideals which it symbolizes.

By creating the New York City Housing Authority seven decades ago, the leaders of our Nation's greatest metropolis launched an ambitious initiative to improve the lives of America's least privileged members by providing affordable housing that met high standards of sanitation, health and safety. The first fruit of that noble undertaking, the watershed First Houses development, was created by rehabilitating a series of tenements built in 1846.

For the first time in American history, First Houses proved that government could provide a practical remedy to the shortage of decent affordable housing confronting citizens of low and moderate incomes. By removing every third building of those original tenements to expand light, air, and open space, combining backyards, and constructing a welcoming common courtyard and recreational area, those visionary civic leaders created in First Houses a vibrant and livable public housing development that became a model for the Nation.

In a tribute to the momentous achievement marked by the opening of First Houses, the inaugural celebration of the complex was attended by two great New Yorkers and great Americans, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

Today, the approximately 174 authorized residents of First Houses live in eight attractive four- and five-story buildings located on 1.23 acres of land lying between East 2nd and East 3rd Streets and Avenue A and First Avenue on Manhattan's Lower East Side in New York's Fourteenth Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent in this House.

Indeed, as is fitting for New York, traditionally a beacon of progressive ideals of social reform, First Houses also marked the first housing initiative of the newly founded New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the oldest public housing agency in the continent of North America. Throughout its history, the NYCHA has also been the largest public housing authority on the continent. Today it administers 344 public housing developments containing 2,686 buildings housing approximately 412,281 authorized residents in 179,025 different apartments. Today, more than one in twenty New Yorkers lives in public housing managed by the NYCHA, enough to constitute the population of the Nation's 44th largest city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic 70th anniversary of First Houses, in congratulating Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez for their dedication to maintaining and expanding New York City's affordable housing, and in recognizing the tremendous contributions to the people of the city of New York and our Nation made by the hard-working men and women of the New York City Housing Authority throughout its proud 70-year history.

CONGRATULATING J.W. SALES  
FOR 51 YEARS OF AUTOMOBILE  
SALES IN MONROEVILLE, ALA-  
BAMA

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. J.W. Sales on 51 years of automobile sales and to recognize Sales Ford in Monroeville, Alabama, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

J.W. Sales has been a vital member of the Monroeville, Alabama, community all of his life. He began his career selling automobiles in Mobile in 1954. In 1966, he purchased the

Ford dealership in Monroeville, and he opened Sales Ford Lincoln Mercury in Grove Hill in 2002.

In addition to his professional successes, J.W. has long been an active supporter of numerous community organizations. He served as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis and was one of the seven trustees on the Kiwanis International Board of Directors.

He is also active in the Monroeville Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of directors of the University of Mobile. J.W. has also been an active deacon of the First Baptist Church in Monroeville.

Mr. Speaker, I commend J.W. Sales for his long-standing commitment to the community and for his many professional achievements. I know his wife, Wendy, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and in celebrating this latest milestone.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FRED  
RANGLES

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of recognizing a dear friend of mine. Reverend Fred Randles of Sulphur Springs, who is retiring as minister of music after serving the church and community for the past 25 years.

Reverend Randles has dedicated his life to making music, for which he has received certificates of appreciation from 4 U.S. Presidents and the U.S. Congress. Additionally, the governments of Cozumel, Mexico, Bahamas, and the entertainment division of Disney World have recognized him.

His youth choirs have toured extensively, singing throughout the U.S. and in Ireland, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Bahamas as well as on a number of cruise ships. The youth choir under his direction has also appeared on Good Morning America and the Early Show on CBS.

Reverend Randles also has enjoyed many achievements with the senior adult choir known as the Silvertone Choir. Under his direction, this group has recorded for Benson Music Company and performed at a variety of conventions and conferences. They have had the privilege to perform at conferences in Glorieta, New Mexico; Ridgecrest, North Carolina; and Williamsburg, Virginia.

A particularly noteworthy accomplishment is Rev. Randles' assistance in originating the Northeast Texas Symphony in conjunction with Sarah Smith, Scott York, and others from Texas A&M Commerce. This symphonic group performed its first concert at First Baptist Church and has grown considerably with his assistance.

Reverend Randles has been asked to conduct funeral services of more than 1000 people and officiate, sing for or do both at the wedding ceremonies of more than 200 couples. He has also provided music for a variety of functions, including the Dairy Festival, the annual Hospital Christmas Tree lighting, baseball games, and area worship services.

Reverend Randles is married to Jane and they have one daughter, Natalie, who is mar-

ried to Darren Brown. Olivia Brown is their granddaughter and a second grandchild is on the way.

Due in no small part to Natalie's violin playing, Jane has worked to bring a beginning strings program to the Sulphur Springs I.S.D. This program has brought orchestral music to the lives of children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity.

Rev. Randles has made a lasting contribution to his community, and in celebrating his retirement, I join his family, church, and friends in expressing appreciation for the many ways he has shared his music, faith, and fellowship. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rev. Fred Randles for his many years of service and wishing him well in his retirement years.

DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, 2006, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Democratic Pacific Union was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. The ceremony drew 76 dignitaries from 23 countries, including the presidents and vice presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palau.

The Democratic Pacific Union's goal is to promote democracy and encourage cooperation among its 28 member democracies. So far, the Union has planned regular regional meetings in the East and the West Pacific regions, initiated the Pacific Economic Advisory Group and the Pacific Congressional Caucus, established a training program for typhoon and flood disaster reduction, offered scholarships for students to study in Taiwan, planned a Pacific university network in Taiwan, and invited women to Taiwan to discuss women issues in the Pacific region.

On December 8–10, the Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus will be holding a special symposium in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium will examine critical issues such as the legislature and democracy, the legislature and electoral process, and the legislature and campaign finance. Fifty or more legislators from DPU's member states will be invited. U.S. lawmakers are especially welcome to attend this symposium.

We should give encouragement to the leaders of the Democratic Pacific Union by endorsing its goals for democratic and economic cooperation in the Pacific region. I am certain that the Union will attract more members and win even wider international attention and recognition in the months and years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUTTON AREA COMMUNITY, INC.

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, for three decades, Sutton Area Community, Inc., has

served as the voice of New Yorkers residing on the East Side of Manhattan between 52nd and 59th Street, from Second Avenue to the East River. Founded to maintain and improve the quality of life in that historic neighborhood, Sutton Area Community (SAC) has united area residents on a myriad of concerns and its ranks now include over 2000 dues-paying members. On October 22nd, SAC celebrated its thirtieth anniversary at the internationally renowned Perigord restaurant, at which its members honored their community's extraordinarily dedicated and effective representative in the New York State Assembly, the Honorable Jonathan Bing.

The dedicated members of Sutton Area Community, currently led by the estimable Mary Clare Bergin, have been at the forefront of efforts the surrounding community. Its volunteers have spearheaded local beautification initiatives. Thanks to the tireless efforts of SAC's members, seasonal planting and iron fence tree enclosures have been installed between Sutton Place and Second Avenue, and dozens of trees have been planted on and around First Avenue. In addition, SAC members serve as conscientious caretakers of three "pocket" parks at 54th, 57th and 58th streets. The carefully maintained greenery and flowers have created a ripple effect, inspiring owners and residents of neighboring buildings to make improvements to their own landscaping, making a community already renowned for its quiet elegance a charm an even more idyllic oasis for residents and visitors alike.

The tranquil quality of life of Sutton Place and its environs is rendered even more remarkable for its proximity to midtown Manhattan, the most bustling and thriving commercial district in the entire United States. A constant concern for Sutton Area Community residents is the considerable traffic congestion due to the neighborhood's close proximity to the Queensborough Bridge and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive. After the New York City Department of Transportation made an ill-considered decision to close the 48th street ramp onto the FDR Drive, forcing over tens of thousands of motorists onto local streets, SAC worked with elected officials and civic organizations to overturn this ill-considered decision. Their persuasive and persistent lobbying ultimately won the day, and the ramp was reopened.

In addition, the members of Sutton Area Community successfully fought a proposal to eliminate local bus stops. Such a move would have had very negative consequences on the neighborhood's significant population of seniors, and I was pleased to be joined with SAC members, other elected officials and Manhattan Community Board 6 to urge successfully that the bus stops be restored. It is a testament to SAC and the strength of their organization that the stops remained in place.

Armed with the knowledge that clean and safe streets are keys to maintaining the quality of life in an intense urban environment, SAC works closely with the 17th Precinct of the New York Police Department. Its members have formed one of the largest groups of volunteer "blockwatchers" in New York City. SAC also has contracted with the Doe Fund, a not-for-profit organization that provides jobs for the homeless, to improve sweeping and sanitation of the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting the tremendous