

kind of solid footing it takes to continue their education. Research shows that students who transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year college or university are often more successful than those who start at a four-year institution.

As a society we need to applaud the accomplishments of two-year college graduates and encourage baccalaureate institutions to accept transfer students who have proved they can be successful students.

In the long run, junior and community colleges not only help students gain confidence in their ability to learn, but they also provide them a foundation for achieving better jobs.

The potential ripple effect on the economy is obvious. As the world becomes flatter and we're faced with new global competition, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that future generations of Americans enjoy a standard of living that matches or surpasses our own.

A strong system of junior and community colleges with stepped-up support—financial or otherwise—from business leaders, legislators, and educators can go a long way toward making that goal achievable.

If junior and community colleges win, we all win.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DEMARIS MARSH

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of DeMaris Marsh of Brandon, Florida, a tireless advocate for America's seniors. Dee's passing last week is a tremendous loss to our community.

Dee devoted countless hours to helping improve the lives of seniors. She was an extremely dedicated volunteer for the AARP, serving the organization and its members in numerous ways. She volunteered as State Director of the AARP in Arkansas and served on the AARP National Legislative Council and the Florida State AARP Legislative Council.

As a Member of Congress, Dee was an invaluable resource to me because she was a strong voice for Florida's seniors. As a member of my Long Term Care Advisory Board, Dee provided important insight into many of the issues and federal programs affecting seniors. I know she advised numerous other legislative and political officials as well.

Dee was also committed to providing direct assistance to her fellow seniors. She taught AARP Driver Safety courses and volunteered as an AARP Tax-Aide counselor, helping seniors complete their federal tax forms. Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida's Grassroots and Community Outreach Manager said it best, "Dee Marsh was a wonderful human being, an impassioned advocate for Floridians 50 and older, and a devoted volunteer for AARP. Through her many years of advocacy efforts, she was a part of helping improve the lives of millions of older Americans. We at AARP Florida will miss her kind heart, sharp mind and gracious Southern charm."

I too will miss Dee and her devotion to helping legislators, like me, better serve the needs of our community. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Dee's family.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on December 5 and 6, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 524, 525, 526 and 527. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to as amended, H. Res. 1070; a motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1176; a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6099; and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1082.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 524 and 527, and "nay" on rollcall votes 525 and 526.

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#### CONGRATULATING HASBROUCK HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ON RECEIVING A PACEMAKER AWARD

### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the dedicated students and faculty at Hasbrouck Heights High School who have made The Pilot's Log an award-winning and exemplary newspaper year after year.

This November, students earned top honors from the National Scholastic Press Association by capturing a Pacemaker Award—the third in four years. Widely considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism, this award is a testament to the outstanding writing, photography, layout, and management skills that students learn at Hasbrouck Heights High School. Journalism is a difficult profession and learning to meet deadlines and juggle priorities is challenging at any age.

I am extremely proud of the 2006 Pilot's Log editorial staff: Matthew Connors, Wade Friedel, Harvir Kaur, Brielle Marino, Joseph Marino, Kaitlin Olcott, Russell Piazza, Prachi Prachi, Nishit Raval, Robert Spindler, Caitlyn J. Walsh, and Nicole Weingartner. I also applaud their teachers and families, who encouraged and helped them along the way. Pilot's Log advisers Lora Geflic and Gary Pankiewicz deserve special recognition for the quality of their teaching.

It is an honor to represent so many individuals dedicated to the values and ideals of journalism. I am especially pleased that a Pacemaker Award has gone to a student newspaper written, printed, and distributed in my own Congressional District. I again offer my congratulations to the award-winning students and teachers at Hasbrouck Heights High School for the consistent, first-rate reporting in The Pilot's Log. Keep up the good work!

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor MIKE OXLEY, a man who will be greatly missed in this House. Not only does he have more friends in this chamber than nearly anyone else, he has compiled one of the most distinguished legislative records in this body.

I have had the privilege of knowing MIKE for more than thirty years going back to when we served together in the Ohio Legislature and he has been a good friend to have over that entire period of time.

In Congress, MIKE has not only been involved in the issues of the day, he has been a good athlete and has led his colleagues in pursuing healthful activities. He was Chairman of the Gym Committee. In College, we used to think that anyone who became a three letter man was something special. MIKE has been a three letter man here and much more. He was the manager of the Republican Congressional Baseball, Basketball and Golf teams and compiled a great record of victories.

His record of legislative accomplishments is a long one. With a great ability to reach across the aisle, MIKE OXLEY helped calm the financial markets during a period of great turmoil. Sarbanes-Oxley was the most sweeping reform to our securities laws in 70 years and helped bring an era of corporate scandal to an end. Other successes during MIKE's tenure at the helm of the Financial Services Committee include deposit insurance reform, regulatory relief for banks and thrifts, tireless work on reforms for the government sponsored enterprises, and tremendous work on providing opportunities for increased homeownership.

As MIKE OXLEY leaves to enter another phase of his life, we wish both he and his wonderful wife Pat the very best.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON SCHOOL

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate the Lyndon Baines Johnson Public School 151K, located in Brooklyn, New York, on its centennial anniversary. Since its inception, Lyndon Baines Johnson School has maintained a standard of academic excellence, thereby enriching the lives of elementary schoolchildren throughout Bushwick.

Originally known as Public School 151K, Lyndon Baines Johnson School exemplifies Bushwick's historical dedication to establishing a community-oriented school system. Its name honors the significant achievements of President Lyndon Baines Johnson—from fighting poverty and promoting urban renewal to investing in education and social programs. It is ultimately through upholding the legacy of its