

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KROEGER WINS FOOT LOCKER HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it is not everyday a Member of Congress gets the opportunity to proclaim they have a national champion attending school in their district. I rise today to congratulate Kathy Kroeger, a student at Independence High School in Thompson Station, Tennessee, for winning the 2006 Foot Locker High School Cross Country National Championship.

"The Beast," as she is commonly called for her consistent domination over her cross-country opponents, is a two-time defending Class AAA State champion and holds multiple State records.

Kathy recorded a time of 17:29, several seconds ahead of her closest competitor during the National Championship in San Diego. In 2005, Kathy came in a very respectable 16th place.

Winning a national championship is not an easy feat in any sport. You must be committed to constantly improving yourself, have a great support system around you, and have the determination and drive to compete. Kathy has all of the above factors, which lead her to winning the championship.

We look for many good things to come from Kathy in the future; whether on the course, in school, or out in the world, I wish her all the best.

SEMPER FIDELIS, A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN R. KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and pleasure that I rise to recognize Corporal Jason L. Dunham, United States Marine Corps. Corporal Dunham will posthumously receive our Nation's highest award for valor on January 11, 2007 from our 43rd President, George W. Bush.

Corporal Dunham grew up in Scio, New York. He was known for his prowess in baseball, basketball, and soccer at Scio Central School. He was also well-known throughout his entire community, not just for his good-natured pranks, but for being a young man of enthusiastic yet humble spirit, someone who genuinely cared for others and who could always be counted on if someone was in need. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 2000, because the Marines were known to have the toughest training, but also the strongest brotherhood. He also felt a personal challenge to complete basic training and to do it well.

Following his first duty assignment with Marine Corps Security Forces in Kings Bay, Georgia, Corporal Dunham was assigned to Fourth Platoon, Kilo Company, Third Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division. Having quickly proven himself as a capable and conscientious leader, Corporal Dunham was assigned as a Squad Leader and entrusted with the training, welfare, and lives of nine American Sons. He soon earned a reputation for his unwavering commitment to his fellow Marines. He had a caring, respectful, and humane style of leadership and believed above all in leadership by example.

On 14 April 2004, while conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah in Al Anbar province, Corporal Dunham and his men heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt two kilometers to the west. Their Battalion Commander's patrol had been ambushed while enroute to visit Lima Company at Camp Husaybah, right on the Syrian border. Realizing that his unit was in a position to assist, Corporal Dunham ordered the vehicles of his Combined Anti-Armor Team to link up with his dismounted squad and advance toward the engagement to provide reinforcement. Upon reaching the site of the ambush, they were quickly barraged with enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered the vehicles dismounted and led one of his fireteams into the village to neutralize the ambush. After having moved several blocks south into the village, they discovered seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart to the east. Corporal Dunham ordered his Marines to block their movement and check the vehicles for insurgents. As he approached the second vehicle in the column, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. In the ensuing hand-to-hand struggle, Corporal Dunham wrestled the Iraqi insurgent to the ground and immediately noticed that the insurgent was holding a live grenade. Corporal Dunham alerted his fellow Marines, and aware of the imminent danger but without hesitation, he removed his helmet and covered the grenade, absorbing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his fellow Marines from the blast in a selfless act of bravery that most certainly saved the lives of two of his Marines.

By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of certain death, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. Corporal Jason L. Dunham epitomizes the selfless devotion to duty that our young men and women have displayed time and time again in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and numerous other places around the world. Our Nation is blessed to have a military full of Corporal Dunhams who are serving with great distinction. My heart goes out to his family, the townspeople of Scio, NY, and the Marines, for they have lost one of America's finest.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANE FAGERSTROM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud Chautauqua County leader. Jane Fagerstrom, born April 1, 1927, to Floyd and Bertha Alden Nelson, passed away on January 6, 2006, at the age of 79. She left behind a legacy for all Chautauqua County residents to be proud of.

A compassionate and dynamic woman, Jane Fagerstrom was a strong leader who had a real desire to help the working people of Chautauqua County. She served her community for over four decades and was a pioneer in the Chautauqua County legislature, serving as the first chairperson between 2000 and 2002.

Jane began her career in 1963 as a secretary for Joe Gerace, Sr., who was a lawyer at the time and also served as supervisor for the town of Busti. When Gerace became the first county executive in 1975, Mrs. Fagerstrom stayed with him and played an integral role in helping run the county's executive branch.

As the former director of Chautauqua's Comprehensive Employment Training Administration, and through her efforts to support the Manufacturing Technology Institute, Jane will be remembered for her efforts to help those without work.

She was also a past president of the Joint Neighborhood Project, a founding member of the Resource Center board of directors, she served on the Research and Strategic Planning Council, the planning committee of the United Way, was commissioner of the Civil Service in Jamestown, was on the advisory committee of Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Volunteer Program, Salvation Army Advisory Board, Board of Trustees of Jamestown Community College and the SALT organization.

Mrs. Fagerstrom was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, John W. Fagerstrom, whom she wed September 21, 1946, and who passed away on November 25, 1997. Surviving her are her three sons, John W. (Ann) Fagerstrom of Jamestown, Jeffrey L. Fagerstrom of Billings, Montana and David A. (Deb) Fagerstrom of Cherry Creek; two granddaughters, Nikki (Kevin) Pierce of Jamestown and Ashley Fagerstrom of Billings; two great-grandchildren, Kal and Addie Pierce; her sister, Dorothy Olson of Jamestown; and several nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of Jane Fagerstrom and remember her contributions to her community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her spirit here today.

• 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.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JACK W. LONG AS HE RETIRES FROM THE DUNCANVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief of Police Jack W. Long as he retires from 30 years of dedicated service to the Duncanville Police Department.

Chief Long graduated from Sunset High School in Dallas, TX, in 1971 and entered the U.S. Army the following year, serving in the military police through 1975. In 1976 he began his career with the Duncanville Police Department and was promoted to Sergeant just 3 years later in 1979. That same year he also obtained an associate's degree from El Centro Community College. In 1981 Long was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1982 he graduated from the Southwestern Law Enforcement Command Management School.

Three years later he graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. In 1993 Long completed the Best Southwest Leadership training and in 1994 he graduated from the 178th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, and also completed graduate work at the University of Virginia that same year.

He has completed more than 2,000 hours of law enforcement training and currently holds a Master Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Chief Long is intimately involved in the community and is a member of many organizations, including the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce, Duncanville Lions Club, and Texas Police Chiefs Association. He has also served as Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Committee, Post 886, and as vice president of the North Texas Police Chiefs Association.

He and his wife, Deborah, have one son named Chad.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Chief of Police Jack W. Long's three decades of distinguished service to the Duncanville Police Department and to the city of Duncanville and its citizens. His contributions will leave an indelible mark and his leadership will be sorely missed. I am proud to serve as his representative in Washington, DC.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF
SERGEANT JESSE CASTRO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, since the birth of our great Nation, there have been true patriots—men and women—always willing and always able to answer the call to arms. Although they realized the risks, their love for home and family and loyalty to the Nation overrode their fears. In the on-going war against terrorism, my island home has lost yet

another son, SGT Jesse Castro, U.S. Army, of Chalan Pago. With a heavy but proud heart, I extend heartfelt condolences and profound sympathy to Jesse's family on behalf of the People of Guam and a grateful Nation. Jesse was a caring son, a loving husband, a devoted father, and a proud American patriot.

Jesse will be remembered by so many people, but he will especially be remembered by his fellow athletes who shared his enthusiasm for sport and adventure. Jesse was a member of Guam's Junior National Baseball team, as well as the Tamuning Eagles and Pepsi Giants football teams. His passion for the mixed martial arts was remarkable and only equaled by his skill and success in the sport, all of which will forever be remembered by his fellow fighters, but especially by those who faced him in the ring. His intensity, dedication and competitive spirit were felt by and known to those who practiced with him for athletic competition and later by the Soldiers who trained with him to protect peace and freedom in the United States Army. Jesse also enjoyed the thrill of off-roading and motorcycling on his Harley-Davidson, passions that further reflected his love of adventure and his free spirit.

But perhaps above all else, Jesse's desire to learn and to serve his people marked him. He was clearly a young and mature community leader, the kind of young man every community hopes to produce and forever embraces. Driven by his sense of duty and public service, he completed the Guam Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Academy. Determined to put his new skills to use and to act on his sense of duty, Jesse would not, however, wait for a vacancy on the police force. He quickly enlisted in the United States Army and set out to serve his country and the cause of freedom.

Ultimately, Jesse's life was a celebration of living life to its fullest. His love for his family, his devotion to his island, and his dedication to his country will forever serve as an inspiration to all who know or hear of Jesse Castro. It is said that there is no greater love than that a man lay down his life for another. Jesse gave his life so that others might some day know the joys of freedom and liberty. Jesse's beautiful wife, Therese, his young infant son, Jesse Jr. and mother, Doring, will forever know that their Jesse lived a life worth living, one marked by dignity, excellence, service, integrity, adventure and love. And while we will all forever miss him, we will all forever celebrate him. I honor him and his family. God Bless Jesse and the Castro family, God Bless Guam and God Bless America.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today to speak in support of the rules changes proposed by our new Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, that will bring enhanced ethics, transparency, and accountability to the House of Representatives. These measures are long overdue, and I applaud our leadership team for making this the first order of business in the 110th Congress.

It has become clear to all Americans that the ethical safeguards here in our Nation's Capital are broken. Rogue lobbyists such as Jack Abramoff were allowed to run amok for years, leaving behind a vast web of corruption in their wake. Wayward Members of Congress were swayed by the offers of expensive gifts, travel, and campaign contributions that came their way. The maintenance of power became more important than responsible government, as we now see in the spiraling budget deficits, tax breaks for specific companies and industries, and legislation inserted into bills in the dark of night.

With our vote here today, we in the people's house say enough is enough. Today we begin to set our ship right and rebuild the trust of the American people.

Today we will prevent lobbyists from buying access and favor from lawmakers. While they will retain their constitutional right to petition government and share valuable information, they will no longer be allowed to buy meals, give gifts, or provide lavish trips. Corporate officials will no longer be able to buy exclusive access by offering the service of their private corporate jets. The powerful Washington elite will now be placed back on a more equal footing with other citizens who cannot afford such luxuries.

Additionally, all House employees will be required to attend annual ethics training to ensure that all members and staff know the rules and agree to follow them.

These changes, along with additional reporting requirements that will be enacted through subsequent legislation and more vigorous oversight by the Ethics Committee, will assure the American public that their elected officials are working for them and not for the special interests.

While some degree of corruption inevitably will always accompany power, these first steps are both valuable and necessary. I sincerely believe in the integrity of this great institution and its ability to live up to the highest expectations of its founding fathers. Those of us in this chamber have been given a tremendous opportunity to do good, and with that comes great responsibility.

It is my great hope that we all may move beyond the transgressions of the past with our sense of duty and our determination restored, and that the American people will once again believe in us. As a nation defined by its democracy, we must accept nothing less.

IN RECOGNITION OF LANCE
CORPORAL CODY GORDON WATSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, LCpl Cody Gordon Watson, 21, of Oxford, Alabama, died on December 6, 2006, in Iraq. Lance Corporal Watson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. His survivors include his mother and father Linda S. and Dennis B. Watson of Anniston, Alabama.

Lance Corporal Watson was known for his upbeat and dedicated spirit. Like all soldiers, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Lance Corporal Watson, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY
LYNE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Beverly Lyne of Boulder, Colorado for her selfless contribution to providing desperately needed medical attention to the people of Uganda. Ms. Lyne's background as a patient education consultant at Longmont United Hospital provided her with a strong foundation from which to offer her services to the developing world. Before volunteering her skills in Uganda, she had worked in the infectious-diseases field for almost twenty years as a registered nurse while also caring for AIDS patients in Boulder County.

Two years ago, an e-mail from one of her former physician associates sparked her interest in setting up a health clinic in Uganda. Lyne partnered with three Canadian nurses to help establish the Learning Empowers Uganda Medical Clinic that now serves more than 30,000 Ugandan men, women, and children. These people had escaped the violence of their homelands and settled in a semi-permanent camp in Soroti often with only the clothes on their back. Prior to Lyne's arrival, hospitals were little more than empty shells, with no supplies and minimal medicine or staff. Today, the same buildings have been transformed into functioning health and education centers, complete with labs and refrigerators for medicine.

Because of the compassion of Beverly Lyne and her colleagues, valuable care is being provided for those most in need. She has made incalculable contributions to advance the quality of life for the Ugandan people and in doing so has made her world a better place in which to live.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Beverly Lyne for her courage and compassion. Within her spirit lays the hope for a better tomorrow. I wish Beverly congratulations for her accomplishments and good health and happiness to both herself and the people she serves.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN CARLOS
HERRERA ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about

Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, a political prisoner totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Herrera Acosta is a tireless advocate for the freedom of Cuba and has dedicated much of his life to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. He believes that every trapped citizen in totalitarian Cuba deserves to live with the most basic and fundamental human rights and protections of individual liberty.

Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta is an independent journalist with the Agencia de Prensa Libre Oriental (APLO) in Santiago, Cuba and national coordinator for the Cuban Youth Movement for Democracy. He was arrested on March 20, 2003, as part of the despicable island-wide crackdown on peaceful human rights activists and independent journalists. In April of 2003, he was wrongfully sentenced on trumped-up charges claiming that he undermined "national independence and territorial integrity" and served the "imperialist ends" of the United States, to 20 years in a hellish totalitarian gulag. In reality his only "crime" was challenging a corrupt, brutal, and repressive system that robs its citizens of every freedom.

Reporters Without Borders reported that on August 29, 2006, Mr. Herrera Acosta was severely beaten and dragged along the prison's corridors by two regime henchmen because he reiterated a demand to be allowed to make a phone call—a right the dictatorship has routinely denied him. According to Directorio, Mr. Herrera Acosta has undertaken numerous hunger strikes while in prison to protest the deplorable, inhumane and degrading conditions in which prisoners of conscience in Cuba are held.

Most recently, in an urgent declaration read aloud to the Cuban Democratic Directorate by Rolando Rodriguez Lobaina, executive member of the Cuban Youth Movement for Democracy, Mr. Herrera Acosta reaffirmed his commitment to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people:

I fight because the light of truth and liberty reaches this land converted into a feudal estate before a Caesar that bleeds her dry. As a dignified son of this country, I am willing to offer my life if it is necessary to defend pacifism, so that peace and concordance would thrive in the land of Varela and Marti. I do not discard the possibility that a clinically induced death, at the hands of the commissars of terror, will truncate my life. But as long as I have strength and my heart is beating, I will continue to fight from inside the monstrous womb of Castro's prisons.

I will never lower myself to bow down, nor will I live on my knees, and as Jose Marti would express, I reiterate: "I want the first law of our Republic to be the respect of Cubans for the plain dignity of man." The price to pay has been very high. Pain, grief, and exile constitute the panacea that is Castro's reign of terror.

But I do not resign to live condemned, I am simply continuing the dignified example of the historical Cuban political prisoners. Freedom for Cuba! God, Country, and Liberty! May human rights thrive and prevail in my country!

Let me be very clear, Mr. Herrera Acosta is imprisoned because he refuses to accept the Castro brothers' dictatorship today. Madam Speaker, Mr. Herrera Acosta is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny.

We must speak out against the abominable violations of human rights, dignity, and free-

dom on that oppressed island. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta and every other political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM T. McLAUGHLIN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of The Honorable William T. McLaughlin, former mayor of Wilmington. Bill McLaughlin has led an extraordinary life, filled with exceptional acts of public service, as well as a strong dedication to my home State of Delaware. He certainly has packed a great deal of accomplishment into his 90 years.

During World War II, Bill flew 50 combat missions in the South Pacific as a tail gunner and radioman. After the war, Bill went to night school under the G.I. Bill and spent his career with the DuPont Company. He spent 58 years married to the late Mary McLaughlin, with whom he raised two fine sons. Bill did not begin his political career until 1964, when he was elected to the city council in an upset victory. After serving as a strong advocate for progressive causes on the council, he was elected as mayor in 1976, and served the city from 1977–1984. I had the privilege of serving as Lieutenant Governor of Delaware during his second term as mayor and enjoyed working with him on many different issues.

The McLaughlin years were prosperous ones for both the city of Wilmington and the State of Delaware. Together with Governor Pete duPont, Bill helped to enact the Financial Center Development Act which brought Delaware to the forefront of the banking industry. Mayor McLaughlin worked tirelessly to protect jobs, attract new employers, and grow the local economy.

Not only was the economy successful during Bill McLaughlin's time, but crime rates declined, city and water systems were improved, and low-income families had increased access to housing. While a tireless worker for the city of Wilmington, the mayor should also be remembered for his sense of humor. One St. Patrick's Day, Mayor McLaughlin made his way down King Street in a green leprechaun costume.

Bill continues to serve as a dignified leader in countless service organizations. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware. I am proud to call him a friend.

HONORING CEDAR HILL HIGH
SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A
DIVISION II FOOTBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the

2006 Cedar Hill High School football team, which on Saturday, December 23, 2006 earned the title of 5A Division II State Champions and finished its storybook season a perfect 16–0.

On that day it was clear to everyone in the Alamodome that the Cedar Hill Longhorns squad deserved the glowing praise it had received all season long from its adoring fans. Under head coach Joey McGuire and his staff, the Longhorns ripped through four playoff opponents before routing the Cypress Falls Golden Eagles 51–17 in the championship game. A balanced team effort prevailed with both the Cedar Hill offense and defense shining brightly throughout the Longhorns' first ever playoff run. Cedar Hill won with discipline, with heart and perhaps most importantly, with class and dignity.

Over the last few years Coach McGuire has developed a special family-like atmosphere between his players and staff that has resulted in a growing sense of camaraderie and purpose. The team's winning attitude surfaced many times during the regular season and playoffs, perhaps most notably in a comeback, doubleovertime victory over district rival DeSoto that showed the true intestinal fortitude of the Longhorns.

Throughout its historic championship run, Cedar Hill represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness and dignity—and its immaculate season will be recounted for generations to come in Southwest Dallas County.

I could not be more proud than to represent Cedar Hill High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2006 season such a memorable one.

IN RECOGNITION OF "LITTLE"
JIMMY SCOTT, RECIPIENT OF
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS JAZZ MASTERS
AWARD

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of "Little" Jimmy Scott, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, located in my congressional district, who will be honored on Friday, January 12, 2007, in New York City with the Jazz Masters Award presented by the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA.

Born in 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio, as one of ten children, Jimmy Scott has been delighting audiences with his vocal talents around the country and around the globe since he was a young man. He began by performing throughout Northeast Ohio, sharing the stage with some of the most famous names in jazz.

He began his solo career at Harlem's Baby Grand, impressing the likes of Billie Holiday and well-known songwriter Doc Pomus. Jimmy Scott's friendship with Doc Pomus began during that stint in Harlem and lasted for 45 years and endured despite long periods away from the microphone. In fact, it was not until Jimmy Scott sang at Doc Pomus' funeral in 1991 that he gained international fame and began to tour around the world. His re-emergence as a singer was heralded by his Grammy-nomi-

nated album, "All the Way," and he has thrilled fans, both young and old, ever since.

Established in 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz Masters Award has recognized numerous jazz artists, ranging from household names to less well-known performers. The 2007 Jazz Masters will be honored with an awards ceremony and concert, a one-time \$25,000 fellowship and a 50–state Jazz Masters Tour. NEA Jazz Masters are selected from nominations from the public and reviewed by a panel of jazz experts before being submitted to the National Council on the Arts and the Chairman of the NEA.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize "Little" Jimmy Scott on being selected as a 2007 Jazz Master and to thank him for—sharing his beautiful voice and boundless talent with fans around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRE-
MENT OF JUDGE SAM MONK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Judge Sam Monk who is retiring after 28 years of service. Judge Monk currently resides as Circuit Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Anniston, Alabama.

Judge Sam Monk graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1975. Prior to law school, Judge Monk served in the United States Army. Judge Monk has worked in both private practice and has served as Presiding Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit, and as District Judge for Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.

Judge Monk will officially retire on January 15, 2007, but a reception in his honor will be held on January 12, 2007, at the Calhoun County Courthouse.

I salute Judge Monk and congratulate him on his service to the legal field over the past 28 years. I wish him all the best on this important occasion.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 6, and commend Speaker PELOSI, the majority leader, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, and the Rules Committee for bringing this comprehensive reform package to the floor. Indeed, with this resolution, the new Democratic majority says with one, clear voice that we are prepared to change the way Congress does business—to make good on our pledge—and restore open, honest government to Congress.

With this legislation, we take the critical steps necessary to preserving the integrity of this institution, its Members and, indeed, the democratic process in this country. This No-

member, the American people, weary from scandal after scandal, said "enough." They said it was time to clean up Washington—to sever ties between lawmakers and lobbyists and elect a Congress engaged in the people's business—in improving people's lives, not 1 in securing perks and privileges for themselves. They want Members of Congress who are accountable for their actions.

With this Congress—and this rules package—that is exactly what they will get. This resolution closes the curtain on an era in which legislation in this body was written not by lawmakers representing their constituents, but lobbyists paid for by special interests. It puts an end to the gifts from those lobbyists—to the free meals, tickets, and the trips and vacations they paid for. It requires complete transparency for any travel paid for by outside groups. And it tells Members of Congress that when they have to fly somewhere, they can do so not on corporate Jets, but on a commercial airline, just like other Americans.

In so doing, this legislation says clearly to the American people, "We are here to do work on your behalf, not ours."

Mr. Speaker, it is a new day in Washington, DC. And with war, budget deficits, and the skyrocketing cost of health care and energy, there is so much we need to do to get this country back on track. But it starts with restoring the public trust in this institution, so that the American people understand that when we cast our votes, we do so with the utmost integrity. That is what this new House rules package ensures, and I am proud to support it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. OFELIA
TABARES-FERNANDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ofelia Tabares-Fernandez for her outstanding contributions to the south Florida community. Both in her professional and private life, Dr. Tabares-Fernandez has dedicated countless hours to enriching our community culturally and economically. I wholeheartedly commend Dr. Tabares-Fernandez for her hard work and dedication on behalf of south Florida.

Through years of hard work spanning three decades, Dr. Tabares-Fernandez consistently proved herself a capable leader and an extraordinarily active volunteer. Her professional successes, of which there are many, include her career as a banker and marketing consultant, college trustee, research associate for the Cuban Research project, and director of the College Center for Latin American Studies.

Dr. Tabares-Fernandez earned many civic distinctions as well. To name only a few, she founded the Cuban Patriotic Education Board and the Cuban Women's Club, where she also served as president, and founded the Spanish Speaking Volunteer Service at Jackson Memorial Hospital. To promote and preserve Cuban culture, she produced and directed a local weekly television show, "Cuban Culture," and founded the Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture. Her contributions have earned her numerous awards including "Outstanding

Woman Citizen of the Year" from Florida International University and the "Community Headliner Award."

The life of Dr. Tabares-Fernandez is an inspiration to us all. I am certain that her children, Pepita, Raul, Jr., Aurelio, Patricia, Cesareo, Maria, Juan, Sheila, Jose, and Ximena, are proud of her as well.

Her professional choices, as well as the projects she has enthusiastically undertaken in her free time, reveal Dr. Tabares-Fernandez's life to be one of tireless public service. Her numerous contributions have helped to make our community the extraordinary multicultural metropolis that it is today. As a result, Dr. Tabares-Fernandez has earned herself a very special place in the rich Cuban-American history of South Florida. Dr. Ofelia Tabares-Fernandez is a true humanitarian whose work has permanently impacted our community in a wonderful way.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE Q. CRISOSTOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CSM George Q. Crisostomo on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army after 28 years of service.

Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo has served our country with distinction both in peacetime and wartime. His exemplary service includes assignments as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Benning, Georgia, and as a Senior ROTC Instructor in Puerto Rico. He served his first combat tour in support of Operation Desert Storm as a Platoon Sergeant while assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 17th Infantry (RAKASSAN), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Most recently, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo served a combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Command Sergeant Major with the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Throughout his Army career, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo distinguished himself as a leader, serving in positions where soldiers relied upon him for guidance, experience, and knowledge. In addition to his leadership assignments in combat and service as an instructor, Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo has served as a Scout Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Company First Sergeant, and Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He was a "soldier's soldier."

Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Meritorious Service Medal. He also earned the Expert and Combat Infantryman badges. Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo received the Korea National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

I wish to recognize the sacrifices and support of Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo's

family, especially his wife, Claire. I also recognize the positive influence that he has had in preparing his children for their futures. His daughter, Jenna Lynn, is now a senior at the University of Arizona, and his son, SGT Joshua D. Crisostomo, is following in his footsteps and is currently serving in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful Nation, we congratulate Command Sergeant Major Crisostomo and his family as he retires from the United States Army, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

MR. AMIGO 2006

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2006 "Mr. Amigo," Lucero Hoganza León, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Like Cher, Ms. León is popularly known only as "Lucero" among her many fans in the U.S. and Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 25–28 and will include parades and appearances by Lucero. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

As Mr. Amigo 2005, Lucero will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future.

Lucero was chosen for this honor based on her accomplishments as an entertainer and her efforts for people with disabilities. Her philanthropic career started in December 1997 when she hosted 27 uninterrupted hours of a telethon to raise money for a rehabilitation center for the handicapped.

While Lucero has won many awards as an entertainer, she has also been named the recipient of the 2002 Double Eagle Leadership

Award. She has recorded 20 albums, including "Ocho Quince," and starred in 6 telenovelas in her career. Currently, she stars in the acclaimed telenovela "Alborada." She co-hosted the seventh annual Latin Grammy Awards in early 2006.

During difficult times in our world, the Mr. Amigo concept unites sister cities on both sides of the border and sends a message that we are neighbors, and mends that trust, understand, and respect each other. We share a language, customs and during Charro Days, we take time to celebrate our distinctive culture.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Lucero, the 2006 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH TERWILLIGER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Terwilliger, one of Marin County's most beloved heroines, an environmentalist who instilled a love of nature in children of all ages. "Mrs. T.," as she was known to all, died on November 27, 2006, at the age of 97.

Her enthusiastic and interactive teaching style made learning about nature especially entertaining and instructive for children and adults alike. This included President Reagan who, along with an audience at a White House Volunteer Action Award ceremony, flapped his arms like "Mr. Vulture" under her guidance. Her irresistible style ranged from mimicking animal behaviors to demonstrations with taxidermied animals, some of which had come via her own freezer. In her trademark straw hat, she led field trips until she was 85, where her call of "Something special!" alerted eager participants to yet another marvel of the natural world.

Mrs. T's long-time passion for the environment had burgeoned when she started hiking to avoid housework in the 1960s. From that, she became committed to inspire the people of the Bay Area to care for the natural world as she did. "People take care of what they love," she claimed.

This mission began with including other housewives, and then their children, on her hikes, as well as leading field trips for her children's schools and clubs. By the late 60s, she was leading volunteer trips 5 days a week for teachers and wildlife organizations and, in 1970, created Terwilliger Nature Guides with other volunteers. In 1975, the Elizabeth Terwilliger Nature Education Foundation was formed; it later merged with the California Center for Wildlife and became WildCare, an organization which today teaches 40,000 Bay Area school children annually.

"WildCare is honored to follow directly in Mrs. T's adventurous footsteps," said Executive Director Karen J. Wilson. "We are all fortunate that her enthusiasm and energy will live on in the generations of children she has inspired. To underscore her Bay Area legacy, WildCare recently named our San Rafael facility in her honor—we have become the Terwilliger WildCare Center."

She was also a tireless advocate for the environment and open space. Her mark is everywhere in Marin County from the establishment of the Butterfly Grove at Muir Beach to creation of countywide bike paths to preservation of Angel Island and countless other conservation efforts.

Born in Hawaii in 1909, Elizabeth Terwilliger attended the University of Hawaii, and then came to the mainland to earn a master's degree at Columbia University and a nursing degree at Stanford. She met her future husband Calvin, an orthopedic surgeon, at Stanford, and they married in 1939. They moved to Marin in 1946. Calvin passed away in 1990. She is survived by their daughter Lynn Ellen, their son John, and grandsons Dana, Ryan, and Sean.

Elizabeth Terwilliger earned numerous well-deserved accolades and awards, but her true legacy is the contagious passion she inspired in children and adults. Everywhere we see people living her watchword, "This is my country. Wherever I go, I will leave it more beautiful than I found it."

Madam Speaker, Mrs. T. truly left this country beautiful, and we thank and honor her for her for it.

ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN PAUL BARTA: SOUTH TEXAN LOST IN IRAQ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, since this House last met before Christmas, another South Texan from my Congressional District has fallen in battle in Iraq, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this life lost in the service of our Nation.

Army SPC John Paul Barta, 25, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Ft. Hood, Texas. He never saw Christmas Eve; he was killed in Buhriz, Iraq, about 30 miles north of Baghdad, during combat operations on Dec. 23.

Madam Speaker, each time we lose a soldier—a member of our American family—we lose a little piece of ourselves. Each time, it is just unbearable. Let me tell you more about this noble patriot who gave the last full measure of devotion to the nation he loved.

An exceptional athlete, Specialist Barta was remembered as a well-mannered and respectful young man. He attended Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi, excelling on both the baseball and football fields.

Throughout his 4-year teenage athletic career, coaches and teammates in both sports knew him as a go-to player who came through even when the odds were long. This star baseball player also gently mentored his teammates. From time to time he was known as a perfectionist.

And while he was a natural competitor depended upon by teammates for the big play, he confided to a friend months ago about the ever-present fear of serving in Iraq. He was humble and he was competitive; precisely the type of person you'd want to wear the sacred uniform of the United States.

Specialist Barta is survived by his wife, Eun Ji, of Killeen; his mother, Laurie Barta, broth-

ers Josh and Billy Ray Barta, and grandparents Adolph Barta, of Corpus Christi, and Jackie and Larry Blake of Milton, FL.

Everyone in the greater South Texas community will miss him, but nobody will miss him like his family. We mourn with this family; we lift up our broken hearts in gratitude to his family, and we all want to see the end of the war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Army SPC John Paul Barta and his service on behalf of the United States and to offer our thanks and our deepest sympathy to the family of this warrior, who gave the last full measure of devotion to our Nation and the United States Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the 70th Anniversary of the Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Montgomery, Alabama. With nearly 425 members, this chapter remains focused and committed to public service and education in the community.

The Montgomery Alumnae Chapter was founded in 1937 on the campus of Alabama State University. Members will gather on Saturday, January 13, 2007, to observe the anniversary event with a luncheon and rededication ceremony. Throughout the decades, Delta Sigma Theta has been and remains committed to what is known as the Sororities Five Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational Development, Political Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and International Awareness and Involvement.

I salute these women and their commitment to philanthropy and wish them the best on this milestone in their chapter. Congratulations to the Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta on their 70th Anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES ROITER SCRIVNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. SKELTON of Missouri. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. James (Jim) Roiter Scrivner of Versailles, MO.

Mr. Scrivner was born in Stover, MO, on May 4, 1926, son of James Oscar and Adelia B. "Della" Roiter Scrivner. He graduated from Stover High School in 1943 and went on to serve his country in World War II with the United States Navy as a surgical technician. He came back to Missouri and attended Central Methodist College, graduating in 1949. In

October 1950, he graduated as valedictorian from the Kansas City College of Mortuary Service in Kansas City, Kansas.

Mr. Scrivner married Bertha M. "Honey" Guenther on September 3, 1949. They were blessed with three wonderful daughters and two granddaughters.

Mr. Scrivner and his wife established the Scrivner Funeral Home in Versailles in January of 1952 and opened additional funeral homes in Stover and Russellville. In 1984, Mr. Scrivner's daughter and son-in-law became partners in the family business and in 2004 assumed full ownership from Jim and Honey.

Along with his successful business, Mr. Scrivner was very active in his community and church. He served as mayor of Versailles from 1972–1979. In 1972 he received the "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Missouri Municipal League and in 1981 was the recipient of an Economic Development Award from the Missouri Division of Commerce and Industrial Development. Mr. Scrivner was also very active with the Versailles Chamber of Commerce, the Morgan County Fair Board, the Versailles Lions Club, and local politics. For the last 10 years, he has served as a volunteer with the Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City. In addition, Jim was a member of the Versailles United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, James Roiter Scrivner was a valuable leader in his church and community and a very dear friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife Honey; his three daughters, Mona, Sherry, and Jamie; and his two grandchildren.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the measures before the House today that will restore civility and fiscal responsibility to our work. These changes to the existing House rules are essential if we are to carry out the American people's wish that we govern wisely, effectively, and in a bipartisan way.

With the votes before us today, Democrats who now find ourselves in the majority are reaching out to the other side of the aisle to assure them that we will not treat you as we were treated while we were in the minority. Through these changes we will make sure that 15-minute votes are not held open for three hours while votes are bought through arm twisting and legislative favors; that conference committees will be open to Republicans as well as Democrats; and that conference agreements cannot be circumvented through the addition of new language after they have been signed. Today we vote for the honesty and openness demanded of us by our constituents and expected in a civil, democratic society.

Today we also vote for fiscal responsibility. For five long years now, this Congress has approved, and the President has signed, budget, spending, and tax bills that have turned an enormous surplus into staggering deficit, adding tremendous burden to our children and grandchildren.

As a member of the budget committee for the last two congresses, I joined my Democratic colleagues in calling for a return to the days of paygo legislation so that all new spending is offset by corresponding reductions or new revenue. It is fitting that in our new majority we take this up as our second order of business. May hardworking families across this Nation understand that from this point forward, Congress will spend your money wisely, using the same budget discipline that you employ each and every day in your spending decisions. The days of deficit spending are coming to an end.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and our entire leadership team for bringing these issues to the floor and moving the 110th Congress in a new direction. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to solve the challenges facing this country. The rules changes before us today will help us do that, and I urge everyone here today to vote in favor of titles 2 and 3 of H. Res. 6.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MARY
LOU PALMER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Western New Yorker and a longtime, dedicated aide to my predecessor in Congress. Mary Lou Palmer of Hamburg, New York, served as chief of staff to my predecessor, former Congressman Jack Quinn, for the entirety of his 12 years in Congress, and did so with dignity, grace, and effectiveness.

Born Mary Lou Brown in our common hometown of South Buffalo, New York, Mary Lou was a devoted wife and mother who ran a successful business here in Western New York. She started in politics as a volunteer and rose to be chief of staff to my predecessor, never forgetting from whence she came, or the people that her boss represented.

Mary Lou was a tremendous help to my own senior staff during the transition period between my predecessor's service in Congress and my own.

It is with great sadness, Madam Speaker, that I announce Mary Lou's passing to the House, and I am certain that our colleagues will join with me in extending to Mary Lou's family our deepest sympathies.

COACH BOB KNIGHT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in West Texas, football has been king since the beginning of time. Other sports were "foreign" to the flat, dry plains. Then somebody from a college in Indiana showed up, with a round ball and changed the Texas sports landscape. Bob "The General" Knight became the head coach of the Texas Tech Red Raiders men's basketball team—yes, basketball. On January 1,

2007, the threshold into a new year, Knight crossed another important threshold—becoming the winningest coach ever in NCAA Division I basketball with a total of 880 victories. This record came in a win, by Texas Tech, over the University of New Mexico Lobos, with a score of 70–68. The previous record holder was Dean Smith, head coach of the University of North Carolina. Coach Knight has made basketball at Texas Tech into a cause and crusade.

A review of Knight's collegiate coaching career is in order. We start where Knight, himself, started—the West Point Military Academy. It was there that Knight earned his first head coaching job at the extraordinarily young age of 24. It was at West Point that Knight earned the nickname "The General." His tenure at West Point produced a basketball record of 102 wins and 50 losses.

After West Point, Knight went on to the basketball state of Indiana, and the University of Indiana Hoosiers, in 1971. Leading the Hoosiers is where the achievements began to pile up in the trophy room. Knight's accomplishments boast three National Championships (1976, 1981, and 1987), a never replicated, undefeated season (1976), eleven Big Ten Conference titles (1973–1976, 1980–1981, 1983, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993), National Coach of the Year (1975, 1976, 1987, 1989), and Big Ten Coach of the Year (1973, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1981). As a Hoosier, Knight averaged a 73% success rate with 662 wins and 239 losses.

Outside of the NCAA national championships, Knight has led teams to three other championships. In 1979, the Hoosiers won the NIT Championship. Also, in 1979, Knight coached the Pan American team to a gold medal. In 1984, Knight had the privilege of leading the U.S. men's basketball team to a Gold Medal at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. On May 13, 1991, Knight was memorialized when he was inducted, for his coaching, in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 2001, Knight accepted the head coach position at Texas Tech and quickly turned the program around into a winning organization. Coach takes ordinary players and teaches them to perform above their ability. We can expect to see the Red Raider's basketball team to continue to excel in the future.

Finally, it is worth noting that Knight's accomplishments extend beyond the court, beyond the victories—He is first and foremost a teacher. High graduation rates mark his teams, and many excellent players, most notably Isaiah Thomas, have gone on to professional and Hall of Fame glory. Also, 16 former assistant coaches of Knight have gone on to become head coaches at the collegiate level.

So, Madam Speaker, as the New Year rings in, I commend Bob Knight for excellence in leadership of America's youth. The West Texas sports landscape has, yes, changed forever.

That's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEROMY
PAUL CASTRO NEWBY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the short life of Jeromy Paul Castro Newby who passed away on January 5, 2007, but whose life inspired many people on our island of Guam. To all who knew him, Jeromy was a cheerful young man whose smile and warmth brightened those around him. He was active in school and village activities and his service to our community is an enduring example for young people on Guam.

A tenth-grader at Southern High School in Guam, Jeromy was an excellent student who earned the appreciation of his teachers and classmates. Jeromy was a competitive athlete, who was respected for both his skill and sportsmanship on the basketball court and baseball diamond. Jeromy was also a performer with the Inetnon Gef Pago, a cultural performance group dedicated to promoting the Chamorro culture through song and dance. Jeromy's love of our island and the Chamorro culture was evidenced by the activities he participated in and the relationships he formed.

Jeromy's memory will be cherished by those whose lives he touched. I join our community in extending heartfelt condolences to his parents, Johnny Reyes and Lynette Castro Newby, his brothers Johnny Lee, Joe Michael, and Jesse Noel, and his sisters Jenny Lynn and Jenny Lou for their loss.

IN MEMORY OF IKE LIVERMORE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the solemn purpose of commemorating the life of a monumental figure. Ike Livermore was one of the great leaders of the conservation movement, and as much as anyone in the 20th century, he was responsible for preventing the development, division, and exploitation of California's last unblemished areas. But his legacy far exceeds a crusade against the intrusion of the modern world into the wilderness. In the life he lived and through the ideas he championed, Ike Livermore reminded us that the obligation to protect our natural heritage is not a burden, and though the battles and compromises may not be easy, the reward for perseverance is a richer existence for all.

Ike Livermore lived an adventurous life. At the age of 15, he and a friend took mules across a rough section of the central coast for 10 days without crossing a single road. This was the trip that formed the basis of his long-standing opposition to the construction of Highway 1 on the coast. Having graduated from Stanford, he traveled to the 1936 Olympics as a member of the United States' baseball team. Subsequent to completing his M.B.A. degree, again at Stanford, he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II. Here he was a witness to history during the invasions of Sicily, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima.

After returning to California, Mr. Livermore first founded a mule-packing company in the southern Sierra and then a small lumber mill near his family home in Northern California. In 1952 he went to work as treasurer at Pacific Lumber Company, and helped promote sustainable logging practices during the heyday of the California logging industry. Many of the areas he advocated be protected as wilderness were near areas being logged by the company, but Ike understood the need for balance in resource management.

In 1967, he gladly accepted a request to join the cabinet of California Governor Ronald Reagan as the Secretary of Resources. During his time in the Reagan Administration, Ike was a fierce opponent of several attempts to build roads over these passes he himself had walked, and finally convinced the Governor to scuttle plans to build two roads over the highest passes. His wisdom is readily apparent: the areas in question have now been designated Sequoia National Park and the John Muir wilderness. He was also instrumental in the creation of Redwood National Park on the northern Coast. Marshalling the same arguments he had made in his master's thesis 30 years earlier, he convinced members of Governor Reagan's cabinet that the economic benefits of wilderness far outweighed other potential uses of the land. Such reasoning is the foundation of the important modern understanding that the preservation of wild land can be as valuable as its exploitation.

Ike's heart was always in the wild country, and throughout many years in the environmental community he caused others to share his appreciation of unspoiled natural beauty during expeditions all over the state. Among his favorite places in the high Sierra Nevada was the long, mostly undeveloped stretch from Yosemite National Park to Walker Pass. While operating his mule-packing venture he covered much of this territory, and after he had folded the business and moved on with other pursuits, he continued to return to the area for many years leading Sierra Club expeditions and fighting to oppose development.

Madam Speaker, many people will gather at the end of the month to remember Ike, and all the good that he has done. But it takes more than great accomplishments to earn a place in people's hearts. Ike Livermore was, above all, a great and kind man. Loving towards family and friends, calm and respectful in his conduct, a strong and passionate leader for the causes he championed, Ike's life is a model for future generations. His works did not define him, but were a reflection of the man who gave so many his wisdom and guidance. He will long be remembered as a true, Californian, a visionary environmentalist who understood the balance of man and nature, and realized that both must be allowed to prosper.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we remember and celebrate the life of Ike Livermore. His accomplishments are innumerable, but he leaves behind a greater legacy of personal involvement in the wilds of California. He proved by example that one can be an industrialist and an environmentalist, and after his retirement from public life, he remained active fighting for wilderness all over the state. His life will long be remembered, even as his ideas continue to bear fruit.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN SENDS
NEW YEAR GREETING TO THE
SIKH NATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan, which leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent effort to free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, from India, has sent New Year's greetings to the Sikhs from the council and its president, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh.

In the letter, Dr. Aulakh calls on Sikh political leaders to stand up for the interests of their people, which is what all of us in public office anywhere should be doing. He notes that without sovereignty, nations perish, and he cites the situation of the Jewish people before World War II as compared to their situation now. That is a good example of what sovereignty can do for a people. He calls on the Punjab Legislative Assembly that is about to be elected next month to pass a resolution again declaring Khalistan's independence.

Dr. Aulakh calls for the return of the state capital, Chandigarh, to Punjab, along with the Punjabi areas of neighboring states Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. He urges an end to the diversion of Punjab's water without compensation. He notes that the farmers are being oppressed by being forced to buy fertilizer at exorbitantly high rates but being forced to sell their crops at ridiculously low prices. He notes the insults and repression that India has inflicted on the Sikhs, including the Golden Temple attack, the murder of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, the fact that more than 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, and so many other violations. The letter notes that in an independent Khalistan, India would not be able to inflict such insults and repression on the Sikh Nation.

In addition to the quarter of a million Sikhs it has murdered, the Indian regime has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir and 2,000 to 5,000 in Gujarat, as well as Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country and Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, Assamese, and other minorities. Tens of thousands of people are held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Congress should demand the release of all political prisoners and the prosecution of those who have violated the rights of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities.

Madam Speaker, the time has come for the glow of freedom to be enjoyed by everyone. It is time to cut off American aid and trade with India until all people enjoy full human rights there. In addition, we should put the U.S. Congress on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia. Now that a new Congress has taken office, it is an ideal time to pass a resolution calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the subject of independence. That is the democratic way to do things and it's time that India started behaving like a democracy.

Madam Speaker, I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's New Year message into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, January 9, 2007.

DEAR KHALSA, JR:

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

The New Year has already arrived. Happy New Year to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. May 2007 be your best year ever. I wish you health, joy, and prosperity in the new year.

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Guru Gobind Singh blessed the Khalsa Panth, saying "in gribh Sikhin ko deom Patshahi." ("I bless the humble Sikhs with sovereignty.") The Sikh Nation must dedicate this year to working hard to achieve that goal. Self-determination is the right of all peoples and nations and the essence of democracy. Without sovereignty, religions perish. With sovereignty, they flourish. Compare the situation of the Jewish people in Europe before World War II to their situation now. There is no reason Sikhs cannot achieve a similar change of fortune.

It has been said that "without vision, the people perish," but with vision, the people flourish. It is time for the Sikh Nation to flourish. Sikhs have suffered too much already under the yoke of Indian persecution since independence, especially over the past 25 years. We have seen the attack on the Golden Temple, over 250,000 Sikhs murdered and over 52,000 held as political prisoners, the murder of the Akal Takht Jathedar, more than 50,000 Sikh youth tortured, murdered, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated, their bodies never returned to their families. Their families continue to suffer. We must help their widows and orphans. Let us find the vision to throw off this repression. With that vision, the Sikh Nation will flourish; without it, we will perish and India's effort to eliminate Sikhism will succeed. This is the reason that Guru Gobind Singh sent Sikhs to learn Sanskrit and to gain knowledge of other religions, so that the Khalsa Panth might be more enlightened and be aware of the qualities of its own religion and culture.

The Indian government is reacting to the rising tide of freedom for the Sikh Nation. It has stepped up its efforts to destroy the Sikh religion and deny Sikhs an environment to flourish. They have kept Punjabi-speaking areas out of Punjab while supporting an influx of Hindus into Punjab. Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttaranchal Pradesh, yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. I ask Captain Amarinder Singh and Badal to get the Punjabi-speaking areas back from Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. These areas rightfully belong to Punjab. When will the political leaders of Punjab stand up for the Sikhs?

In Punjab, the Sikh population is 75 percent rural. Sikhs are dependent on agriculture. The lifeline of farmers is water. We must stop the diversion of Punjab's water to Rajasthan and Haryana without compensation. That is a natural resource of Punjab. A couple of years ago, Captain Amarinder Singh's government cancelled the water agreements. I call on Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to use his power to receive payments for this water. As we pay the price for the coal we get from the Indian government, then why can't we get paid for the water we give? Sikh leaders in Punjab must take a strong stand on this issue.

The Indian government squeezes Sikh farmers by all available means. They sell fertilizer and seeds at very high cost but when

it comes time to sell produce, the government sets the price very low. This leads to thousands of farmers committing suicide because of their colossal financial indebtedness to the Indian government.

It is time to take control of the Bhakra Dam and the Nangal hydroelectric project. These belong to Punjab but are controlled by the Delhi regime. Punjab must take complete control of these projects and sell electricity at market rates. The Gobindgarh Fort, which was built by the Sikh missal Bhangian, was recently returned to Punjab by the Indian government. That is a good first step. Now all that is the Khalsa Panth's, including the sovereignty that is our birthright, must also be returned so that Sikhs can flourish in the glow of freedom promised by the Indian National Congress during the independence struggle.

The capital of Chandigarh was built by Punjab. Punjab must get it back from the Indian government. It is the height of high-handedness to make Chandigarh a Union Territory. I ask Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to take this good opportunity to regain control of Chandigarh. This will help him politically as well. Haryana is a wealthy state; let Haryana build its own capital.

In November we met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He said he would build a road from Kartapur Sahib to the Indian border, provided that the Punjab government builds its portion as well. I have visited Kartapur. There is only a mile or so of the road and the Ravi River is completely dried up. The bridge, which is on the Indian side, needs minor repairs. This road would be good for the people on both sides of the border. It would help build good relations between India and Pakistan, particularly between Pakistan and the Sikhs of Punjab. I urge Captain Amarinder Singh to build the road immediately so that Sikhs from Punjab can visit Kartapur Sahib where Guru Nanak departed this Earth for his heavenly abode. It is a serene place.

The RSS and its political arm, the BJP, want to divide the Sikh Nation. The Dasam Granth is RSS mischief. The issue of its authorship has been settled long ago, despite what any Indian-controlled Sikh leader may say now. I urge Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti to stop the discussion of the Dasam Granth completely and concentrate his efforts on achieving freedom for Khalistan and stopping the vices that have percolated in the Sikh religion, including abortion of female fetuses, drinking liquor, and the caste system. Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa as equals. Mazhabi Sikhs are as good Sikhs as anyone else. They are our brothers and sisters and we must treat them as equals. Remember what Guru Gobind Singh said: "Ragrete Guru ke Bete." ("The Mazhabi Sikhs are the sons of the guru.") Guru Gobind Singh lifted them up and Sikhs established Sikh rule from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. When America declared its independence in 1776, Punjab was already ruled independently by the Sikh missals.

Twice last year, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. The Indian regime is clearly worried about the rising tide in support of Sikh sovereignty. Let us dedicate our energy this year to achieving the establishment of Khalistan. Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. When Khalistan is free, the Sikhs can resolve these issues in a way that benefits the Khalsa Panth, not the forces of Hindutva.

However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedi-

cated to the cause of Sikh freedom if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2007 as we did in 2006. Remember the words former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation. We must achieve our freedom by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. Let that be the mission of 2007.

Elections for the Punjab Legislative Assembly will be held on February 13. Vote only for candidates who are committed to establishing Khalistan and will work to make it a reality. Every morning and evening the Khalsa Panth recites "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." We must dedicate ourselves to realizing this. The time is now. We can do it by the ballot. I ask Sikhs of every political shade not to miss this opportunity. We must realize it now. When the Punjab Legislative Assembly reconvenes it must pass a resolution for the independence of Khalistan. As soon as that resolution passes, India will no longer be able to repress the Sikhs. Three million Sikhs living outside India will make sure that Khalistan is free without any further loss of human life. In a democracy, you can't rule the people against their wishes.

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's shameful memo labeling Sikhs "a criminal tribe" even though the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India.

Let us make certain that 2007 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making it the year that we shake ourselves loose from Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity. Now it is up to us. Do not waste this opportunity.

May Guru bless the Khalsa Panth in 2007 and always.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING DOCTOR CRAIG C.
MELLO, PHD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Craig C. Mello, PhD of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts for his great work in the advancement of genetic research.

Born in New Haven, CT in 1960, Dr. Mello is an alumnus of Brown University where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry in 1982 and Harvard University where he received his PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology.

Dr. Mello and his colleague Dr. Andrew Fire are today's pioneers in RNA interference (RNAi). Their dedication to science and research has provided the world with evidence that will lead to the saving of lives around the

world. Dr. Mello's research is not only groundbreaking but revolutionary.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Mello's and Dr. Fire's discovery was published in *Nature* magazine in 1998. They have received several awards, including the National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology and the Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences as well as international awards in Germany and Canada. Most recently, Dr. Mello and Dr. Fire received the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 2006 for their work on RNAi, the highest honor in the world in the field of medicine and physiology.

Dr. Craig C. Mello has instilled a sense of pride among the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Worcester with his research in the field of developmental gene regulation.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Dr. Craig C. Mello for his contribution to the field of genetic research and congratulating him on his achievement of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF Q.
BYRUM HURST

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Q. Byrum Hurst, who passed away December 4, 2006, in Hot Springs, AR, at the age of 88.

Mr. Q. Byrum Hurst had two passions—law and politics. He passed the Arkansas bar exam in 1941 and spent his life in politics with the exception of his stint in the U.S. Army from 1943–1945. Q. Byrum Hurst was elected Garland County Judge in 1947 and then elected to the State Senate where he served 22 consecutive years. In 1967, Mr. Hurst was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate where he also served as Acting Governor of Arkansas during the absence of the sitting Governor.

Q. Byrum Hurst was recognized as one of the most powerful and influential men in Arkansas politics where he earned a reputation for his hard work on behalf of Hot Springs, his hometown.

Q. Byrum Hurst was an active, lifelong member of the First Church of God where he also served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was also a long-time supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the Optimist International Club.

My deepest condolences go to his children, Q. Byrum Hurst, Jr., of Hot Springs; Lezah Stenger of Springfield, MO; Byretta Fish of Bentonville; to his 17 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren; and to his brother F.L. Hurst of Hot Springs and his sister Norma Jean Austin of San Antonio, TX. Q. Byrum Hurst will be greatly missed in Hot Springs, Garland County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

HONORING CHERI DEAN OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cheri Dean on the occasion of her retirement from the Social Security Administration after 31 years of service to the government and people of Lake County.

Ms. Dean was hired as a claims development clerk in 1976 and was promoted through a series of positions from administrative assistant to service representative and finally to claims representative. At each stage of her career she has been a model of professional excellence and has worked hard to ensure that the needs of Lake County's residents are met. Her timely action has ensured the continuity of payments to many people who relied on her work.

After her retirement, Ms. Dean will move to Oklahoma where she will live near her family. She plans to spend time working on a family genealogy and traveling throughout the region.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Ms. Dean for her decades of service with the Lake County branch of the Social Security Administration, and I wish her all the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, seniors, individuals with disabilities and the taxpayers of America were done a disservice in 2003 when the Medicare Prescription Drug legislation passed with a provision that prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating with drug manufacturers for lower prescription drug prices. Representatives EMERSON, RANGEL, PORTER and I are introducing the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 today to help seniors get the lowest prices possible on prescription medications under Medicare.

This legislation removes the prohibition of the Secretary from negotiating lower prescription drug prices. Moreover, it requires the Secretary to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices in Medicare without restricting access to any medications.

Drug prices under the Medicare prescription drug plan are more than 80 percent higher than prices negotiated by other agencies in the Federal government and more than 60 percent higher than prices in Canada. And this year the prices for each of the top five most popular drugs taken by seniors have gone up.

Currently, each of the 1200 plus prescription drug plans can use its volume of enrollees as leverage to purchase at bulk and other discount rates from drug companies. The Government, however, cannot do the same on behalf of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries. We are now requiring that the Secretary do just that.

This simple legislation could save billions in prescription drug costs, premiums, and cost sharing for the millions of Medicare beneficiaries. It leaves the details up to the Secretary of HHS, who has the necessary experience and expertise to secure lower prescription drug prices. This bill has the support of the AARP, Consumer's Union and the AFL-CIO.

It is time we put the best interests of Medicare beneficiaries ahead of those of the drug companies. Seniors are clamoring for relief, and Americans overwhelmingly support having the Secretary of HHS negotiate for lower prescription drug prices on behalf of Medicare. The Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 is specifically designed to correct the shortfalls of the flawed 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug legislation and to provide affordable prescription drugs to Medicare beneficiaries.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CHARGING IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD WITH VIOLATION OF THE 1948 CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague STEVEN ROTHMAN (D-NJ), I introduce a resolution charging Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This resolution urges the United Nations Security Council to use its power under international law to hold the Iranian leader accountable for his genocidal statements targeting the Israeli people.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was designed by the international community to outlaw genocide; to never again allow a massive crime similar to the Holocaust by Nazi Germany during World War II.

But now we are faced with an Iranian leader whose public statements call for a second Jewish Holocaust.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide prohibits not only acts of genocide, but also prohibits "direct and public incitement to commit genocide."

This resolution urges the United Nations Security Council to examine the evidence of Ahmadinejad's incitement. In order to present the evidence in a clear and concise manner, I recently asked the Congressional Research Service to compile a list entitled "Ahmadinejad in His Own Words," and I present it to the House today.

On October 26, 2005, in advance of Iran's Jerusalem Day, established by Ayatollah Khomeini, Ahmadinejad spoke at a conference of the Society for the Defense of the Palestinian Nation, and members of the Islamic Students Union, and an audience of hundreds of students.

In his speech, he described his vision of an age-old confrontation between the world of

Islam and the "World of Arrogance," that is the West; portraying Israel and Zionism as the spearhead of the West against the Islamic nation. He emphasized in that speech the need to eliminate Israel which, he said, was an attainable goal.

He delivered this speech before several representatives of Hizbullah and its leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al.

Speaking to a student conference then, entitled "World without Zionism," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated:

"Very soon this stain of disgrace (i.e. Israel) will vanish from the center of the Islamic world—and this is attainable. . . .

The people who sit in closed rooms cannot decide on this matter. The Islamic people cannot allow this historic enemy to exist in the heart of the Islamic world. . . .

I hope that the Palestinians will maintain their wariness and intelligence, much as they have pursued their battles in the past ten years. This will be a short period, and if we pass though it successfully, the process of the elimination of the Zionist regime will be smooth and simple. . . .

Our dear Imam [Khomeini] ordered that the occupying regime in Jerusalem be wiped off the face of the earth. This was a very wise statement."

On April 15, 2006, at the opening of a conference on supporting the Palestinians, he said:

"Like it or not, the Zionist regime is heading toward annihilation."

On April 27, 2006, he stated in a speech in the western Iranian town of Zanjan, carried on live national television.

"This regime (Israel) will one day vanish."

On May 11, 2006, Ahmadinejad made a reference to Israel in a speech to students and instructors at University of Jakarta, he said:

"I advise them to pack up and move out of the region before being caught in the fire they have started in Lebanon."

On July 8, 2006, speaking to regional officials at the opening of a two-day conference in Tehran on security in Iraq, he said: "The basic problem in the Islamic world is the existence of the Zionist regime, and the Islamic world and the region must mobilize to remove this problem."

On July 29, 2006, during an emergency meeting with Muslim leaders, he said:

"The real cure for the (Lebanon) conflict is elimination of the Zionist regime, but there should be first an immediate ceasefire."

On August 3, 2006, in a speech before the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to presidents, prime ministers and policy-makers of 17 Muslim-majority nations in Malaysia, a major international conference, he said:

"The Zionist regime is fraudulent and illegitimate and cannot survive."

On October 19, 2006, speaking to crowds of people in Islamshahr, southwest of Tehran, he said:

"This regime will be gone, definitely. You should know that any government that stands by the Zionist regime from now on will not see any result but the hatred of the people."

On December 12, 2005, in a speech to thousands in the southeastern city of Zahedan in the southeastern Sistan va Baluchistan Province and this was carried on Iranian television, Ahmadinejad said:

"Today, they (Europeans) have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider

it to be above God, religion and the prophets . . . If you committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian nation pay the price? . . . This is our proposal: If you committed the crime, then give a part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them so that the Jews can establish their country."

On April 24, 2006 at a press conference in Tehran, he said:

"Every German-born is indebted to the arrogant and greedy Zionists. . . . Sixty years after the war, why do the Palestinian people have to burn in the crimes of Zionists under the pretext of the Second World War?"

And on December 8, 2005, speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of an Organization of the Islamic Conference anti-terrorism summit in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he said:

"Today, they have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets . . . If you (Europeans) committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian nation pay the price? You have to pay the compensation yourself. This is our proposal: give a part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them so that the Jews can establish their country."

This is President Ahmadinejad in his own words that I place before the House—all accurately translated and provided in one place to present clearly a rising danger to our allies in Israel and to the West in general.

I was looking briefly at a recently translated quote by another leader. He said:

"Why does the world shed crocodile's tears over the richly merited fate of a small Jewish minority? But what happened to the conscience of the world when millions in Germany were suffering from hunger and misery? I ask Roosevelt, I ask the American people: Are you prepared to receive in your midst these well-poisoners of the German people and the universal spirit of Christianity?"

It may sound like a recent speech from Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. It was actually the works of Adolf Hitler from the magazine *Staatszeitung*. Looking at these words we have an eerie echo of the past, and potentially a warning of the future. I lay them before the House today so that we see them all clearly, for who this leader is, what he has stated publicly, and where he would like to take his nation.

Madam Speaker, we founded the United Nations out of the ashes of the Holocaust. How can we sit idly by today as a UN Member State openly speaks of bringing another one?

The United Nations Security Council should charge President Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and increase international condemnation of this dangerous leader. I want to thank Congressman ROTHMAN for leading with me on this issue and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION AND TIMELY REPORT ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a horrible form of identity theft.

We have heard plenty lately about the need to take swift action to prevent this serious crime. In 2006, one of the largest data security breaches in history occurred when the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, lost the names, Social Security numbers, and the dates of birth of over 26 million Americans. We hear a lot about security breaches and the identity theft of living Americans. One aspect of the crime you do not always hear about is the misuse of personal information of deceased Americans.

This is a serious issue for many reasons. For one, it is their loved ones who pay the price. Months or even years after a family member passes away, surviving spouses or other relatives will begin to receive credit card bills or even phone calls from bill collectors. A predator can go onto certain web sites and purchase Social Security numbers that are sold for purposes of tracking family histories and genealogy. The predator then uses the Social Security number to apply for credit cards, loans, and other forms of consumer credit.

There were even reports that a predator was misusing the personal information of a New York City resident who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In another case, a woman began to receive bills addressed to her daughter who had passed away 17 years before.

In my hometown of San Diego, the local news media shed light on another unfortunate case. A predator took information on a woman published in an obituary and used it for identity theft crimes. It was up to her son to repair the damage and put an end to the abuse. I cannot imagine the emotional toll these cases must take on surviving relatives, and I rise today to take action to prevent further cases of this crime.

It is time Congress acted to block this form of identity theft from continuing. Predators can collect this information with relative ease giving them a steady supply of Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and the information they need to commit these horrible crimes. Furthermore, this form of identity theft can ruin the good names and pristine credit histories of those who are deceased. Unless we take action, family members will continue to suffer from the misuse of their loved ones' personal information.

The legislation I introduce today, the Identity Theft Prevention and Timely Report Act of 2007, requires that the Federal Government inform each national credit bureau when an individual passes away. In turn, the credit bureaus will flag the histories of those who are deceased and potential creditors will know not to issue lines of credit or new loans to those attempting to misuse personal information.

Madam Speaker, I urge that we act to stop this vicious form of identity theft and protect the relatives of America's deceased.

GANDHI: BEHIND THE MASK OF DIVINITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I have recently encountered a book entitled *Gandhi: Behind the Mask of Divinity*, which sheds new light on the founder of India. The author, Colonel G. B. Singh, USA, portrays Mohandas Gandhi as a person who was more interested in advancing his own group than in the advancement of all people. Using Gandhi's own words, Colonel Singh portrays a very different Gandhi than you and I have been told about.

Colonel Singh argues that the Gandhi we have been told about isn't the real Gandhi. He writes that he hopes that his book will stimulate discussion and provoke people to think about who Mohandas Gandhi really was. Since Gandhi is considered the father of the Indian nation, understanding his character is essential to understanding India.

Colonel Singh's book is definitely controversial, but it is an important contribution to a full understanding of this important historical character.

Madam Speaker, there is an excerpt from the book's introduction on the back cover, which has been reproduced, and I would like to introduce that two-paragraph excerpt into the RECORD at this time to give a flavor of the book and encourage people to broaden their perspective on Gandhi.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO *GANDHI: BEHIND THE MASK OF DIVINITY*

(By G.B. Singh)

Over the years I have discussed Gandhi with many Americans, both formally and informally. . . . What continues to irk me is the amount of Gandhi "propaganda material" that has flooded our libraries and bookstores. For an unsuspecting Westerner, the reading of Gandhi as he is portrayed on these shelves can bring about the intended result. That is understandable. This book is an attempt to close the gap between the popularized Gandhi and the historical Gandhi. This book will incite readers to be more open-minded and to seek to validate the "truths" presented. My hope is that it will provoke honest, healthy, and open dialogue and foster more scrutiny about him. . . .

Years of dedicated research on Gandhi convinced me that our hero was fundamentally a racist. In this book, I present the facts. The evidence presented here is not a matter of speculation or distorted interpretation. Much of the irrefutable evidence lay buried beneath a mountain of Gandhi's own writings—in his own words, which I have uncovered—comments that will be difficult to dispute once they are read. In this book you will read the evidence in its entirety. My primary intention is to untangle the web that Gandhi weaved—and his followers are still weaving—for many years. Only through a methodical probing can we expose Gandhi's campaign of deception: the lies, the propaganda, the misinformation, the half-truths, and the effort to hide behind religion. Where Gandhi left off, his followers have picked up, and they continue their own sophisticated campaigns, both in India and abroad. The book should not be looked upon as another Gandhi biography. Rather, it should provide a standard by which to weigh the Gandhi literature for accuracy and objectivity. Also, this book, though narrowly focused, should

stand as a guide alerting us to how thoroughly the Gandhi propagandists and others have succeeded in deceiving us.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLINTON EXCHANGE CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Clinton Exchange Club on the occasion of its 60th anniversary and to thank its members for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the greater Clinton community throughout the club's distinguished history. Exchange Clubs all across America are widely known for their efforts to prevent child abuse and nurture our nation's young people, however nowhere has the noble mission of this great service organization been more fully embraced by its membership than the Clinton Exchange Club.

As a regular participant in the Memorial Day Exercises in the Town of Clinton, I have proudly marched behind the Exchange Club as they distribute American flags to the children lining the parade route. This public display of patriotism is an invaluable lesson for our young people to learn and I am grateful to the Clinton Exchange Club for making it an indispensable part of the town's Memorial Day tradition. The Clinton Exchange Club is a source of civic education, encouragement and support for the community's youth that extends far beyond one holiday a year. Through the sponsorship of local sports teams, the Freedom Shrine, the youth of the month recognition program and the numerous scholarships it awards, the Clinton Exchange Club is a positive force in nearly all facets of a child's development. A large number of Clinton's youth have responded to the example the Exchange Club has given them by establishing their own affiliated service organization at Clinton High School known as the Excel Club. The close collaboration between the Exchange Club and the Excel Club has ensured that service to others will endure as the hallmark of this tight-knit community for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, the Town of Clinton enjoys a well-deserved reputation as one of the most compassionate communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. That is due in large part to the innumerable good deeds the Clinton Exchange Club has performed over these last sixty years. The greatest tribute I can pay them as they celebrate this important milestone is to humbly ask that they rededicate themselves to the club's mission and continue to better the lives of their neighbors and fellow citizens. This nation owes the Clinton Exchange Club a debt of gratitude for their legacy of service and the United States Congress congratulates them on this wonderful occasion.

IN MEMORY OF W.E. AYERS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of W.E. Ayers, who passed away December 8, 2006, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 76.

W.E. Ayers was a pillar of the city of Pine Bluff and the state of Arkansas for decades. Ayers was the former Chairman and CEO of Simmons First National Corporation of Pine Bluff. He joined the organization in 1957 and became Senior Vice President in 1969. Mr. Ayers was then named President of the Bank in 1985 and named Chairman of the Board the following year.

A graduate of Louisiana State University, W.E. Ayers also received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Southeast Arkansas College.

W.E. Ayers was an active member of Lakeside United Methodist Church where he served as a former trustee and Sunday School teacher. He was a past President of the Arkansas Bankers Association as well as a member of the Kiwanis Club, Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce, Arkansas Arts Council and the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Science Foundation.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Diane Ayers; son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Leigh Ayers of Atlanta, GA; daughter Cathy Zimmerman of Boulder, CO; and to his 5 grandchildren. W.E. Ayers will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff and throughout the state of Arkansas.

HONORING GARY LOUIS SIMPSON OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and successful career of Mr. Gary Louis Simpson, the Sheriff-Coroner of Napa County, California. On December 28th Mr. Simpson will stand down after 20 years and 5 terms as the elected Sheriff of Napa County. During his tenure, the Sheriff's Department has developed and expanded numerous programs to extend the involvement of the department with other law enforcement agencies and county departments. He leaves behind a technologically sophisticated and well-trained department prepared to continue the work he has advanced for many years.

Mr. Simpson was born in Missouri, but moved to California at an early age, and grew up in Oakland. He attended Pacific Union College and graduated with a B.A. in Social Sciences in 1965. Mr. Simpson served in the United States Army from 1966–1969 and left at the rank of 1st Lieutenant before joining the Napa Police Department that same year. In 1983 he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Police Department. In 1986 he ran for the office of Sheriff, and was elected the 25th Sheriff of Napa County.

As Sheriff, Mr. Simpson expanded the work of the Sheriffs department beyond the strict

confines of law enforcement and into the communities of the Napa Valley. Through a variety of programs like DARE and the Sheriffs Activity League, Mr. Simpson has reached out to the youth of the Napa Valley and helped develop a safe and healthy place for children to grow. He has created an innovative program, the Sheriff Citizens Academy, which is conceived to allow people living and working in the Napa Valley to better understand the work of the Sheriffs Department. Additionally, this important program has begun the process of building bridges between members of the community and law enforcement.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Mr. Gary Louis Simpson on his retirement after 20 years as the Sheriff of Napa County. He has been instrumental in developing the resources and capabilities of law enforcement in Napa County. He will enjoy retirement in the company of his wife Veronica, their children, and their two granddaughters.

CONGRATULATING ARTRAIN USA ON RECEIVING THE 2006 NATIONAL AWARD FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Artrain USA on being a recipient of the 2006 National Award for Museum and Library Services, a prestigious award presented to a select few libraries and museums for outstanding public service.

The National Award for Museum and Library Services is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. Artrain USA was one of three museums selected by the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences to receive this high honor. Three libraries were also selected to be honored.

Located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Artrain USA's unique concept of a traveling museum has visited hundreds of communities, enriching the lives of over 3.2 million people. Many of these communities are rural or underserved and did not have access to this type of world-class art exhibits and educational opportunities. By bringing the art to the communities on vintage railroad cars, Artrain USA provides these communities with a wonderful opportunity for cultural growth and education. This is an indispensable public service and I am especially proud to say that Artrain USA hails from Michigan's 15th Congressional District, which I represent in the House of Representatives.

I would particularly like to congratulate Debra Polich, President & CEO of Artrain USA, for her tireless work and dedication to making Artrain USA a national presence. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Deb and the rest of the Artrain USA team on winning this esteemed award and in sending our best wishes for success in the future.

IN MEMORY OF KEVIN BROPHY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor the memory of the late Kevin Brophy. Kevin was a remarkable young man who touched the lives of all those he met.

Kevin Brophy was a native of Melbourne, Australia, who graduated from Memorial Day School in Savannah, GA. In his time at Memorial, Kevin averaged 28.4 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 12.4 assists per game setting a single season school record of 424 points.

Kevin went on to attend the University of Georgia where, as a walk-on, to the 2005 Bulldogs men's basketball team he played in all 28 games of his freshman season and started in seven Southeastern Conference contests. Though he began his collegiate sports career as a walk-on, Kevin quickly earned an athletic scholarship before the start of his sophomore season.

As a member of the Georgia Bulldogs basketball program, Kevin scored a season high of 19 points against the Vanderbilt University Commodores, nine of those coming in the last nine minutes. Kevin's attitude, maturity, and work ethic were contagious, spreading to all those with whom he came in contact.

Tragically, Kevin's life ended July 20, 2006, near Greensboro, GA, just hours after he devoted his time to improving the basketball program at the Athens Boys and Girls Club. His death has left a community in mourning but his life has inspired us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOM RICE TO OUR HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished constituent and a valued member of our country's Homeland Security team, Tom Rice, the federal security director for Port Columbus International Airport. Tom was recently chosen from among 125 peers by the Transportation Security Administration as the Federal Security Director of the Year for the Eastern Region.

In bestowing this honor, TSA recognized Tom's contributions in providing operational direction for federal security, demonstrating integrity and innovation, and improving the morale of employees by promoting a culture of achievement among team members.

Tom's four decades of distinguished and impeccable service in law enforcement is no secret to central Ohio. After serving for 33 years in the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Tom spent a year at the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction as the acting chief inspector and then had a 5-year tour with the City of Columbus as safety director. Before briefly retiring, Tom also consulted for the Ohio Department of Youth Services. However, with the creation of TSA, Tom was swiftly called to return to duty and was sworn in as the first FSD for

Port Columbus and Rickenbacker airports in June 2002.

I am thrilled to see his leadership in security recognized nationally by our Nation's top security agency. Passengers at Port Columbus know and trust Tom. And even amid passenger uncertainty due to terrorist threats, his innovative and professional leadership has helped Port Columbus continue to grow and business at Rickenbacker to flourish. I can think of no better person to receive the recognition of our Homeland Security community.

HONORING THE HEART HOSPITAL OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization from the State of New Mexico. The Heart Hospital of New Mexico was established in 1999, through a joint effort between the state's leading cardiology and cardiovascular surgery groups, as an entire medical facility dedicated to fighting heart disease. Located near downtown Albuquerque, it is the state's first free-standing heart facility, dedicated to providing the most advanced, patient-centered, family-centered care for the region.

Recently, Quantum Research and the New Mexico Business Weekly sponsored a comprehensive employee survey to identify the "best places to work" in New Mexico. With 211 hardworking employees, the Heart Hospital was ranked first amongst New Mexico's largest employers. The award acknowledges a company's achievements in creating a positive work environment that not only attracts employees, but also retains them.

Heart Hospital employees cited flexible work schedules, employee-driven work standards and commitment to superior patient care as critical to their job satisfaction. The Heart Hospital also offers reimbursements for licensures, certifications and tuition; reimbursement for nursing education for household members of employees; full vestment for the company portion of 401(k) upon enrollment and employee appreciation lunches and other recognition.

Madam Speaker, no matter how you measure it, the Heart Hospital of New Mexico sets a standard of excellence. The hospital fills a crucial need in central New Mexico's community, and I am honored to recognize such an outstanding healthcare provider and its outstanding team of dedicated employees here today.

STATEMENT HONORING ROBERT L. HADLEY, SR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an honorable man, Robert L. Hadley Sr. His commitment towards his family and his hard work has made him a commendable role model for all of America's future generations.

Born on April 13, 1919, Mr. Hadley was raised to hold strong to his faith and valued the beliefs embedded in him from his childhood. His everyday life and career reflected those praiseworthy values.

In 1937, after the completion of his studies Mr. Hadley entered into the car sales industry with a zest for learning. In 1941, he was called upon by his country to serve in the Army during WWII. He courageously contributed his time to protect our Nation.

Mr. Hadley completed his service to the U.S. Army and returned to his loving wife and son. He then continued working hard in the automotive sales industry while ensuring his son grew up to become an admirable young man. The life lead by Mr. Hadley has undoubtedly become a legacy.

On behalf of the Dallas, TX community, I commend Mr. Robert Hadley's admirable achievements.

ENDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the President will announce he has yet another new strategy for victory in Iraq. This strategy will come just over a year after he released his last strategy for victory in Iraq, which was completed in November 2005.

According to the Brookings Institution's Iraq Index, since the President released his last plan, more than 900 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq, more than 2,200 Iraqi police and military forces have also been killed. The number of Iraqi civilians killed has risen from 1,778 in January 2006 to nearly 3,300 in December 2006. The number of multiple fatality bombings has increased from 41 in November 2005 to 69 in December 2006.

In other words, by virtually every measure, the violence in Iraq is worse this year than last year, the political situation is more volatile and deteriorating by the day and the civil war is expanding.

After nearly four years, after more than 3,000 U.S. troops have been killed, after more than 22,500 U.S. troops have been injured—nearly half of whom have been injured severely enough that they cannot return to duty—and after more than \$300 billion of U.S. taxpayers' money has been spent with no benefit to U.S. national security and with little progress toward stabilizing Iraq, what is the President's response? All indications are that he will propose to compound the failure by escalating the war, putting tens of thousands of more American lives at risk, and borrowing tens or hundreds of billions of dollars more in order to prosecute a war that cannot be won militarily.

It is past time to end the open-ended commitment the President has made in Iraq. Reportedly the President will propose benchmarks the Iraqi government must achieve, but since there will be no consequences if the Iraqis fail, these benchmarks are meaningless. The Iraqi government has failed to follow through on previous commitments, yet the President's response has only been to express continuing support for the Iraqi Prime Minister. His proposal this week will likely be more of the same.

As long as the U.S. military remains stuck with the President's pledge of unlimited support, Iraqi politicians and security forces will use the U.S. presence as a crutch and will fail to take the necessary steps to solve their differences, establish an effective and inclusive government, end sectarian violence, and create a secure and prosperous society.

Democracy and stability cannot be imposed on unwilling parties. As New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman said recently on Meet the Press, a stable, pluralistic democracy in Iraq is everyone's second choice except ours. The Shias want power for themselves. The Sunnis want power. And the Kurds want power and independence. What they don't want to do is share that power, and we can't make them.

Being confronted with the reality of a U.S. withdrawal should force the Iraqi factions to reach the political compromises necessary to move their country forward. If not, there is no reason to prolong the U.S. involvement in Iraq if we want a stable country more than the Iraqi people and their elected leaders do.

The U.S. cannot impose freedom, security, and unity in Iraq by force. Those worthy goals can only be achieved by the Iraqi people themselves, which will only happen when the Iraqi people and their leaders decide to put aside their sectarian differences. The U.S. cannot force Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds to make peace or to act for the common good. They have been in conflict for 1,400 years. Nor should the U.S. military be forced to remain in Iraq essentially as an army for one side of a civil war. The U.S. military cannot solve the sectarian violence and the lack of political reconciliation in Iraq. Only the Iraqis can.

In a minute, I will address where I believe we need to go from here. But, before that, I want to briefly review how we got into Iraq and how the Bush administration's many mistakes have brought us to the disaster we face today.

The list of the Bush administration's failures with respect to Iraq is long and well-known. But it bears repeating, particularly since the administration may be making similar ones with respect to Iran.

The administration manipulated, misrepresented and in some cases outright lied about the intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs and non-existent ties to al-Qaeda in order to build support in Congress and among the public for the war.

The administration went in with too few troops to successfully carry out the mission.

The administration went in with few real allies.

The administration went in with no exit strategy.

The administration failed to stop the rampant looting in the wake of Saddam Hussein's ousting, which set back recovery and reconstruction.

The administration failed to understand the ethnic tensions that were unleashed in Iraq.

The administration failed to understand the ethnic power bases in Iraq.

The administration relied on Iraqi exiles with no support among the Iraqi people.

The administration did not turn over authority to Iraqis early on. Instead, they stood up the Coalition Provision Authority to run Iraq, which cemented in the minds of the Iraqis that U.S. forces were an occupying power.

The administration largely used inexperienced political hacks to run the CPA rather

than experienced foreign service-types or individuals with subject matter expertise.

The administration disbanded the Iraqi army, which added to the security problems by creating a large pool of unemployed, armed, and alienated Iraqis.

The administration purged the Iraqi government of all Baath party members, even low-level Baathists, which continues to hamper the delivery of even basic government services to Iraqis since the bureaucracy has basically been created from scratch.

The administration failed to conduct proper oversight of reconstruction resulting in waste, fraud, and abuse, poor contractor performance and Iraqi expectations for progress not being met.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it highlights some major failures that have contributed to the chaos in Iraq.

The administration claims that what has happened in Iraq was unforeseeable. In reality, many critics predicted the problems in Iraq. The administration just chose to ignore those who raised concerns. The problems in Iraq are actually worse than predicted because of the administration's blunders.

The administration ignored the doctrine created by its own Secretary of State Colin Powell when he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The "Powell doctrine" says that the U.S. should go to war only as a last resort and then only with overwhelming force. In his article "U.S. Forces: Challenges Ahead" in Foreign Affairs in 1992-93 Powell posed a number of questions to be asked by U.S. policymakers before launching a war. Is a vital national security interest threatened? Do we have a clear, attainable objective? Have the risks and costs been fully and frankly analyzed? Have all other non-violent policy means been exhausted? Is there a plausible exit strategy? Have the consequences been fully considered? Is the action supported by the American people? Does the U.S. have broad international support?

The answer to these questions in the case of the Iraq war is no. But the administration went ahead anyway and Powell put aside any misgivings he may have had and publicly supported it.

The administration ignored General Eric Shinseki, then the head of the Army, who testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 25, 2003, that the administration's plans failed to include an adequate number of troops. He said, "I would say that what's been mobilized to this point—something on the order of several hundred thousand soldiers are probably, you know, a figure that would be required. We're talking about post-hostilities control over a piece of geography that's fairly significant, with the kinds of ethnic tensions that could lead to other problems."

Secretary Rumsfeld and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, called Shinseki's estimate "far off the mark" and "wildly off the mark". Wolfowitz said it would be "hard to believe" more troops would be required for post-war Iraq than to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

It may have been hard for an ideologue like Mr. Wolfowitz to believe, but it wasn't hard for a military professional like General Shinseki to envision.

Many Members of Congress also raised concerns. I personally wrote to the President on September 5, 2002. I challenged the sup-

posed threat posed by Iraq's assumed WMD programs. I raised questions about more pressing national security challenges like North Korea and Iran. I raised questions about the impact the war would have on U.S. relations with allies and our reputation in the world. I posed questions about what the impact of a long-term occupation of Iraq by U.S. forces. I asked about the impact of diverting military and intelligence resources to Iraq from the battle against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. And I raised concerns about the economic impact and the impact on U.S. taxpayers from the war.

The administration dismissed the concerns and warnings of critics like me and launched this ill-advised war. I voted against it. We're forty-six months into the war, where do we go from here?

The President apparently believes that the U.S. needs to escalate the conflict in Iraq by sending 30,000 or more additional troops to Iraq. I think that is a mistake. It will not bring stability to Iraq, and I oppose it and will vote against it if given the opportunity.

Just as importantly, the President's chief military advisors oppose it. As General John Abizaid, then the head of all U.S. forces in the Middle East, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on November 15, 2006, "I met with every divisional commander, General Casey, the core commander, General Dempsey, we all talked together. And I said, in your professional opinion, if we were to bring in more American Troops now, does it add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq? And they all said no. And the reason is because we want the Iraqis to do more. It is easy for the Iraqis to rely upon to us do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future."

The President didn't like what he heard, which may be why General Abizaid is expected to retire this March. As a Lebanese-American who is fluent in Arabic, his understanding of the region will be greatly missed. General Casey has also been removed as commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Shinseki, Abizaid, Casey. There is a pattern here of the Bush administration ignoring the advice of military leaders and firing them when they don't tell the President what he wants to hear.

Let me be clear, I do not believe there is any level of U.S. troops that could stabilize Iraq at this point.

But, I think it is particularly offensive that the President is reportedly planning to put 30,000 additional U.S. lives at risk when that escalation is virtually certain to have little or no impact on the violence in Iraq. There might be a small, temporary reduction in the chaos in Iraq, but the escalation will not solve the deep and underlying political conflicts that are preventing a long-term resolution to the violence in Iraq.

The President desperately wants to look like he's trying something new in Iraq in response to the concerns of the American people, but really he's just repeating the same mistakes and compounding previous failures. The administration is trying to prolong the U.S. involvement in Iraq in order to perpetuate the fallacy that the President's original vision for a democratic, pro-U.S., capitalistic, pluralistic Iraq is still achievable. It is not. The American

Enterprise Institute military escalation plan for Iraq, which is the basis for the President's proposals, has a timeline of 18–24 months, conveniently enough leaving the mess in Iraq for the next President, meaning President Bush would never have to admit his policies in Iraq have been a failure but at a very steep cost to our troops taxpayers.

The administration already increased the number of U.S. troops in Baghdad this summer and has occasionally increased the number of troops throughout Iraq, yet the violence against our troops and Iraqi security forces and civilians continues to increase. Following the influx of troops this summer in Operation Forward Together, the violence in Iraq actually increased. Weekly attacks increased by 15 percent while the number of Iraqi civilian casualties increased by 51 percent.

Based on historical analysis, counterinsurgency experts estimate it takes around 20 U.S. troops per 1,000 inhabitants to successfully fight a counterinsurgency. To achieve that ratio in Baghdad alone would require 120,000 troops. Even with the escalation proposed by the President, we'd only have around 40,000 troops in Baghdad. For all of Iraq, it would require 500,000 troops. We only have around 140,000 there today.

General Shinseki and others based their original recommendation for several hundred thousand troops on this historical analysis. But, the time in which a large number of forces could stabilize Iraq has long since passed.

The bottom line is that a proposal to increase U.S. troop levels in Baghdad or Iraq more generally by 30,000 troops in not a serious effort to restore stability to Iraq. Essentially, the President is proposing to put more lives at risk with little or no chance of success.

The President and his allies justify the continuing U.S. presence in Iraq by claiming that if we don't fight there, we'll have to fight here at home. However, the Iraqi Sunni rejectionists, Saddamists, and nationalist Shias, who combined make up the vast bulk of the insurgents and militias committing violence in Iraq, have no interest in attacking the U.S. homeland. They just want U.S. military forces out of their own country. They have no designs on our country. So it is misleading, at best, to argue that if we don't fight there, we will fight them in the streets of the United States.

It is also misleading to pretend that if the U.S. leaves that somehow Osama bin Laden will take control of Iraq. There is no chance that the Shias and Kurds, who represent around 80 percent of the population in Iraq, will allow foreign terrorist elements to take over the country. Even the majority of the Sunnis have grown tired of foreign terrorists operating in Iraq.

A better strategy is to announce a timeline for bringing our troops home over the next 6 months to a year. The administration has always set timelines for political developments in Iraq—for elections, for the drafting of the constitution etc. The administration argued such timelines were necessary to focus the energy of Iraq's leaders and to force compromises. We need to do the same on the military side.

In the interim, I have also proposed that U.S. troops be removed from front line combat positions in Iraqi cities and towns, turning over daily security patrols, interactions with citizens,

and any offensive security actions to the Iraqis themselves.

The training and equipping of Iraqi security forces should be accelerated and the sectarian balance must be improved.

The U.S. must renounce any U.S. interest in constructing permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq.

It is also important to accelerate reconstruction spending and grant the bulk of reconstruction contracts to local companies employing Iraqis rather than multinational corporations, whom have proven inefficient, inflexible, sometimes fraudulent and have even imported workers rather than employing Iraqis.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad should also be reduced to normal size and authority rather than establishing one of the largest embassies in the world.

And, the U.S. must engage in robust diplomacy with all factions in Iraq, except the foreign terrorists and domestic al-Qaeda elements, and work with Iraq's neighbors in an effort to bring about political reconciliation among Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds.

Our troops have done all that has been asked of them in Iraq. Saddam Hussein is dead. His allies are on the run or in prison. The threat from WMDs in Iraq is nonexistent. Arguably, the war that Congress authorized has been won. Our troops should come home. Congress did not authorize U.S. troops to referee a civil war in Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON STANGEBY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allison Stangeby—the recipient of the 2006 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Because of Allison's efforts, thousands of our nation's less fortunate have been provided with food aid.

Allison used her workplace as a tool to reach out to the hungry. She works for the New York Giants as the Director of Community Relations. Under Allison's leadership, the New York Giants became the first sports franchise to arrange to have its stadium-generated leftover concession food made available to feed the hungry through Sports Wrap. Sports Wrap is a new venture that evolved from Rock and Wrap It Up!, a volunteer hunger relief charity started in 1990.

Additionally, Allison has helped launch similar programs with the New York Yankees, New York Mets, New York Jets and New Jersey Nets. By setting an example, Allison has empowered others to reach out to those in need. This is the mark of a great volunteer.

This is the vision my late husband Bill Emerson had for domestic food aid programs when he worked to pass the Good Samaritan Food Act protecting these donations from liability. Bill's hopes for hunger relief in America were very high when he worked to make such programs possible in 1990. He would be very proud of Allison for her contributions to hunger relief.

Allison is a major reason why this hunger relief charity continues to gain notoriety and grow. As long as there are men, women and children who need the helping hand of other

Americans, people like Allison have proven they will be there with a helping hand to offer.

Thank you for your kind service to our Nation, Allison. Congratulations on earning the 2006 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Best of luck to you as you continue your noble work.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida football team on winning the 2006 NCAA national championship.

Madam Speaker, as a University of Florida graduate, born in "Gator Country," I could not be happier with the outcome of last night's game. This team showed true grit and grace by overcoming public opinion, which said they did not belong in the national title game, to defeat a daunting opponent.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the University of Florida as a whole for becoming the first institution in Division I history to hold both the NCAA Men's Basketball and NCAA Football Championships at the same time. Last night's achievement was truly historic.

Madam Speaker, it took the University of Florida 90 years to win its first NCAA Football Championship and only 10 to win its second. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Madam Speaker, I hope everyone will join me in congratulating these fine young men on their historic victory.

HONORING BEN ANDERSON OF AMERICAN CANYON, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. Thompson of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Anderson of American Canyon, California, and thank him for his many years of service devoted to the city and people of American Canyon. As a member of the first city council elected in 1992, Ben Anderson has generously lent his wisdom and guidance to the process of constituting a city government.

Mr. Anderson moved to the area in the early 1980s as an officer in the US Navy at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. In the early 1990s he was instrumental in beginning the petition process and collecting signatures for the incorporation of American Canyon. Having received encouragement from other citizens involved in the campaign, he ran for a seat on the city council and won. He retired from service in the Navy around the same time he took his seat on the council, citing his desire to devote his efforts to full time service to the community.

During his 14 years as a council member Mr. Anderson has helped guide the development of American Canyon from its infancy into the rapidly growing and successful town we

know today. Faced with a variety of challenges in managing the growth of the city, the council has overseen, the development of a complex but functional civic infrastructure. Mr. Anderson has been actively involved in the development of schools and libraries, a gym and swimming pool, and a series of commercial ventures that have brought flourishing businesses to the city.

In addition to his work in city government, Mr. Anderson has been a conscientious leader to the community. He volunteers as a coach with local youth sports leagues, working with multiple soccer or basketball teams at any given time. He has also been an active participant with the local Lion's Club and Veterans of Foreign Wars, including assisting their charitable efforts with his considerable organizational expertise. Finally, and most importantly, he has established a high standard during the proceedings of the city council by always treating city staff, council members, and the community with politeness and respect in the conduct of his duties as a City Councilman.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Anderson for the time he has served on the city council in American Canyon, and all of the many positive works his efforts have yielded. I know that he will remain an active and vocal member of the community even as he retires from elected office.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WALTER M. BOOKER, JR.—JAZZ BASSIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Walter M. Booker, Jr, jazz bassist who left this world at the age of 72 years and to enter into the RECORD an article in the Washington Post by Matt Schudel entitled "Walter Booker, 72; Jazz Bassist worked with Vaughn, Monk."

Walter M. Booker, Jr, was born in Texas, son of the late Walter Monroe Booker, Sr. and the late Thomye Collins Booker. The family moved to Washington, D.C. when his father accepted a position with the Howard University Medical School and later became Head of the Department of Pharmacology. Booker was drafted into the United States Army in the 1950s. While serving in Europe he was fascinated with the acoustic bass and began to play the instrument at the age of 26.

Known as "Bookie," Booker lived for over 40 years in my Congressional District. He provided the rhythmic foundation for Cannonball Adderley, Sarah Vaughan and many other prominent jazz musicians. His most notable partnership was with the Adderley brothers' quintet, featuring Julian "Cannonball" Adderley on alto saxophone and Nat Adderley on cornet. For six years, until Cannonball's death in 1975, Booker served as music ambassador touring the world with the popular group, which pioneered the catchy yet sophisticated style of music known as "soul jazz."

Booker played a Viennese bass built in 1792 salvaged from the dusty basement of a German church. He is known for his bowing technique, sure intonation, ability to play high, accurately pitched notes, as well as his animated performing style, often swaying from side to side.

Booker appeared on more than 275 albums before making his first and only recording under his own name, "Bookie's Cookbook." He gave his final public performances in December 2004.

Even though Walter M. Booker passed away on November 24, 2006, his contributions to the world of jazz and the United States of America will continue to resonate through his music.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 17, 2006]

WALTER BOOKER, 72; JAZZ BASSIST WORKED WITH VAUGHAN, MONK

(By Matt Schudel)

Walter Booker, a bass player who provided the rhythmic foundation for Cannonball Adderley, Sarah Vaughan and many other prominent jazz musicians, died Nov. 24 of cardiac arrest at his home in New York. He was 72.

Mr. Booker, who spent his formative years in Washington, came to the bass at a relatively advanced age, first picking up the instrument at 26 while serving in the Army. He had completed two years of medical school at Howard University in the early 1960s when he left his studies to pursue music as a full-time career.

Known for his precise, resonant tone, Mr. Booker was quickly recognized as one of the elite bass players in jazz, working for extended periods in the 1960s with singer Betty Carter, pianist Chick Corea, trumpeter Donald Byrd and saxophonists Sonny Rollins and Stan Getz. He also toured widely with Washington singer and pianist Shirley Horn.

Mr. Booker formed one of his most significant partnerships in 1969, when he joined the Adderley brothers' quintet, featuring Julian "Cannonball" Adderley on alto saxophone and Nat Adderley on cornet. For six years, until Cannonball's death in 1975, Mr. Booker toured the world with the popular group, which pioneered the catchy yet sophisticated style of music known as "soul jazz."

Working in several groups at the same time in the early 1970s, Mr. Booker was in one of the last ensembles led by visionary composer and pianist Thelonious Monk. From 1975 to 1981, he was the bassist for singer Sarah Vaughan.

"They were more than colleagues," Mr. Booker's wife, Bertha Hope-Booker, said of her husband's many associations with renowned musicians. "They were friends. All the music he played, he imbued with something different."

After moving to New York in 1964, Mr. Booker studied with Homer R. Mensch, a faculty member of the Juilliard School of Music who had played under conductor Arturo Toscanini.

Mr. Booker, who played a Viennese bass built in 1792 that had been salvaged from the dusty basement of a German church, became known for his bowing technique, his sure intonation and his ability to play high, accurately pitched notes. He was also known for his animated performing style, often swaying from side to side.

"He was a 'dancing' bass player," said his wife, a jazz pianist and composer in her own right. "It was like he and the bass had this connection."

Walter Monroe Booker Jr. was born Dec. 17, 1933, in Prairie View, Tex., and moved to Washington in the early 1940s, when his father joined the faculty of the Howard University medical school. (He later was the head of the pharmacology department.)

The younger Mr. Booker studied clarinet and piano, attended D.C. public schools and graduated from high school at the Palmer Memorial Institute in North Carolina. He was a graduate of Morehouse College in At-

lanta, where he played alto saxophone in the concert band.

In the late 1950s, while serving in the Army in Europe—he was in the same unit as Elvis Presley—Mr. Booker developed his interest in the bass. After returning to Washington, he began to play in jazz bands, most notably the JFK Quintet led by Andrew White, while attending medical school.

In New York, Mr. Booker designed a recording studio based on the geodesic principles of Buckminster Fuller. His studio became a gathering place for many musicians who later had celebrated careers, including Angela Bofill, Nat Adderley Jr., T.S. Monk, Noel Pointer, Airto Moreira and the jazz-rock group Weather Report.

In the 1980s and '90s, Mr. Booker worked regularly with Nat Adderley, pianist John Hicks and, in recent years, his wife. He also led groups that performed Brazilian music, which he occasionally played on guitar, and the works of jazz pianist Elmo Hope, his wife's first husband. In the 1990s, he led workshops at the New Sewell Music Conservatory in Washington.

Mr. Booker appeared on more than 275 albums before making his first and only recording under his own name, "Bookie's Cookbook," for the Mapleshade label in Upper Marlboro in 2000. He gave his final public performances in December 2004. Suffering from prostate cancer and other ailments this year, Mr. Booker asked that his bass be brought to his hospital, where he could play it during his final illness.

His marriages to Yvonne Blakeney and Maria Smith ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 20 years, of New York; two sons from his first marriage, Randall Booker of Miami and Russell Booker of Philadelphia; a son from his second marriage, Krishna Booker, who is a percussionist with Sergio Mendes, of Los Angeles; three stepchildren, Monica Hope, Kevin Hope and Daryl Hope, all of New York; a sister, Marjorie Booker of Washington; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR AND EQUAL HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today Government Reform Committee Ranking Member TOM DAVIS (R-VA) and I keep our promise to reintroduce the Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act as our first bill of the 110th Congress. Republican DAVIS was the chair of the Committee when we worked together for 4 years to get Republican and Democratic agreement on this bill to give one voting representative to the mainly Democratic District of Columbia and another to the largely Republican State of Utah. The idea arose after Utah narrowly missed getting a seat following the last census and later failed to get the Supreme Court to rule in the State's favor. The bill also would permanently increase the size of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437 members. I want to thank my colleague TOM DAVIS, the original author of the bill, for his indispensable persistence, and for his bipartisan spirit that afforded me every opportunity to significantly contribute to the bill during the 109th Congress, when he was in the

Republican majority and I was a minority member.

Democrats have long been outspoken in their commitment to D.C. voting rights, and I appreciate their unwavering support. The bill we introduce today reflects the political history of our country that inalterably demonstrates that additional representation has been granted only on the basis of exact political equivalence, assuring neither benefit nor disadvantage to either party. This bill meets the necessary standard. Party, of course, should not matter when it comes to a democratic right as basic as representation in the legislature that taxes citizens and sends them to war. However, it is the undeniable reality that party equivalence in one form or another has driven decisions for adding voting representation. Many remember the most recent additions of Alaska and Hawaii, when these States entered the union because their voting records eliminated party advantage. However, this pattern was set throughout the nineteenth century as each State entered the union, most dramatically, of course, when no slave State could be admitted unless a free State came in at the same time.

Preserving all their rights as American citizens to voting rights in each house, the people of the District of Columbia and our civil rights and civic allies have nevertheless concluded that there can be no serious attempt to achieve the vote for our citizens that ignores precedents woven so tightly into our history. The linchpin of this legislation is its bipartisan balance, and we are grateful for the rare opportunity we believe will not come again soon, but that the Utah-D.C. bill offers District citizens now, to follow the unerring path to the vote laid out by American history.

A similar bill approved by the Committee on Government Reform last May called for the additional seat in Utah to be at-large until the 2010 census, but when the bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee, then-chairman JAMES F. SENSENBRENNER, Jr. (R-WI) insisted that Utah adopt a redistricting plan that allowed for four seats before he would approve the bill. The Utah's legislature met in early December and quickly adopted a four-seat plan, which is provided for in today's bill. However, House leadership declined to address the issue in the closing days of the 109th Congress. We now seek our seat to vote in the 110th Congress.

Although we came close to securing passage in the 109th Congress, the District's vote was already long past due. We're in overtime in the 110th. We will proceed based on the same win-win approach that carried us through last Congress. In the spirit of the partnership promised by the new Democratic House majority, I am optimistic that Democrats will see the bill as a historic opportunity to make good on promises for voting rights and equality for the people of the District of Columbia.

Finally, I ask to be forgiven a personal allusion. Throughout this process, I have never referred to the District's vote as my vote or to what the vote would mean to me personally because the vote will not belong to me. I have never mentioned the special reason I person-

ally wanted to be the first to cast the vote because the Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act is for D.C. residents now and in the future, not for me. However, my 16 years in Congress has been defined by the search for a way to achieve full representation for the city where my family has lived since before the Civil War. That search has included the two-day debate followed by a vote on statehood more than 10 years ago that Speaker Tom Foley afforded me, and the vote I subsequently won in the Committee of the Whole because of the long commitment of the Democratic majority to D.C. voting rights and the commitment of my party to maximize the rights of the citizens who live in the Nation's capital until voting rights could be achieved. The struggle has been driven by its own terms, by the here and now, by the residents of the District of Columbia for over 200 years. Yet, I cannot deny the personal side of this quest, epitomized by my family of native Washingtonians, my father Coleman Holmes, my grandfather, Richard Holmes, who entered the D.C. Fire Department in 1902 and whose picture hangs in my office, a gift from the D.C. Fire Department, and especially my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes, a slave who walked off a Virginia plantation in the 1850s, made it to Washington, and began our family here. I cannot help but think today of this man I never knew, a slave in the District until Lincoln freed the slaves here 9 months before the Emancipation Proclamation. I am mindful of my great grandfather, who came here in a furtive search for freedom itself, not the vote in Congress. I wonder what a man who lived as a slave in the District, and others like him would think if he could know that his great-granddaughter might be the first to cast the first full vote for the District of Columbia in the House of Representatives. I hope to have the special honor of casting the vote I have sought for 16 years. I want to cast that vote for the citizens of this city, whom I have had the great privilege of representing, who have fought with me every step of the way, and who have waited interminably for justice. Yes, and I want to cast that vote in memory of my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes.

THE MILITARY FAMILIES
FINANCIAL SECURITY ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, With the support of my colleague, Rep. JIM McDERMOTT, I rise today to introduce the Military Families Financial Security Act. This bill will ensure the brave men and women who serve our country will not have to worry about losing critical services their dependent children need.

The men and women who serve in our Armed Forces are everyday heroes. I know about the valor of military families from my own experience as a military wife when my

husband was stationed in Japan during the Vietnam War. As a wife and mother in a foreign country with two young children, I observed that many servicemembers were also mothers and fathers and were making the same sacrifices I was. Just as these brave men and women are working to protect our Nation, we must likewise protect them and their loved ones through the laws and policies we enact.

In San Diego and around the country, some military families rely on the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) for means-tested financial assistance. This safety net program is designed to protect qualifying families from poverty and provides access to valuable social services such as Medicaid. Without SSI, some special-needs families would not be able to cover their medical expenses.

Current regulations threaten some military families' eligibility. They face a unique risk of losing benefits due to the way military pay is treated under SSI rules. The Social Security Administration (SSA) considers anything outside basic pay as "unearned income." This method hurts servicemembers and their families since there are more than 30 types of military pay in addition to basic pay. These different pays, considered unearned income, result in higher countable income and affect eligibility. Just a few dollars can make all the difference in the world to these military families.

My legislation would change how the SSA calculates income for SSI eligibility by treating most military compensation as earned income. This simple change will keep families eligible for SSI benefits and simplify the administration of this program.

In testimony before the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, Social Security Commissioner JoAnne Barnhart has indicated her support for such a proposal.

The provision would treat cash military compensation and civilian wages alike, and thus eliminate the present unfair and disadvantageous treatment of cash military compensation other than basic pay under SSI. The proposal would increase SSI benefits for most military families with disabled children, which are currently about 3,000 families. It would be a significant program simplification in these cases and would have a relatively small program cost of only \$2 million over 10 years.

She also mentioned how "determining the difference in the types of military pay is time consuming and error prone, and the guidelines for making such determinations covers 14 pages in SSA's operating instructions."

As a proud member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am committed to improving the quality of life of the men and women who serve our country. This legislation is fair, overdue and demonstrates our Nation's appreciation. This legislation will give servicemembers peace of mind from knowing that their duties will not jeopardize their families' eligibility for SSI benefits and related services.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.