

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF JOE LACEY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a longtime San Francisco community leader and friend, Joe Lacey, who died on December 30, 2006.

Joseph Patrick Lacey's family moved to San Francisco in 1921. As a scholar athlete, Joe attended St. Ignatius High School and the University of Santa Clara on a football scholarship, playing in two Sugar Bowls. In 1940, Joe won the Pacific Coast Heavyweight Boxing Championship. In 1941, Joe played on an All Star Football team in Hawaii where he met his beloved wife of 55 years, Katharine Faye Dooling.

He served our Nation with distinction in the Navy on the USS *Yarnall* DD 541 in World War II participating in several Pacific battles, including Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and again in the Korean War, serving on the USS *Walker*.

After the war, Joe began the next chapter of his life, starting a successful homebuilding company whose work includes thousands of homes in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas. Later in life, he taught special education in the Watsonville, Newark and San Francisco County school districts.

Joe was a life-long volunteer, dedicated to children and our city's most vulnerable residents. He was active in youth sports and a champion of San Francisco's homeless and elderly populations. He served on the boards of several non-profit organizations in San Francisco for more than 25 years, including Old St. Mary's Housing Committee, Catholic Charities, Senior Action Network, Planning for Elders and TURN.

Joe was well known in the halls of San Francisco city government buildings, representing nonprofit organizations. Mayor Willie Brown appointed Joe as a commissioner on the San Francisco Commission on Aging, where he proudly served until his death.

With great appreciation for his extraordinary work and service to our city and our Nation, I extend my deepest sympathy to his large and loving family. He will long be remembered by countless individuals whose lives he touched. He was a great friend to the people of San Francisco, and we are diminished by his passing.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to Members' attention a number of con-

cerns have with the aviation security, emergency preparedness, and port security provisions contained in H.R. 1, the "Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007."

### AVIATION SECURITY PROVISIONS

Almost all of the aviation security provisions in H.R. 1 address requirements previously authorized or mandated by the Republicans in the years since September 11th.

H.R. 1 sets up an unrealistic Cargo Inspection Program that will be impossible to implement without bringing commerce to a halt and diverts limited funding and attention from higher security threats. Even more, Congress already addressed this recommendation in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act of 2004; provided \$200M each year 2005–2007 to improve cargo security and \$100M each year 2005–2007 for research and development.

H.R. 1 will require inspection or a physical search of each piece of cargo and will therefore bring commerce to a grinding halt.

H.R. 1 ignores risk assessments to date that cargo is not a high threat area. Rather, passenger and baggage screening has been and should continue to be the first priority. Yet, passenger security checkpoints are still using 1950's technology with little explosive detection capability. Currently, only 28 out of 441 commercial airports have full or partial in-line EDS. Of the largest 29 airports that handle 75% of all passengers, only 9 have full in-line EDS systems.

Additionally, even though it is NOT a 9/11 Commission Recommendation, H.R. 1 gives TSA employees collective bargaining which will keep in place a flawed system and negatively impact the introduction of much needed screening technology.

Only thing worse than government bureaucracy is entrenched government bureaucracy. Yet that is exactly what H.R. 1 is seeking to create. In fact, H.R. 1 ignores and reverses Congressional direction in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act that a flexible personnel management system is essential to TSA's critical national security role. H.R. 1 also ignores and reverses TSA's January 2003 determination that, ". . . individuals carrying out the security screening function . . ., in light of their critical national security responsibilities, shall not, . . . be entitled to engage in collective bargaining. . . ."

H.R. 1 will be costly and will keep in place a flawed, security system and deny the opportunity to put in place much needed screening technology. Europeans learned the hard way and moved from a government-run airport security system to a private system with government oversight. It looks like we are not learning from their efforts.

Finally, H.R. 1 does not address many important aviation security issues such as: Ensuring biometrics operations in identification and access control; deploying high technology solutions; improving pilots' licenses; setting a term for TSA Deputy Secretary position. We have had 4 different people in charge in the 5

years since the agency was created (Magaw, Loy, Stone and Hawley)—not counting when the post was unfilled. For instance, in 2001, the Democrat-lead Senate adjourned for the year without taking action to fill this post—the President had to make a recess appointment on January 7th, 2002.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

The Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act and past appropriations bills already address most of the 9/11 Commission's first responder recommendations. Republicans already implemented comprehensive emergency management reform. Normal procedure and a committee markup would have allowed Congress to address the few inconsistencies with the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act enacted by the last Congress.

H.R. 1 makes only minor emergency management reforms. Republicans enacted comprehensive emergency management reform last year in the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act addressing interoperable communications, emergency preparedness standards and FEMA reform. H.R. 1 authorizes another grant program for communications equipment, providing for "such sums as necessary." This is just an authorization, not real money. In contrast, the Republicans passed a law that will allocate a portion of the digital spectrum sale to interoperable communications grants. This is real money, and will be a billion dollars.

H.R. 1 is a first step toward the Federal Government placing unfunded mandates for preparedness on private businesses. It is important for individuals and businesses to be prepared for disasters, but H.R. 1 includes a provision that is a first step toward the Federal government placing unfunded mandates for preparedness on private businesses. It goes well beyond any Congressionally-mandated role and inserts the Federal Government into state and local affairs.

### PORT SECURITY PROVISIONS

Well before the 9/11 Commission's report in 2004, Congress recognized the potential for a maritime-based terrorist attack. In 2002, Congress adopted the Maritime Transportation Security Act which established a framework of comprehensive port and vessel security. Congress expanded the Act in 2004 and adopted the SAFE Port Act last year. The SAFE Port Act established a cargo scanning pilot program. That program will start scanning containers bound for the United States in at least 5 foreign ports later this year.

So, I am surprised to see the proposal to mandate 100 percent screening on the floor today. That is NOT the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. The Commission recommends that the government "identify and evaluate the transportation assets that need to be protected, set risk-based priorities for defending them, select the most practical and cost-effective ways of doing so, and then develop a plan, budget, and funding to implement the effort." That isn't what this provision does.

While the proposal before us today would allow the existing pilot program to continue, it

• 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.

would also require each and every cargo container to be screened in each and every foreign port not later than 5 years, and as soon as 3 years from enactment. This requirement would come into effect regardless of the results of the pilot program and, perhaps, regardless of the availability of any sufficient screening system.

When this proposal was first made last year, it was opposed by the Administration, the maritime transportation industries, and such voices as the Washington Post's editorial page. Instead of enacting any blanket requirements on the maritime transportation sector without any technologies capable of achieving the standards, Congress rightly required the Department of Homeland Security to test the capabilities of available scanning technologies.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are justifying their proposal by saying that 100 percent scanning systems are in place at two ports overseas. It is not. In these ports, some—but not all—containers are scanned, and none of the scans are analyzed to determine that the container is or is not a risk.

No system currently in place in any port worldwide is capable of scanning and reviewing 100 percent of containers that are bound for the United States. What will we do in 3 years if there are no scanning technologies available without creating massive backups and delays in international maritime commerce? Let's complete the pilot program and not establish mandatory requirements that we may not be able to meet.

Congress has acted to make America's maritime commerce is safer than before 9/11. It is unfortunate that this bill has been brought to the House Floor with the intention of convincing the American people that until now Congress has simply let the 9/11 Commission's recommendations languish. Nothing could be further from the truth.

IN HONOR OF FREDERICK  
JOHNSEN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true national servant. Frederick Johnsen, a 9-year volunteer and contributor to Hospice of the Central Coast, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 16, 2006. He was 71 years young.

Mr. Johnsen was born in Newark, New Jersey and attended primary schools in Union, New Jersey, and University of Omaha from where he graduated with a B.S. in 1963. Fred retired from the Army in 1980 after 22 years of service with the rank of Major. His outstanding military service earned him the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters twice, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Dominican Republic). Upon his retirement, Fred and his wife Edith, settled in Marina, California, adjacent to his last duty station at Fort Ord.

During his early years of retirement he enjoyed teaching sailing at the Naval Postgraduate School. He was a founding member

of Sun Street Center, and SeaRina Community Recovery Center Advisory Board. He loved growing roses and was a member and president of the Monterey Bay Rose Society and served as a Consulting Rosarian. Most recently he was known for his supportive role as husband and confidante to my good friend Edith Johnsen, former Mayor of Marina and Supervisor for the Fourth District of Monterey. He took great pleasure in gourmet cooking, sports—especially NASCAR racing—and his relationships in the community.

Fred is survived by Edith Vallo Johnsen, his wife of 48 years; his sons, Christopher of Portland and Kenneth of Miami; his brother, Robert Johnsen and his mother, Margaret Salerno Johnsen of Union, New Jersey; along with numerous beloved family members.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend our Nation's deep gratitude for Fred's service to the United States and his own local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in offering our condolences to Edith and the whole Johnsen family for the loss of their beloved husband, father, son, and brother.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATIONS ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today very pleased that we will finally pass legislation to implement in full the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission over 2 years ago. This is an important day for our Nation, and an extremely important day for the security of our Nation.

There is much to like about this legislation, but today I would like to focus only on a few of the many important provisions in the bill. Specifically, I have supported in the past, and continue to support today, efforts to screen 100 percent of shipping containers headed through United States ports. As I have noted here on the floor of the House before, approximately 95 percent of our Nation's trade, worth nearly \$1 trillion, enters or leaves through our seaports. We must secure these ports and do so immediately. We have already waited too long.

I know there is much concern about the feasibility of this provision to screen 100 percent, because of cost as well as whether or not it is simply possible. But Madame Speaker, I believe it is feasible. There are technologies being developed in my district by able small businesses to provide for improved screening processes while ensuring that port operations continue efficiently and effectively. Our Nation has faced challenges to our security before, and industry and our citizens have responded. I believe this can be the case again if we demonstrate the will to lead. And today we are on the verge of doing so.

Another aspect of H.R. 1 that I would like to highlight today are the changes made to the Civil Liberties Oversight Board. Representatives MALONEY, SHAYS, and I introduced legislation during the 109th Congress to make the Board an independent agency, grant the

Board subpoena authority, subject all members of the Board to be confirmed by the Senate, require that no more than three members of the same political party be allowed to serve simultaneously, thus creating a more bipartisan and politically diverse board, and require each executive department or agency with law enforcement or antiterrorism functions to designate a privacy and civil liberties officer. H.R. 1 includes each and every one of these provisions.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the many provisions included in H.R. 1 that will help secure our nation and I strongly support the passage of this legislation today. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN E.  
EWING

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Stephen E. Ewing, who served the Michigan business community for over 35 years.

Steve retired at the end of 2006 as the Vice Chairman of DTE Energy. He has been an industrious and dedicated leader in Michigan for over 35 years. Steve's career in natural gas began at Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, MichCon, where he held several executive positions and was responsible for corporate planning, personnel, administration and customer service from 1971 to 1985. He became the chief operating officer in 1985 and later the chief executive officer in 1992. Through his leadership, Steve helped MichCon become a founding member of the Heat and Warmth Fund, THAW, an organization that provides energy assistance to low-income families, and the National Fuel Network, NFFN, an organization that promotes privately funded energy assistance.

When MCN Energy Group and DTE Energy merged in 2001, MichCon became a subsidiary and Steve became the head of the DTE Energy Gas Unit. At DTE Energy, Steve worked on creating new business opportunities in natural gas and managed the company's external gas-related business relationships. Steve has been recognized for directing environmentally responsible natural gas exploration and production activities in Northern Michigan, earning DTE Energy praise and trust from northern Michigan's environmental community.

Steve has also devoted his time and knowledge to the energy sector by serving as chairman of American Gas Association and member of the AAA Auto Group Club. He remains deeply involved in the Michigan community by serving on the boards of several economic, education, cultural, and health and human services organizations and businesses; as well as on the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America's Detroit Area Council and the National Petroleum Council. Throughout his career, Steve has been a mentor to his employees, instilling in them the successful leadership qualities that he employed in his executive capacities. Steve is a true pioneer in energy matters and the State of Michigan is grateful for his 35 years of service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending the appreciation of the U.S. House of Representatives to Stephen E. Ewing for his lifelong work in the energy sector, and in wishing him an enjoyable and adventurous retirement.

HIGHEST SIKH RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY SEEMS TO BE UNDER HINDUTVA CONTROL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently sent a letter to Joginder Singh Vedanti, the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, who has been promoting a piece of flim-flam known as the Dasam Granth, in which several writers took a snippet of the writing of the last Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and added other items, some pornographic, trying to pass it off as the genuine work of Guru Gobind Singh in order to damage the Sikh religion. Jathedar Vedanti's endorsement of the Dasam Granth makes him a participant in this effort to undermine the Sikh culture and religion.

The Council of Khalistan urged the Jathedar to stop diverting the attention of the Sikhs to this severely altered book and instead to focus on the issue of freedom for Khalistan. He noted that on the two occasions last year when Sikh leaders were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising a Khalistani flag, there was no protest from Jathedar Vedanti.

It is time for us to support the legitimate aspirations of the Sikhs and all the minorities of India who are seeking their freedom by stopping our aid to India) suspending our trade with that country and by supporting the right to self-determination for all the minority nations of the subcontinent. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. Why can't "the world's largest democracy" hold a simple vote on this fundamental question?

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's letter to Jathedar Vedanti into the RECORD at this time for the information of the American people.

JANUARY 9, 2007.

DEAR JATHEDAR VEDANTI: I am writing to you about the Dasam Granth, which you have been promoting as the genuine writing of Guru Gobind Singh. The issue of its authorship was settled long ago. As you know, the authors of the Dasam Granth identify themselves within the text and only a small part is written by Guru Gobind Singh. The rest was appended by Hindu writers looking to harm the Sikh religion. Much of it is pornographic. For a jathedar of the Akal Takht to promote it as genuine Sikh scripture, especially since Guru Gobind Singh left the Guruship in the Guru Granth Sahib, is harmful to the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. Sikhs should bow only to the Guru Granth Sahib, nothing else.

The Dasam Granth is not the real issue. Do not get sidetracked, and do not sidetrack the Sikh Nation from the real issue, freedom and sovereignty for Khalistan. Do not let this controversy divert and waste the resources of the Sikh Nation from the preservation of our religion and culture.

It is vitally important that the Akal Takht Jathedar, the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion, be committed to the well-

being of the Sikh Nation. Preserving its history, religion, culture, and scripture is essential to that well-being, especially when it is under assault from Hindus who are trying to subsume the Sikh religion and culture into those of the Hindus as part of Hindutva. Remember that a former Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. But also remember the words of your predecessor, Professor Darshan Singh, who said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Jathedar Vedanti, the duty of the Jathedar of the Akal Takht is to protect, promote, and disseminate the Sikh religion. How can we do that within the framework of India when India is working to destroy the Sikh religion? The experience of the Jewish people shows that when a nation has sovereignty, it flourishes, but when it does not it perishes.

The only way to preserve, promote, and disseminate the Sikh religion and culture is in a free and sovereign Khalistan. Yet when Sikh leaders in Punjab were arrested last year simply for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag, we did not hear a word of protest from the Akal Takht. Nor did we hear a protest of the actions of the Badal government in Punjab, the most corrupt in Punjab's history. The Badal government even sold jobs—they called it "fee for service" and Mrs. Badal was able to tell how much money was in a bag just by picking it up.

Please do not let your energy be diverted to issues like the Dasam Granth, which has long been known to be altered. We need every Sikh to help bring freedom, dignity, prosperity, and security in a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan. Discussion of issues like the Dasam Granth merely diverts the Khalsa Panth from freedom and sets back the cause of protecting the Khalsa Panth.

Panth Da Sewadar,  
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
President, Council of Khalistan.

A VERY FINE LADY—INDEED—A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DR. RACHEL HANNAH CELESTINE BOONE KEITH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise to pay tribute to a champion of humanity, Dr. Rachel Hannah Celestine Boone Keith lived an exemplary life, one filled with kindness and caring towards others. She was an exceptional woman who genuinely cared about those around her and was always quick to lend a helping hand. I have known Dr. Keith for over 40 years. She was the wife of my dear friend, Judge Damon Keith. Judge Keith and I have been great friends for a very long time. I initially met Judge Keith when he was the law partner of my brother, Nathan Conyers. It is with a heavy heart that I make this tribute to Dr. Keith who gave so generously in life; she was a wonderful person and physician, she acted on behalf of those who could not help themselves, and she advocated vociferously for the health care rights of the community at large, she will truly be missed.

Rachel Hannah Celestine Boone was born on May 24, 1924, in Monrovia, Liberia. Her father and mother were Baptist medical mission-

aries who founded a church, ran a school, and provided medical services. She returned to the United States at the age of three, relocating with her family to Richmond, Virginia. She graduated from high school at the age of 13 and was the class valedictorian. Tragically, her mother died that same year. This loss is what prompted her to decide to become a doctor. After her mother's death, she relocated to Boston to live with her aunt, Dr. Bessie B. Tharps. Following in her aunt's footsteps, she attended the Boston University School of Medicine, where she attained the highest score ever recorded on a medical school exam.

In 1951, she relocated to Detroit to become only the second African-American female doctor to serve as a resident physician at the Detroit Receiving Hospital. It was soon after beginning her residency that she met Judge Keith, who was a young lawyer at the time. They were soon married and remained married for 53 years. My friend Damon has said of his wife, "She was the sweetest woman in the world. Her life was a by-product of how she was raised. She was very religious. She was not pushy or demanding. She saw her life as one of service." Judge Keith and Dr. Keith had three wonderful daughters, Cecile, Debbie, and Gilda. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who taught her children that they were raised to live a simple life.

Professionally, Dr. Keith gave tirelessly to her patients. She was a trained internist who was in private practice over 40 years. During that long tenure, she never turned any patient away based on their inability to pay.

Though she was a strong supporter of her husband and gentle in demeanor, Dr. Keith was exceptionally effective as a leader in developing community unity, and in developing and establishing new ways to deliver health care. She was an early health care activist and far ahead of her time in understanding the importance of health care being universal to all.

In addition to being a strong medical presence in the community, she was heavily involved in civic and social matters. She served on the board of over 20 medical organizations and 18 non-profit groups. She was also honored with numerous awards and honorary degrees. Madam Speaker, the world is a better place because Dr. Keith was here; she will be deeply missed, but her spirit and love that she shared with others will live on indefinitely. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter the homegoing celebration program of Dr. Rachel Hannah Celestine Boone Keith into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DR. RACHEL HANNAH CELESTINE BOONE KEITH

Rachel Keith was born Rachel Hannah Celestine Boone on May 30, 1924, in Monrovia, Liberia. Her parents, Reverends Clinton C. Boone and Rachel Tharps Boone, were Baptist medical missionaries. Her grandfather, Reverend Lemuel Washington Boone, was a founding trustee of Shaw University. Rachel came to the United States at age three and began her schooling at Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia. She graduated from Armstrong High School in 1938 at the age of 13 as valedictorian of her class. That same year, she lost her mother and moved with her aunt, Dr. Bessie B. Tharps, to Rhode Island. In 1943, as the only African-American student at Houghton College in upstate New York, Rachel graduated magna cum laude and

second

in her class. Thereafter, she completed post-graduate studies in biology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Rachel attained her medical degree from Boston University's School of Medicine in 1949.

Also in 1949, Dr. Rachel Boone was featured in a *Look* Magazine story about Boston University's home medical service and in *The Boston Globe* for scoring the highest ever on a national board test. After completing her internship at Harlem Hospital, she served at Brooklyn's Coney Island Hospital before moving to Detroit in 1951. In 1953, she married attorney Damon J. Keith. Dr. Keith completed a 2-year residency in Internal Medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital in 1953. In 1954, she joined the staff at Detroit Memorial Hospital and entered private practice. During her half century of medical practice, Dr. Keith was also affiliated with Burton Mercy, Detroit Riverview, Detroit Receiving, Harper, Hutzel, and Sinai hospitals.

A member of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for 53 years, Rachel Keith was a deeply religious woman who lived her faith. She served her family, her patients and her community with dedication and tenacity. As a physician, she gave every patient her full attention and complete care. She was a loving and nurturing mother to her daughters, Cecile, Debbie and Gilda and an exemplary role model who taught them to give back and help others. Her devotion and love for her husband of 53 years, Judge Damon J. Keith, was steadfast. As a member of the Detroit community, she as an active participant in numerous civic and social organizations, always with the intent of making life better for others. She was a true pioneer in the medical community, a civil rights activist, a compassionate mentor and a strong advocate for her patients, the poor and uninsured.

In addition to her immediate family, Rachel Boone Keith is survived by her brother, Rev. Clinton C. Boone, II, her granddaughters, Nia and Camara Brown, in whom she took great pride, her son-in-law, Daryle Brown, her niece and nephew, Rane Boone Franklin and Rev. Clinton C. Boone III, and a host of loving relatives and friends.

Opening Hymn, "Blessed Assurance", Tabernacle Combined Choirs.

Scriptures: Matthew 25: 34-36, II Timothy 4:6-8, Reverend Nicholas Hood, Sr., Pastor Emeritus, Plymouth United Church of Christ.

Prayer, Reverend Dr. Oscar R. Carter, Inkster Springhill Baptist Church.

Musical Selection, "The Lord Is My Light", Walter McLean.

Remarks, The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor, State of Michigan, The Honorable Kwame M. Kilpatrick, Mayor, City of Detroit, Dr. James Brown, Longtime Medical Partner.

Family Tribute, Cecile Keith Brown, Daughter.

Silent Reading Of The Obituary, Musical Selection, "I Really Love The Lord".

Musical Selection, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow", Virginia Winters.

Eulogy, Reverend Dr. Charles G. Adams, Senior Pastor, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church.

Hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", Congregation.

Closing Prayer, Reverend Nathan Johnson, Senior Pastor, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.

Recessional, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", Tabernacle Combined Choirs.

Dr. Keith's medical affiliations included: American Medical Association; Beaumont Hospital; Blue Care Network; Blue Preferred; Comprehensive Cancer Center of Metropolitan Detroit; Detroit Department of Health;

Detroit Gastroenterological Society; Detroit Medical Center; Detroit Medical Society; DMC Care; Eastwood Clinic Chemical Dependency Unit; Michigan Board of Medicine; Michigan State Medical Society; National Medical Association; Omnicare; Professional Plaza Health Care Center P.C.; University of Michigan Hospitals, Public Advisory Board; Wayne County Medical Society; Wayne State University College of Nursing; and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Dr. Keith's civic and cultural affiliations included: African American Association of Liberia; African Development Fund; American Leprosy Mission; Coleman A. Young Foundation; Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan; Detroit Community Music School; Detroit Institute of Arts; Detroit Science Center; Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher Education; Links, Inc.—Great Lakes Chapter; Mayor's Committee for the Cultural Center; Mayor's Emergency Relief Committee; Metropolitan Area Service Organization; NAACP—Lifetime Member; National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; Top Ladies of Distinction; and World Energy Conference.

She received numerous awards including: Boston University, Rebecca Lee Award; Boston University, Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters; Central Michigan University, Honorary Degree, Doctor of Public Service; Mary McLeod Bethune Award; Sinai Hospital Recognition Award; and Zeta Phi Beta Woman of the Year.

Honorary Pallbearers: Robert and Maggie Allesee, Herman Anderson, Dr. William Anderson, Hon. Dennis W. Archer, Hon. Trudy Archer, Leon Atchison, Edward Bailey, Anita Baker, Don and Bella Barden, Dr. and Mrs. Hiram Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Werten Bellamy, Sr., Dr. Lerone Bennett, Dave Bing, Black Judges Association of Michigan, Alberta Blackburn, Catherine Carter Blackwell, Raymond H. Boone, Charles Boyce, Joe Brown, Dr. Waldo Cain.

Dr. Benjamin A. Carson, Marvel Cheeks, Hon. Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick, Dr. Aram V. Chobanian, Dr. June Christmas, Hon. Erie L. Clay, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Pres. William Jefferson Clinton, Hon. R. Guy Cole, Jr., Prof. James Coleman, William Coleman, Jr.

Pres. Mary Sue Coleman, Dr. Julius V. Combs, Congressman John Conyers, Nathan Conyers, Leon Cooper, Dr. Wendell Cox, Peter D. Cummings and Julie Fisher Cummings, David DiChiera, Congressman John and Debbie Dingell.

Walter E. Douglas, Eugene and Elaine Driker, Prof. Michael Eric Dyson, Esther Gordy Edwards, Bishop Charles H. Ellis, III, Douglas Ellman, Myrlie Evers Williams, Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr., Hon. John Feikens, Oscar Feldman, Dr. Otis Ferguson.

Howard Fitts, Sylvia Flanagan, Rev. Kenneth Flowers, Edsel and Cynthia Ford, Mr. and Mrs. William Clay Ford, Jr., W. Frank Fountain, Aretha Franklin, Dr. John Hope Franklin, Roderick G. Gillum, Dr. Holly S. Gilmer-Hill.

Tom and Carol Goss, Thomas A. Gottschalk, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and Daniel Mulhern, The Greater Detroit Links, Forrest Green, Dr. Rosalind Griffin, Prof. Lani Guinier, Elliott Hall, Ronald E. Hall, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven H. Hamp, Carmen Harlan, Al and Kathy Harrison, Hon. Erma Henderson, Prof. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Oliver W. Hill, Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., Dr. Melvin L. Hollowell, Sr., Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, Jr., Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Willie Horton, Charles Hamilton Houston, III, Corrine Houston, Joseph and Jean Hudson, Dr. Ann Marie Ice, Mike and Marian

Ilitch, Dr. Lonnie Joe, Dr. Arthur L. and Chacona Johnson, E. Christopher Johnson, Hon. Sterling Johnson.

Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones, Vernon E. and Ann Jordan, Eleanor Josaitis, Dr. Darnell and Shirley Kaigler, Peter and Danialle Karmanos, Emory King, Joe W. Laymon, Otis K. Lee, Senator Carl Levin, David Baker Lewis.

Diana Lewis, Dr. Ronald Little, Samuel Logan, Hon. Conrad L. Mallett, Jr., Richard and Jane Manoogian, Mrs. Thurgood Marshall, Hon. and Mrs. William McClain, Mrs. Wade McCree, Jr., Aubrey McCutcheon, Jr., Rodney O'Neal.

Genna Rae McNeil, Jesse Jai McNeil, James Nicholson, Steve Palackdharry, Nancy Parson, Dr. Robert E.L. Perkins, Dr. William F. Pickard, Vivian Rogers Pickard, Sharon Madison Polk, Gen. Colin and Alma Powell, Waltraud E. Prechter.

Dr. Irvin D. Reid, Roy S. and Maureen Roberts, Dr. Alma Rose, Dean Kurt L. Schmoke, Alan E. and Marianne Schwartz, The Shaya Family, Roger Short, Tavis Smiley, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Elaine Eason Steele.

Marc Stepp, Emanuel Steward, Chuck Stokes, Herbert Strather, Pres. H. Patrick Swygert, Frank Taylor, Dr. Natalia Tanner, A. Alfred Taubman, Dr. Lorna Thomas, Reginald M. Turner, Jr.

Abe Venable, Richard Wade, Irene Walt, Hon. JoAnn Watson, Rev. Lance Watson, Dr. Charles Whitten, Gov. Douglas Wilder, Hon. Ann Claire Williams, Lt. Kenneth Williams, Mrs. Stanley Winkelman, Robert Hughes Wright, Dean Frank Wu, David N. Zack.

Pallbearers: Luther Alton Keith, Gregory Sims, Reverend Clinton C. Boone, III, Terrence Keith, Martinzay Sims, Alex Parrish.

Flower Bearers: Great Lakes Chapter of the Links, Inc. and friends.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to: Swanston Funeral Home, Inc., 14751 W. McNichols Road, Detroit, Michigan, (313) 272-9000.

Interment: Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkeley, Michigan.

Fellowship and Repast: Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church (Following the Interment).

Acknowledgment: The family of Dr. Rachel Boone Keith, deeply appreciates your expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness. Your love and support have been a great comfort.

Contributions can be made to: The Dr. Rachel Boone Keith Prize Fund at the School of Medicine. Checks should be made payable to: "Trustees of Boston University" Note: Rachel Boone Keith Fund Address: BU School of Medicine, 75 Albany Street, L219, Boston, MA 02118. The Rachel Boone Keith Prize Fund is a permanently endowed fund established as a tribute by her family to provide annual awards to one or more forth year African-American female students who demonstrate excellence in performance at the Boston University School of Medicine.

## FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a day that is long overdue.

Despite the fact that 4 out of 5 Americans support a minimum wage increase, the last Congress did not bring up a clean minimum wage bill.

For more than 9 years, the minimum wage has been frozen. Its value today is at its lowest level since 1955—when Eisenhower was President.

This Congressional neglect—again, 9 years since the last increase—is the longest since the minimum wage was created. The results have been devastating.

A full-time minimum wage worker earns only \$10,712 per year—almost \$6,000 under the poverty line for a family of three.

Furthermore, this low wage is often the only wage of the house—nearly half of all minimum wage workers are the sole breadwinner in their households.

Today, we will change that and millions of workers will benefit. This extra money—nearly \$4,000 for a full-time minimum wage earner—means that they won't have to choose between buying drugs for their children, and putting food on the family dinner table.

It is unacceptable for a person working a full-time job in the richest country in the world to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we pay American workers what they deserve: a fair day's wage for a day's work.

Raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

THE STANDARDS TO PROVIDE  
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT  
FOR ALL KIDS (SPEAK) ACT (H.R.  
325)

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for All Kids (SPEAK) Act, H.R. 325.

It has been no secret that I strongly believe that we need to improve our nation's math and science education. High quality math and science education at the K–12 levels is extremely important to ensure that our future workforce is ready to compete in the global economy. We are sacrificing our future and our children's, if we are not investing in today's children.

I have been so concerned about the quality of math and science education in this country, and the limited number of young people who are pursuing math and science-related degrees, that I founded the House STEM Education Caucus with my Democratic colleague MARK UDALL of Colorado in 2004. As you probably know, STEM stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics."

A resounding bipartisan chorus of business leaders, educators, Nobel laureates and other luminaries has called for improvements in our nation's math and science education, as evidenced by the Business Roundtable's Tapping America's Potential and the National Academies' Rising Above the Gathering Storm reports, as well as President Bush's American Competitiveness Initiative.

While the last Congress was unable to pass comprehensive legislation to improve math and science education, we now have a new opportunity to work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion: the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is up for reauthorization this year.

NCLB has made important strides toward strengthening standards-based education and holding states and schools accountable for ensuring that our students are learning. However, with more than 50 different sets of academic standards, state assessments and definitions of proficiency, there is tremendous vari-

ability across our nation in the subject matter our students are learning.

I might add that there also is considerable variation across states and even school districts in the sequencing of math and science courses, which is problematic for our increasingly mobile student population. Our students could lack instruction in certain basic science or math concepts if they transfer between schools with completely different sequences of courses.

Despite NCLB and all of our other efforts, the condition of our state standards is not well. In 2006, the Fordham Foundation reported that two-thirds of U.S. kids attend school in states with academic standards in the C, D, and F range. My own state of Michigan was given a C in math and a D in science despite the fact that Michigan was one of the pioneers in the standards movement. (Michigan adopted science guidelines in 1991). Recently, Michigan adopted the Michigan Merit Curriculum, which describes what students should know at each grade level, and is linked to tougher statewide graduation requirements that, for the first time, mandate 3 years of high school science.

States like Michigan are making substantial improvements, but our Nation as a whole needs to redouble its efforts to ensure that we have all students prepared for the jobs of the future, and must improve the quality of our educational standards from the current average or failing grades to excellent or A plus grades.

The SPEAK Act creates, adopts and recommends rigorous voluntary American education content standards in math and science in grades K–12. The bill tasks the National Assessment Governing Board, in consultation with relevant organizations, to review existing standards and to review the issue of course sequencing as it relates to student achievement.

The SPEAK Act authorizes the American Standards Incentive Fund to incentivize states to adopt excellent math and science standards. It offers an "If You Build It, They Will Come Approach." Let me emphasize that this bill does not establish a national curriculum or national standards. Participation by states is strictly voluntary. I have always felt that the "carrot" is more effective than the "stick" in leading reform. It is my hope that all states will feel the overwhelming responsibility to bolster their state standards in science and math and will step up to the plate.

I am very pleased that 38 organizations listed below have endorsed the SPEAK Act, including national organizations such as the National Education Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the National Science Teachers Association. In addition, organizations in my congressional district and elsewhere in Michigan have endorsed the SPEAK Act, including the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce; the University of Michigan; Michigan State University; the Regional Math and Science Center at Grand Valley State University; Steelcase, Inc.; RoMan Manufacturing, Inc.; Cascade Engineering; and the Michigan Science Teachers Association.

I look forward to working with Senator DODD, other Members and the education and business community in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to pass the SPEAK Act into law. It will greatly improve our Nation's math and science education. New America Foundation, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, National

Education Association, Alliance for Excellent Education, Council of the Great City Schools, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Science Teachers Association, International Reading Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Chemical Society, Healthcare Leadership Council, SAE International, Math for America, Education Industry Association, National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA), Eli Broad, Philanthropist/Businessman, The Campaign for Educational Equity, Teachers College, Columbia University, Chicago Science Group, Jacob Ludes, III, Executive Director/CEO, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), National Center for Technological Literacy, Project Lead the Way, Museum of Science, Boston, Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), National Society of Black Engineers, International Technology Education Association, ASME Center for Public Awareness, Building Engineering and Science Talent, San Diego, CA.

Connecticut-Based Organizations: The University of Connecticut, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, Connecticut Principals' Center, Connecticut Association of Schools.

Michigan-Based Organizations: Grand Rapids, MI, Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Science Teachers Association, Michigan State University, Cascade Engineering, MI, RoMan Manufacturing, Inc., MI, Regional Math and Science Center, Grand Valley State University, MI Steelcase, Inc.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 18, on passage—H.R. 2, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH  
FORD

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 15, a resolution honoring the life of President Gerald R. Ford. As America remembers President Ford's leadership and service to the American people, I offer my condolences to the Ford family.

While attending former President Ford's funeral, I had the opportunity to converse with Dr. David Mathews, a community leader in my district. Dr. Mathews served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Ford and shared with my office some personal stories of the President's legacy. Dr. Mathews recalled:

Ford was a reconciler. While there was a great balance in Ford, he was also tough as nails. He did what he believed the country needed and was never motivated by polls.

In 1976 one U.S. soldier stationed at Fort Dix died of the swine flu. There was some concern that the potential for an epidemic existed. A panel of the best and brightest scientists of the day was convened. That panel included Doctors Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, who did much of his research at the University of Cincinnati. Both were pioneers in developing polio vaccines. Some of the panelists counseled the president to quickly begin creating vaccine and getting the word out to the nation. Others thought it prudent not to risk a panic, and wait. President Ford was decisive and unwilling to risk an epidemic, giving the order to produce the vaccine. To emphasize the point President Ford and I received the first and second doses of the vaccine.

The working relationship and personal friendship between President Ford and I continued after the Ford administration. In the early 1980s, when I became president of the Kettering Foundation, I suggested to Ford that he invite former president Jimmy Carter to the first conference at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. That conference addressed the public's reaction to proposals to strengthen the Nation's Social Security program. The meeting was based on results from a citizens' briefing book prepared for the National Issues Forums.

Characteristically, President Ford agreed, not just begrudgingly, or acquiescing, he was enthusiastic about inviting Carter . . . That was the first project Presidents Ford and Carter did together. It resulted in a life-long friendship.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 15 and honoring the life of President Ford.

TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE & JIM  
HEINTZMAN

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say farewell to two very special people, Robbie & Jim Heintzman. Robbie began working as a caseworker for me when I started my first term of office and her husband, Jim, was a helicopter pilot for many years with the Los Angeles Police Department. Now, they have decided to retire and will soon move to Prescott, Arizona to begin a new chapter in their new lives.

Robbie has been a true asset to me and I value her loyalty, dedication and expertise. Her compassionate and cheerful presence will be sorely missed in my office, and I know the loss of Jim's expertise and dedicated service will create a void at the police department as well.

Robbie's very interesting life prepared her well for the job in my office. She was born in Japan and was the only child of an Air Force dad and a mom who was the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Japanese War Crimes Trial. Living in many places throughout the world, Robbie has always loved traveling and hopes that retirement will afford her the opportunity to finally satisfy her wanderlust.

Over the years, Robbie has held many different jobs including bartender, cocktail wait-

ress, newspaper/radio advertising consultant, secretary, saleslady and mother to sons, Sean and Colin Donohue. The three major careers in her life have been as a singer, sailor and as solver of problems for my constituents. She also found time to be a travel coordinator/consultant and now is looking forward to having the time to lead tours to exotic locales.

Robbie's singing career started in Hawaii in 1974. In 1975, she went to Tokyo to sing as the house vocalist for Club El Morocco, which at the time was rated the premier nightclub in Japan. After returning to the United States, she formed "Just Us," her own Country-Pop group, in Kingman, Arizona and sang professionally until 1983.

While cruising the waters around Hawaii on the *S.S. Independence* and *S.S. Constitution* from 1983-1985, and on the waters around Tahiti on the *S.S. Liberte* in 1986, Robbie held the positions of Bartender, Junior Assistant Purser, Cashier, Yeoman and Senior Purser. She served the last four positions as a commissioned Staff Officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In February 1986, she was promoted to Cruise Hostess and resumed singing with the orchestra as part of her duties.

Eventually leaving Tahiti for the United States, she started her career as a Staff Assistant/Caseworker with California Senator Ed Davis in 1989 and after I was elected to Congress, Robbie began working for me in January of 1993. Always kind, attentive and sympathetic, she delighted in solving constituent problems and loved helping to make a difference in their lives.

About the time that Robbie began her singing career, Jim started his law enforcement career in his hometown of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. However, sunny California soon beckoned and he moved west to pursue a career with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Jim entered the LAPD Academy on January 22, 1973 and after six grueling months of training, he graduated second in his class. Jim's first assignment was the Hollywood Patrol where he walked the Hollywood Boulevard Foot Beat for 2½ years. He went on to serve in Hollywood Vice, Metro Division and SWAT. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1982 and continued his career at Pacific Division. In August 1983, Jim joined the elite Air Support Division and received his Command Pilot wings in January, 1984. He was promoted to Sgt. II in 1992. Air Support Division has been his home for the past 23 years and he has over 5,000 flight hours under his belt. Some of Jim's more interesting adventures included Pope Paul's visit to Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, the 1992 Riots, the 1994 Northridge earthquake and the 2000 Democratic National Convention. Jim is most proud though, of his day-to-day patrol over the streets of LA and his ability to be the ground officers' "eye in the sky" which greatly enhanced their safety.

Robbie and Jim are active volunteers in the Santa Clarita Valley and participate in many organizations. Although California's loss will be Arizona's gain, they plan to quickly resume volunteer activities in their new community. In addition, Jim hopes to continue his flying career in some capacity. Very soon, there will be more time for golf, visiting and other leisure activities. But more importantly, there will be enough time to pursue Robbie's passion for travel because there is more of the world to see and many new people to meet.

As Robbie and Jim begin those pleasant, well-deserved years of retirement, I would like to thank them for their many years of dedicated service. I ask my colleagues to join me and extend our best wishes to the Heintzmans for a healthy and happy future filled with success.

RECOGNIZING JARRETT LOWE FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jarrett Lowe, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jarrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jarrett has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jarrett Lowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Jarrett in the United States House of Representatives.

HIGHEST SIKH RELIGIOUS AU-  
THORITY SEEMS TO BE UNDER  
HINDUTVA CONTROL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently sent a letter to Joginder Singh Vedanti, the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, who has been promoting a piece of flim-flam known as the Dasam Granth, in which several writers took a snippet of the writing of the last Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and added other items, some pornographic, trying to pass it off as the genuine work of Guru Gobind Singh in order to damage the Sikh religion. Jathedar Vedanti's endorsement of the Dasam Granth makes him a participant in this effort to undermine the Sikh culture and religion.

The Council of Khalistan urged the Jathedar to stop diverting the attention of the Sikhs to this severely altered book and instead to focus on the issue of freedom for Khalistan. He noted that on the two occasions last year when Sikh leaders were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising a Khalistani flag, there was no protest from Jathedar Vedanti.

It is time for us to support the legitimate aspirations of the Sikhs and all the minorities of India who are seeking their freedom by stopping our aid to India, suspending our trade with that country and by supporting the right to self-determination for all the minority nations of the subcontinent. Self-determination is the

essence of democracy. Why can't "the world's largest democracy" hold a simple vote on this fundamental question?

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's letter to Jathedar Vedanti into the RECORD at this time for the information of the American people.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, January 9, 2007.

S. JOGINDER SINGH VEDANTI,  
Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Golden Temple,  
Aarnritsar, Punjab, India

DEAR JATHEDAR VEDANTI: I am writing to you about the Dasam Granth, which you have been promoting as the genuine writing of Guru Gobind Singh. The issue of its authorship was settled long ago. As you know, the authors of the Dasam Granth identify themselves within the text and only a small part is written by Guru Gobind Singh. The rest was appended by Hindu writers looking to harm the Sikh religion. Much of it is pornographic. For a jathedar of the Akal Takht to promote it as genuine Sikh scripture, especially since Guru Gobind Singh left the Guruship in the Guru Granth Sahib, is harmful to the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation. Sikhs should bow only to the Guru Granth Sahib, nothing else.

The Dasam Granth is not the real issue. Do not get sidetracked, and do not sidetrack the Sikh Nation from the real issue, freedom and sovereignty for Khalistan. Do not let this controversy divert and waste the resources of the Sikh Nation from the preservation of our religion and culture.

It is vitally important that the Akal Takht Jathedar, the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion, be committed to the well-being of the Sikh Nation. Preserving its history, religion, culture, and scripture is essential to that well-being, especially when it is under assault from Hindus who are trying to subsume the Sikh religion and culture into those of the Hindus as part of Hindutva. Remember that a former Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. But also remember the words of your predecessor, Professor Darshan Singh, who said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Jathedar Vedanti, the duty of the Jathedar of the Akal Takht is to protect, promote, and disseminate the Sikh religion. How can we do that within the framework of India when India is working to destroy the Sikh religion? The experience of the Jewish people shows that when a nation has sovereignty, it flourishes, but when it does not it perishes.

The only way to preserve, promote, and disseminate the Sikh religion and culture is in a free and sovereign Khalistan. Yet when Sikh leaders in Punjab were arrested last year simply for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag, we did not hear a word of protest from the Akal Takht. Nor did we hear a protest of the actions of the Badal government in Punjab, the most corrupt in Punjab's history. The Badal government even sold jobs—they called it "fee for service" and Mrs. Badal was able to tell how much money was in a bag just by picking it up.

Please do not let your energy be diverted to issues like the Dasam Granth, which has long become known to be altered. We need every Sikh to help bring freedom, dignity, prosperity, and security in a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan. Discussion of issues like the Dasam Granth merely diverts the Khalsa Panth from freedom and sets back the cause of protecting the Khalsa Panth.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President, Council of Khalistan.

IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT  
BUSH'S IRAQ "SURGE" SPEECH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, last night, the president announced that he will escalate the war in Iraq. Still in his cloud of denial, Mr. Bush seems to believe that he can achieve some ill-defined "victory" by perpetuating America's involvement in a bloody civil war halfway around the world. It is unclear what such a victory would look like, let alone how it might be achieved. Mr. Bush's "troop surge" is not a strategy; it is a desperate, last-ditch effort to allow the president to avoid admitting that his war of choice has been a failure.

Generals and foreign policy experts alike agree that adding 21,500 more troops to the quagmire in Iraq will have little effect on either our chances for "victory" or the safety and stability of the Iraqi nation. Indeed, President Bush chose this course of action against the unanimous opposition of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and most of the commanders on the ground in Iraq. Everyone except the president seems to realize that the essential problem in Iraq requires a political solution, not a military one. The American people understand it, as they demonstrated overwhelmingly last November. Yet the president wants to put even more American troops in harm's way for no strategic advantage. He persists in his foolhardy escalation, apparently more concerned with preserving his legacy as "the president who didn't lose Iraq" than with the well-being of either our brave troops or the Iraqi people.

An escalation in Iraq will do nothing to improve America's security; on the contrary, it will undermine it. Our military is already stretched to the breaking point, and Mr. Bush's "surge" will cause additional damage that will take billions of dollars and many years to fix. Exactly none of the military's active duty or reserve brigades is considered "combat ready." Only thirty percent of equipment considered "essential" to homeland security is on-hand here at home. Should disaster strike here at home or elsewhere in the world, we will be left virtually defenseless while our troops and equipment are bogged down in an unwinnable war that threatens to drag on for years, if not decades.

While Mr. Bush claims to have been "listening" to the advice of military and foreign policy experts over the last months, he seems to have emerged as stubbornly committed to his failed policy as ever. It is up to the Congress to put an end to this madness. I particularly want to call on my friends on the other side of the aisle to listen to the voices of their constituents, the everyday Americans who understand what we have at stake in this war in a way that the president has proven himself incapable of doing. We cannot throw away more American lives. We cannot mortgage our children's futures to further enrich war profiteers. We cannot continue to contribute to the devastation of Iraq.

The president seems unable to comprehend that American military might is not the answer to all the world's problems. But the American people do understand. They know that there is only one way forward in Iraq. We must begin the phased withdrawal of American troops in

the next four to six months. We must change our mission from combat to training and logistical assistance for Iraq forces. We must provide the economic assistance the Iraqis need to repair their devastated society and give whatever help they require in moving their political process forward. This is the only way to achieve any sort of victory in Iraq.

THE INDEPENDENT STUDY OF  
DISTANCE EDUCATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Independent Study of Distance Education Act of 2007. This bill requires that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) conduct a scientifically correct, statistically valid study of the quality of distance education programs as compared to campus-based programs.

Allow me to provide some background on congressional actions related to distance education. During the 1992 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Congress passed a rule to counter fraud and abuse perpetuated by diploma mills and some correspondence programs in the 1980s. This rule, known as the "50-percent rule", prevents any college or university that enrolls more than 50 percent of its students in distance education or provides more than half of its courses via distance education from participating in federal financial aid programs.

During the 1998 reauthorization, Congress recognized that, with changes in technology, schools are increasingly offering courses via distance education. The Distance Education Demonstration Program was established to examine the quality and viability of expanding distance education programs. This demo program allowed 24 colleges and universities to waive several program requirements for participating in the federal financial aid programs, including the 50-percent rule, in exchange for participating in studies by the Secretary of Education.

The Secretary provided Congress with three studies of the Distance Education Demonstration Program. The Secretary found that the "mode of distance education delivery does not appear to be a salient factor in student outcomes." However, in 2004, the Office of the Inspector General found that the Secretary's conclusions about the impact of distance education methods on student learning was unsupported, fostering uncertainty about the quality of distance education programs as compared to the quality of campus-based programs.

As a scientist, I strive to base my policy decisions and voting on reliable studies and data. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Higher Education Act and distance education, there is no scientifically correct, statistically valid study of the quality of distance education programs as compared to campus-based programs.

You may think that this has halted congressional action related to distance education programs. Certainly, it would be prudent to know whether distance education is effective before allowing for the rapid proliferation of federal financial aid funds going to students in such programs.

However, in 2005, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, Congress repealed the "50-percent rule", which could potentially result in rapid expansion of distance education programs. While the House-version of this bill included an amendment I offered to have the National Academy of Sciences conduct a study, this provision was stripped out during conference because of the arcane "Byrd rule," which prohibits provisions without a fiscal impact in budget reconciliation bills.

Please know that I am not against distance education. In fact, as a K-12 student, I completed correspondence courses by distance. But, before we spend more federal dollars on this, we need to know more about the quality of distance education programs, as compared to campus-based programs. Simply put, the Independent Study of Distance Education Act will provide scientifically correct, statistically valid information on which to base future votes and policy decisions related to distance education programs.

I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

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#### FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week presents Congress the chance to deal with some long overdue business.

It's been more than nine years since the Minimum Wage was increased. It's been nearly six years since the President cut off federal funding for stem cell research. And, it's been nearly two and a half years since the 9/11 Commission released its recommendations.

Its recommendations were a clear road map to what the Government needed to do to reduce the chances of another terrorist attack and prepare if we were to be attacked again. But many of the recommendations went unheeded.

In December 2005, the Commission gave the government a shameful report card—17 D's and F's. An F because our first responders still can't communicate with each other. An F for failing to screen airline passengers. And an F for basing Homeland Security funding on politics instead of risk.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we will turn these F's to A's—from failure to action.

The bill before us is a strong first step for this Congress towards securing our country and preventing another 9/11. I am proud to say that this bill includes a provision to create a director of non-proliferation within the White House to coordinate efforts at the Departments of Defense, Energy and State.

This provision was introduced in the 108th Congress, and again in the 109th Congress, by myself, Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. SPRATT, and believe that it is crucial to our efforts to create a comprehensive strategy to deal with the threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction. I was proud to work with both Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. SPRATT on this provision and I thank them for their leadership on this issue.

After today, America will be a safer place. 9/11 must never happen again. I strongly encourage members to vote in favor of it.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 17; On Motion to Recommit with Instructions (H.R. 2). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

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IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN A. MCGINNESS, FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LOCAL 12 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man whose professional life has been dedicated to improving the lives of working men and women in Massachusetts, across our nation and beyond our borders. Jack McGinness is a remarkable labor leader with a long and illustrious career in the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

Brother Jack McGinness, the youngest of six children, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to William and Anne McGinness. He grew up in the City of Cambridge and graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School. After graduation, Jack honorably served our country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps.

Jack was initiated into the Plumbers Apprenticeship Program on September 28, 1964. In his first year, Jack worked for the George Murphy Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Following the completion of his five year apprentice training program, Jack worked as a plumber and foreman for U.A. Contractors within the jurisdiction of Local 12 but also other U.A. contractors on the road in the U.S. and Canada.

During his tenure, brother McGinness served as a member of Plumbers Local 12, as an officer on Local 12's Joint Conference Board, Executive Board, the Apprentice Committee as well as served as Trustee for the Local 12 Health and Welfare Fund, delegate to the United Association's National Convention in 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. Brother McGinness served on the Sergeant of Arms Committee from 2001 until 2006. He was elected Business Agent in 1994.

Jack's dedication to the men and women of the Building Trades has been regularly acknowledged by his peers. He was elected by his brothers and sisters of labor to serve as President of the Framingham-Newton Building Trades Council as well as to serve on the State Building Trades Executive Board as a Delegate to the National Building Trades Convention in 2001 and 2005.

Anyone who has had the privilege to work along side Jack knows that he is a dedicated

and thoughtful individual, concerned primarily for the safety and welfare of his union brothers and sisters and their families.

Beyond his professional commitment, Jack devoted much of his time to developing Local 12's annual participation in Dads' Day and Toys for Tots as well as the Local 12 Golf Committee and the Local 12 Social Committee.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the Floor of the House today to join with Jack McGinness' family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for more than forty years of remarkable service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my Colleagues will join me in celebrating Jack's distinguished career and wishing him good health and God's blessing in all his future endeavors.

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#### BOBBY GOLD REMEMBERED

### HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bobby L. Gold, a man who dedicated his life's work to the concerns of poor, elderly and minority residents of Evansville, Indiana. Mr. Gold passed away on Thursday, January 4 at the age 61.

He began his advocacy in the 1960s, fighting for civil rights and against poverty in Evansville. His work in public service included the Community Action Program of Evansville and the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program.

During his life, Mr. Gold sought to improve opportunities for the children of Evansville, especially those from low income backgrounds. While serving as a youth counselor for the Community Action Program of Evansville, he worked for the creation of a school breakfast program. He also recruited high school and college students to tutor local elementary school students in math and reading.

In his last years of his life, Mr. Gold devoted his time to the Evansville Housing Authority. His activism for public housing was enhanced by passion and understanding that being a resident of that system provided. He pushed for a zero tolerance policy for illegal drugs on the property of the housing authority to promote safety and security for residents. Even as his health deteriorated near the end of his life, Mr. Gold remained interested and involved in the work of the Housing Authority.

For his hard work, Mr. Gold was bestowed with the Indiana State Human Rights Award in 1999, and in September 2005 Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel presented him with a Celebration of Diversity Award.

Throughout his life, Mr. Gold was a strong voice for those in the Evansville community who needed it most. The people of Evansville have lost a dear friend and outspoken advocate. Bobby Gold will be missed, but his spirit of public service will live on. I'm proud to call him my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO REPEAL THE SELECTIVE  
SERVICE ACT AND RELATED  
PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES  
CODE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the United States Code. The Department of Defense, in response to calls to reinstate the draft, has confirmed that conscription serves no military need.

In his December confirmation hearings, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stated his opposition to a military draft. Secretary Gates' immediate predecessor, Donald Rumsfeld, also publicly opposed reinstating the draft. The opposition of the two most recent Defense Secretaries is only the most recent confirmation that the draft serves no military purpose.

Obviously, if there is no military need for the draft, then there is no need for Selective Service registration. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Selective Service registration is an outdated and outmoded system, which has been made obsolete by technological advances.

In fact, in 1993, the Department of Defense issued a report stating that registration could be stopped "with no effect on military mobilization and no measurable effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment." Yet the American taxpayer has been forced to spend over \$500 million dollars on an outdated system "with no measurable effect on military mobilization!"

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our Nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a bygone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

LEE'S SUMMIT JOURNAL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Lee's Summit Journal in Lee's Summit, Missouri. This newspaper will be celebrating its 125th anniversary of publica-

tion this month. Over the past 125 years, this newspaper has provided valuable services to its readers in their local communities.

As a staple of the community for all these years, the newspaper went through growth and expansion along with the community it serves. From its humble beginnings of being a 4-page paper, to its current publication schedule of twice a week, this newspaper has been and continues to be a stabilizing force within the community.

Since its inception in 1887, the Lee's Summit Journal provided quality news coverage for its reading community. Even through tough times, such as a fire which destroyed the newspaper office, the Lee's Summit Journal continued to deliver quality and reliable news service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Lee's Summit Journal. The services the outstanding staff of the Lee's Summit Journal have provided over these 125 years have been an essential part of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 16, on Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair (H.R. 2), had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESER-  
VATION OF RECORDS OF SER-  
VITUDE, EMANCIPATION, AND  
POST-CIVIL WAR RECONSTRUC-  
TION ACT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to reintroduce H.R. 390, the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act. This important legislation, which passed the Government Reform Committee unanimously last year, will ensure that African-Americans who want to trace their family's history in our country are not prevented from doing so because of inadequate preservation and access to the records.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, for most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—almost all of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African-Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research due to our Nation's history of slavery and discrimination. Instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, or other traditional genealogical research documents, African-Americans must often try to identify the name of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information, such as births and deaths.

To compound this difficulty, African-American genealogists find that most current records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay. While some states and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there has not been any national effort to preserve these pieces of public and personal history to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans.

Madam Speaker, in 2000, both the House and Senate unanimously passed the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act, which became Public Law 106-444, and required the Archivist of the United States to create a searchable indexing system to catalogue the genealogical records from the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. This law was the first step towards ensuring that many of these valuable and important records are appropriately accessible to genealogists and historians, and based on its success we now recognize the need to expand the scope of the original law or risk losing other critically important historic documents.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 390, the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act, tackles the problems of poorly catalogued and inadequately preserved records in two ways. First, it will make sure that records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction currently being stored within the various agencies of the federal government will be properly preserved. This will protect a vast amount of genealogical information, including records from the Southern Claims Commission Records, the Records of the Freedmen's Bank, the Slave Impressments Records, and even Slave Payroll Records and Slave Manifests. By providing the Archivist of the United States with the resources necessary to preserve, maintain and electronically catalogue these important records we can eliminate many of the barriers that African-Americans encounter when trying to engage in a proper genealogy search. However, since many of these records are disbursed around the country in non-federal depositories, this legislation would also authorize the National Archives to distribute grants to the States, academic institutions, and genealogical associations in order to preserve and establish online databases of these important local records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction. These grants will ensure that families doing research in my home State of California or anywhere in the country will access to these treasure troves of genealogical information without having to leave the comforts of their computer chair.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to be joined by colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are original cosponsors of my legislation and particularly appreciate the support of my good friends and colleagues, TOM DAVIS, and ELIJAH CUMMINGS, whose assistance in drafting this bill has been monumental. I would urge the rest of our colleagues to support this legislation and hope that we will be voting on this bill soon.

RECOGNIZING DOUGLAS McLAIN  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Douglas McLain, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Douglas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Douglas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Douglas McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Douglas in the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS  
DISABILITY COMPENSATION  
AUTOMATIC COLA ACT

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing an important piece of legislation that speaks to our commitment to our Nation's veterans.

In the 109th Congress, I introduced the Veterans Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act. This legislation would automatically increase disability benefits for veterans, each year, by the Consumer Price Index. Today I am re-introducing this important legislation.

Currently, it takes a yearly act by Congress to ensure disabled veterans receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). While we have done this every year for the past three decades we cannot guarantee that future Congresses will act as responsibly. Taking a chance on disabled veterans' benefits is a chance I am not willing to take.

My legislation would simply make the COLA for veterans with disability benefits automatic each year. Furthermore, this important legislation also has no budgetary impact. In fact, both Congress and the President assume the increase in their budgets.

Madam Speaker, Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries receive an automatic COLA and our disabled veterans deserve the same. Thank you.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMIS-  
SION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1. This bill takes an important long-overdue step to implement recommendations put forth by the 9/11 Commission. This bill improves interoperability, enhances cargo and overall port security, and strengthens U.S. efforts to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

I do recommend that implementation of this bill be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that our rural first responders do not receive less funding as a result of the redistribution of the homeland security grants in the legislation. First responders across the Nation must be equipped to readily deal with and react to security concerns in the United States. Therefore, I think it is critical that North Dakota's first responders continue to receive the funding that they need and deserve to do their job.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMIS-  
SION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to revise and extend my remarks with regard to the vote on H.R. 1—Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007.

While I certainly support the goal of this legislation and believe it to be imperative that Congress continue to work with the Administration to ensure the safety and security of our Nation, I could not in good conscience vote in favor of the measure as it was presented. I agree there is still work to be done and it would benefit this Congress to discuss the continued implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; however, I believe H.R. 1 contained some critical flaws that prevent it from being a solution to the security dilemmas that we face today.

First and foremost, I believe this legislation is fiscally irresponsible. Not only does it create new government spending without providing any offsets, it essentially provides a blank check for these unfunded mandates by authorizing "such sums as may be necessary" for an unspecified number of years. Providing effective and common sense security measures is essential; however we cannot do so at the expense of fiscal responsibility and subject our Nation to higher government spending and a greater Federal deficit.

Beyond being fiscally irresponsible, I had concerns about the manner in which this legislation was considered. Decisions on matters as grave and enduring as the security and safety of this Nation should not be undertaken

hastily or impulsively and should not subvert the normal legislative process. This legislation was not afforded the opportunity to traverse the regular order and be debated on, amended, or considered during the committee process. Further, as no amendments were allowed, it cannot be said that the proposal received a fair and open debate.

Further, the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act contains a provision expressing the Sense of Congress that the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) should be authorized by the United Nations. I believe it presents a dangerous situation to allow the UN control over such an important program which restricts the transfer of banned weapons and technology, given that the UN membership includes some of the nations responsible for the violations that PSI seeks to prevent.

Finally, I am opposed to the provision that extends collective bargaining guarantees to the employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). It is important to remember this is an idea that was explored during the creation of the TSA as the Homeland Security Act of 2002 was considered and at that time, it was determined it was not in the best interest of the organization and its mission. Unionizing TSA employees would tie the hands of the agency and disallow it the flexibility to deploy its workforce and change the nature of employees' work and locations in response to national emergencies.

Again, I want to emphasize for the record that I recognize the critical and serious nature of the business of protecting and securing our Nation and its citizens. However, as previously explained, I could not in good conscience vote for legislation that I do not believe to be an effective or responsible means in which to address these important issues.

RECOGNIZING TYLER SANDOVAL  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Sandoval, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Sandoval for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Tyler in the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF MRS. PHYLLIS  
MILLER

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Phyllis Miller upon receiving the Zella Butler Bronfman Award, presented by the UJA-Federation's Task Force on People With Disabilities and the J.E. and Z.B. Butler Foundation.

Throughout her 25-year career, Phyllis Miller has worked tirelessly on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. She taught Judaic studies and Hebrew language to both special and regular education elementary school students, beginning in 1973 at the Armed Forces Center for English as a Second Language in Fort Knox, Kentucky. She later taught at Temple Beth El Hebrew School in Springfield, Massachusetts; Hillel Academy in Passaic, New Jersey; and Yeshiva of North Jersey in River Edge, New Jersey.

In 1997, Mrs. Miller took a position as a Family and Child Advocate at the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, which she represents on the UJA Task Force on Disabilities. In this capacity, she assists people with special needs and their families in finding the programs and schools that best serve them. She also coordinates the Association of Jewish Special Educators and the Jewish Parent Advocate Coalition, through which she arranges in-service workshops for teachers and an annual Parent Empowerment Conference and Resource Fair for parents and social service providers. She also acts as the liaison to social service agencies and to families searching for special needs services.

A graduate of Stern College at Yeshiva University with a degree in Psychology and Judaic Studies, Mrs. Miller has five wonderful children, one of whom is currently studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Phyllis and her husband, Michael, have done tremendous work in forging relationships within Jewish communities both here and in Israel.

I am pleased to honor Mrs. Phyllis Miller for her many years of outstanding service, and to thank her for her extraordinary dedication to the developmentally disabled.

**MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH  
FORD**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of the resolution honoring the life of former President Gerald R. Ford.

Gerald Ford served America with great distinction—first in the military, then as a Member of the U.S. House, and later as Vice President and President of the United States. After faithfully serving his Michigan constituents for 25 years in the House, he was called to serve all of the American people in the White House when his country needed him most.

The Watergate crisis was one of the most difficult times in our nation's history, and Presi-

dent Ford's unflinching leadership helped heal a nation and restore the American people's faith in their government. His decision to pardon President Nixon was a controversial and difficult move that drew a great deal of criticism. But in hindsight, I think most Americans would agree it was the right decision, the honorable decision, and reflected President Ford's good judgment and straightforward approach.

Throughout the ordeal, President Ford earned our affection and respect. He will be remembered for the integrity, character, and grace he exhibited in his work and throughout his life.

As public servants we owe a huge debt to those who have served before us, and we owe President Ford a debt of gratitude for the enormous contributions and sacrifices he made on behalf of his country. I am humbled to serve in the same elected leadership post he occupied for eight years during his tenure in the House.

Our thoughts and prayers, and those of a grateful nation, are with Betty and the Ford family. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

**RECOGNIZING JACOB KLINGEN-  
SMITH FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Klingensmith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 100, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Klingensmith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Jacob in the United States House of Representatives.

**IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESI-  
DENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE  
DEPLOYMENT OF 20,000 NEW  
TROOPS TO IRAQ**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, last night the President announced to the Nation his intention to deploy another 20,000 troops to Iraq.

Madam Speaker, troop surges in Iraq are not new and, judging from history, the one announced last night by the President will not work. It will only succeed in putting more American troops in harm's way for no good

reason and without any strategic advantage. The armed forces of the United States are not to be used to respond to 911 calls from governments like Iraq's that have done all they can to take responsibility for the security of their country and safety of their own people. The United States cannot do for Iraq what Iraqis are not willing to do for themselves.

Troop surges have been tried several times in the past. The success of these surges has, to put it charitably, been underwhelming. Let's briefly review the record:

1. Operation Together Forward, (June–October 2006): In June the Bush administration announced a new plan for securing Baghdad by increasing the presence of Iraqi Security Forces. That plan failed, so in July the White House announced that additional American troops would be sent into Baghdad. By October, a U.S. military spokesman, Gen. William Caldwell, acknowledged that the operation and troop increase was a failure and had "not met our overall expectations of sustaining a reduction in the levels of violence." [CNN, 12/19/06. Washington Post, 7/26/06. Brookings Institution, 12/21/06.]

2. Elections and Constitutional Referendum (September–December 2005): In the fall of 2005 the Bush administration increased troop levels by 22,000, making a total of 160,000 American troops in Iraq around the constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections. While the elections went off without major violence these escalations had little long-term impact on quelling sectarian violence or attacks on American troops. [Brookings Institution, 12/21/06. www.icasualties.org]

3. Constitutional Elections and Fallujah (November 2004–March 2005): As part of an effort to improve counterinsurgency operations after the Fallujah offensive in November 2004 and to increase security before the January 2005 constitutional elections U.S. forces were increased by 12,000 to 150,000. Again there was no long-term security impact. [Brookings Institution, 12/21/06. New York Times, 12/2/04.]

4. Massive Troop Rotations (December 2003–April 2004): As part of a massive rotation of 250,000 troops in the winter and spring of 2004, troop levels in Iraq were raised from 122,000 to 137,000. Yet, the increase did nothing to prevent Muqtada al-Sadr's Najaf uprising and April of 2004 was the second deadliest month for American forces. [Brookings Institution, 12/21/06. www.icasualties.org. USA Today, 3/4/04]

Madam Speaker, rather than surging militarily for the third time in a year, the president should surge diplomatically. A further military escalation would simply mean repeating a failed strategy. A diplomatic surge would involve appointing an individual with the stature of a former secretary of state, such as Colin Powell or Madeleine Albright, as a special envoy. This person would be charged with getting all six of Iraq's neighbors—Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait—involved more constructively in stabilizing Iraq. These countries are already involved in a bilateral, self-interested and disorganized way.

While their interests and ours are not identical, none of these countries wants to live with an Iraq that, after our redeployment, becomes a failed state or a humanitarian catastrophe that could become a haven for terrorists or a hemorrhage of millions more refugees streaming into their countries.

The high-profile envoy would also address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the role of Hezbollah and Syria in Lebanon, and Iran's rising influence in the region. The aim would not be necessarily to solve these problems, but to prevent them from getting worse and to show the Arab and Muslim world that we share their concerns about the problems in this region.

Madam Speaker, the President's plan has not worked. Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result is, as we all know, a definition of insanity. It is time to try something new. It is time for change. It is time for a new direction.

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FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of lifting people out of poverty by giving them the means to succeed. I rise today to speak against the Democrat's raise in the minimum wage.

No American wants to see their fellow person live in poverty. There are ways to continue to help Americans have all the means necessary to not only survive, but to thrive. However, the Democrat's bill to raise the minimum wage is nothing more than a Band-Aid on a broken little toe. While their intentions may be good, and I believe they are, their philosophical approach is economically and socially flawed. In reality, this plan will create an economic hardship for the employers who provide millions of Americans the opportunity to participate in our economy.

Some of my colleagues would have you believe that the right thing to do is mandate unto all businesses, small, family-owned, and corporate alike, that the business cannot determine the wage worth of an employee. They would have you believe it is the job of the government to do so. I believe in a market system without an intrusive, dictating government that will likely minimize potential employment opportunities for lower skilled workers.

I and many of my fellow free-market thinking colleagues believe that the correct action to take to help these individuals is two-fold.

First, on the macro-level, we must have a strong, growing economy from which highpaying jobs are available and competition for employees. Facts show that lowering taxes is an economic motivator. In the past 5 years, Congress has passed and/or extended the following tax cuts: marriage penalty relief, accelerated the increase in the child credit, accelerated the expansion of the 15 percent rate bracket for married couples, reduction in individual income tax rates, reduction of other regular tax rates, increased the alternative minimum tax exemption, reduce individual capital gains rates, and accelerated depreciation.

These tax cuts have helped grow our economy here in the U.S. to the point where we are now in a time of economic prosperity with Americans enjoying the benefits. Since August 2003, when the 2001 tax extensions were passed, the American economy has added over 7 million new jobs—this is more than all other major industrialized nations combined—

and posted job gains for 39 straight months. We have also attained an impressive 4.5 percent unemployment rate. This economy is most conducive to producing higher paying jobs.

Secondly, on the micro-level, these individuals who are making minimum wage most importantly need advancement in skills and education. I have had many conversations with a gentleman named Fernando "Butch" Lecuona III. Butch is the commissioner of Labor for the Nebraska Department of Labor and is the head of the Department of Labor in Nebraska. Butch also adheres to the philosophy and will be the first one to say that education is the key to lifting people from poverty.

In December of 2006, we in the House passed a tax credit for businesses who hired individuals in the Welfare to Work program, which provided a tax credit to employers when they hire individuals who have received public assistance for 18 months or who have exhausted their benefits. In addition to the Welfare to Work program I also supported the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, WOTC, when employers hire individuals from eight "target" groups—such as families receiving public assistance, high-risk youths, ex-felons, qualified veterans, and food stamp recipients under the age of 35. This is an example of the proper roll of government to help individuals succeed.

While doing my research for this vote, I attempted to find the number of people that are the bread-winners for their families working at or below minimum wage. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Nebraska has roughly 1 million people in our workforce pool. Nearly 60 percent of our workers work for an hourly wage. In the United States, 1.5 percent of hourly workers aged 25 and above make at or below minimum wage; 1.5 percent of our hourly workers in Nebraska equals about 8,000 people. Of the total 17,000 minimum wage workers in Nebraska, more than half of those are aged 16–24. These are not typically the breadwinners of the family.

The best tool to battle poverty is a free market with an educated workforce. We have the tools in this Nation to continue to provide Americans with the opportunities for which we are known. Increasing the minimum wage does nothing to help an individual better themselves, their family, or their community.

This is why I will not be supporting the minimum wage increase and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguish career of GEN James L. Jones. General Jones just completed his assignment as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command.

General Jones received a bachelor of science degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1966. He also attended the Basic School, the Amphibious Warfare School, and the National War College in Washington, DC.

General Jones was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps where he was ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in January 1967. After serving as a Platoon and Company Commander he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He returned to the United States in December 1968 where he served as a Company Commander at Camp Pendleton, CA. From May 1970 to July 1973, General Jones served at Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, as a Company Commander. Remaining in Washington, General Jones served in the Officer Assignments Section at Headquarters Marine Corps where he was later appointed to Major and soon after served as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the United States Senate.

After being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, General Jones was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA, and in August 1987, returned to Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as Senior Aide to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was promoted to Colonel in April 1988, where later General Jones would become Military Secretary to the Commandant.

General Jones was assigned as the Commanding Officer, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he participated in Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq and Turkey. He was advanced to Brigadier General and was assigned to duties as Deputy Director, J-3, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. During this tour of duty he was reassigned as Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force Provide Promise for operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

General Jones was advanced to the rank of Major General in July 1994, and was then assigned as Commanding General, 2d Marine Division, Marine Forces Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, NC. After serving as Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division (N85), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and then as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps, General Jones was advanced to Lieutenant General.

General Jones served as the Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and on July 1, 1999 became the 32nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. He assumed his duties as the Commander of U.S. European Command on January 16, 2003, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe on January 17, 2003.

General Jones' has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit with four gold stars, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to GEN James L. Jones for his commitment to the United States Marine Corps and the safety and security of America.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on January 9 and 10, 2007, I was absent and

missed rollcall votes 12–18. For the record, had I been present on January 9th, I would have voted: rollcall vote 12—“yea”; rollcall vote 13—“no”; rollcall vote 14—“yea”; and rollcall vote 15—“yea.”

Further, had I been present on January 10th, I would have voted: rollcall vote 16—“no”; rollcall vote 17—“no”; and rollcall vote 18—“yea.”

I support an increase in the minimum wage. The last time the minimum wage was increased was ten years ago and workers deserve to have the minimum wage increased to \$7.25.

I am pleased the House of Representatives passed the initial version of H.R. 2 and look forward to voting on its final passage in the coming weeks.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LEININGER  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Leininger, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Leininger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent David in the United States House of Representatives.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH  
FORD

SPEECH OF

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on the life and legacy of President Gerald Ford.

I served with him in the House of Representatives and had the pleasure of working with him when he served both as Vice President and President of the United States. I will always think fondly on President Ford as a humble, genuine President and good friend.

The people of Ohio will always be extremely grateful for his leadership in creating Ohio's Cuyahoga National Park, one of the most visited in the 388 National Parks and other sites administered by the National Park Service.

President Ford's leadership and service to the Nation is well described in the title of his book “A Time to Heal.”

His wife Betty in her role as First Lady also was a wonderful role model for millions of American women, particularly her devotion to helping people in establishing the Betty Ford Clinic to help individuals with challenging personal problems.

Our Nation was enormously enriched by the leadership of President Ford and his wife Betty.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the Ford family. I pray that you are comforted by the kind words and admiration the country has shown for President Ford.

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE RETIRING DIRECTOR OF  
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE  
CENTER, JAMES W. KENNEDY

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to the retiring Director of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, James W. Kennedy, for his vast contributions to our Nation's space program. Jim's long and successful career has ensured that America's leadership in space exploration will continue well into the future.

Jim Kennedy was raised in my congressional district, on the Space Coast of Florida. In fact, he was in the first graduating class at Cocoa Beach High School. After graduation, he began his distinguished career with NASA in 1968 in the Aerospace Engineering Cooperative Education Program at Kennedy Space Center. He joined Marshall Space Flight Center in 1980 as an engineer in the Shuttle Projects Office, and in 1987, was named manager of the Shuttle Program Planning and Management Systems Office. Following that, he served as the manager of the Solid Rocket Booster Project Office.

Jim served as the Deputy Director of Marshall's Science and Engineering Directorate and was later named Director of the center's Engineering Directorate. In 2001, he was selected to serve as Deputy Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center, and just two years later, he returned to Florida and was named the Deputy Director of the Kennedy Space Center. In 2003, he became the eighth Director of the Kennedy Space Center.

Jim has received numerous awards during his illustrious career in our Nation's Space Program, including the National Space Club's Astronautics Engineer of the Year Award, the Marshall Space Flight Center Leadership Award, the Astronaut's own Silver Snoopy Award, NASA's Distinguished Service Medal, the Presidential Rank Meritorious and Distinguished Service Awards, and the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. Most recently, he received the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award from the National Space Club's Florida Committee.

Jim oversaw the critical job of ensuring a safe “Return to Flight” of the Shuttle Program as well as the resumption of International Space Station construction. I watched with pride last July 4th as Jim's team at Kennedy Space Center performed a successful launch of Space Shuttle *Discovery*. This particular launch was a fitting tribute to Kennedy Space Center and a wonderful cap to Jim Kennedy's

career, as it proved that both our nation's Space Shuttle Program and the International Space Station Program were once again on firm footing. Jim Kennedy's leadership, and the fine professionals at KSC, gave our country renewed confidence that the goals of our Space Program would be realized. Because of the leadership and hard work of Jim Kennedy, America's premier space launch center proved that it is up to the task. Jim Kennedy's leadership has helped ensure our Space Program is on track for completion of the remaining Shuttle missions and continue the Manned Space Program which will include the return of Americans to the surface of the Moon, then Mars and beyond.

I should also mention that, as with most successful leaders, Jim Kennedy was supported in his NASA career by a devoted family that includes his wife, Bernadette, as well as his two grown children, Jeff and Jamie. I would like to extend our country's appreciation for the sacrifices they made during Jim's years with our Nation's space program.

Much of Jim Kennedy's career was devoted to launching mankind's most sophisticated and complex inventions. The Space Shuttles are truly the jewels of American technological prowess. Each successful launch overseen by Jim Kennedy lifted the spirits of all Americans and underlined our identity as the world's leading space faring Nation. As a representative from the Space Coast, I share deeply in this sense of pride in the promise of Kennedy Space Center and NASA and in Jim Kennedy's devoted service to our Nation.

IN HONOR OF JACK KAKIS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jack Kakis, a war hero who immigrated to the United States from his native Greece and created his American Dream.

Jack was born in Thessalonica in Greece in 1920. When his country was occupied by Italian and German troops during World War II, he served with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, a precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. Trained by British commandos in guerrilla operations, he was commissioned as an officer and led his men on horseback through Greece harassing the occupying armies. He received the Medal for Bravery Under Duress from his government, the National Medal of Greek Resistance, and was inducted into the Military Order of the World Wars.

After the war, he studied agriculture in Greece, working in that field until he was recalled to active duty because of the Greek Civil War, during which he attained the rank of major. In 1951, following that conflict he and his wife, Mirka, immigrated to the United States.

Jack arrived in this country with no English skills. He drove a flower delivery truck in New York City while attending night school. Eventually he earned a master's degree in horticulture from the University of Connecticut, also mastering English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and German. He arrived in

Monterey County, California to work for Basic American Foods Company, where his language skills took him all over the world. On leaving Basic he set up his own business, Monterey Agricultural Products, which specialized in garlic. Jack was given the title "Garlic King" by the agricultural industry because of his expertise with that crop, and he was the first president of the Order of the Stinking Rose, an association of garlic growers and processors.

Jack continued to be active in agriculture even in retirement. He worked with Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, helping Central American Indians become more self-sufficient by growing and selling crops. One of his favorite charities was the American Farm School at the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute in Greece, which has provided free education to Greek children since 1904, and where he was a trustee.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Jack Kakis, a man who worked hard and diligently to make a place for himself and his family in his adopted country, but who never forgot his homeland and worked for the betterment of people in need all over the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELISE FIGUEROA

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Elise Figueroa, a teacher at P.S. 44 in Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Ms. Figueroa for being named a National Board Certified Teacher by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This program was created in 1987 in order to honor teachers who meet high standards of excellence and professionalism. This award also aims to identify and integrate highly competent and certified teachers into current educational reform efforts.

We must recognize that education is critical to building a society founded upon respect and acceptance and credit our teachers with producing our responsible leaders and citizens. They deserve to be honored for their commitment and contributions to this crucial foundation which touches the lives of all our children.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Figueroa best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

#### GRANTING MILLIONS HOPE

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, in the United States this year alone we will see more than 500,000 people die from cancer, 200,000 people die from diabetes, 75,000 people go blind and 50,000 people will be added to the scores who already suffer from Parkinson's or Alzheimer's.

These are 825,000 reasons why my colleagues must vote today in support of Stem

Cell research. As one researcher at Harvard Medical School wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine*: "the science of human embryonic stem cells is in its infancy." Restricting stem cell research now, he said: "threaten[s] to starve the field at a critical stage." But that's exactly what President Bush has done.

In August 2001, the President ruled that federal funding couldn't be used to research new stem cell lines. In effect, he gave our scientists—the best in the world—only 19 stem cell lines, many of which were contaminated and unusable.

Today we can right this terrible wrong. With more stem cells available, our scientific community will have a better chance of making incredible discoveries—like curing cancer and diabetes, and saving kidneys and livers. Some opponents of this bill argue that there is no need for embryonic stem cell research. This is a false choice. We don't have to stop embryonic stem cell research and only focus on amniotic stem cells, or adult stem cells, or cord blood stem cells.

We can, we should, and we must research all areas of stem cells—because anyone area could produce the miracle cure. This bill is as ethical as it is common sense. There are millions of reasons to say yes, and no good reason to say no.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MIDWAY HIGH SCHOOL'S 1937 BASKETBALL TEAM ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Midway High School's 1937 Kentucky state basketball championship. Under the guidance and leadership of Coach G.L. "Bobby" Burns, the Midway Blue Jays re-invented the game of basketball for years to come. The Blue Jays rejuvenated Kentucky basketball and made it a truly exciting spectator sport with their up tempo "run and gun" style of play.

Coach Burns and his squad of: Jack Penn, Ernest Jefferson, Armon Portwood, Carl Thomas, Raymond and Harold Sanderson, James Murphy, Sherman and Quentin Columbia, and Karl Jefferson used their natural abilities and athleticism to play against their taller competition. They averaged only 5'8", the smallest team to ever win the state tournament. Yet they persevered, as Coach Burns believed that natural instincts and physical stamina, combined with fundamental basketball, were keys to success. Coach Burns was right.

To celebrate this historic occasion, on January 12, 2007, the Woodford County Yellow Jackets will honor the "Boys of '37" by dressing in the blue and white uniforms of Midway High School during their regular season game against Madison Central High. Additionally, during the halftime ceremony, a giant banner will be raised and installed in the Woodford County Gym to honor the Midway Blue Jays' tournament win. In March, the members of the

'37 squad will be honored in a ceremony at the halftime of the 2007 state championship game.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor to have this momentous occasion celebrated in my home district. The "Boys of '37" truly represent Kentucky's passion and dedication to the game of basketball. This group of individuals will always be remembered as Kentucky's finest and we will continue to celebrate their accomplishments for years to come.

#### IN HONOR OF JOYCE SMITH STEVENS

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's most colorful characters, Joyce Smith Stevens. Joyce is known for her outspoken devotion to local environmental issues, and for her wonderful sense of humor.

Joyce was born in Seattle, WA, in 1927. She graduated from the University of Washington in 1954 with a degree in architecture. Encountering gender discrimination in this "man's field," and looking at the experiences of female civilians working for the government, she decided that she would be happier in that environment. As a single mother, she moved to Carmel, CA, in 1962 and took a job as Post Engineer at Fort Ord, working there until her retirement more than 20 years later.

One of Joyce's proudest achievements was designing the Post Chapel at Fort Hunter Liggett. It is located near the Hacienda, which was designed by another female California architect, Julia Morgan. She also convinced, pestered, actually, the Army into protecting some rare native plant habitat at Fort Ord. Because of her persistence she had the satisfaction of seeing Fort Ord receive ecology awards.

Joyce's commitment to the community is unparalleled. She appointed herself full-time activist to save everything we all love about the Monterey Peninsula. As chair of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, she was devoted to protecting our local natural setting. She served on the Board of Trustees of Big Sur Land Trust, which is dedicated to preserving the wild lands of Big Sur. Joyce joined Pine Watch to educate people about the significance of our native Monterey Pine Forest, with the goal of creating a Monterey Pine State Park.

For over 20 years Joyce served on the Carmel Area Wastewater District. She became known as the "Sewer Queen" for her work to save the Carmel River by encouraging the increased use of treated wastewater and thus reduce pumping from the river. She formed the Dunes Coalition to save the Monterey Bay shores from development. Eventually this concept grew into the Monterey Bay State Shore. She also created the Hatton Canyon Coalition to preserve the scenic beauty of Carmel and the canyon.

Joyce was very active in the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects and was one of the founders of AIA's Carmel Sand Castle Contest—a great Carmel tradition. It is generally suspected that she volunteered to

serve as a judge in order to solicit bribes. However it started, it has become part of the fun of the event for judges to offer to accept bribes from the various competitors, champagne being a favorite.

In all of these activities, she never hesitates to roll up her sleeves and do the actual work, whether it is getting up at 5 a.m. to pull weeds, or working on dune planting during winter storms. She uses her graphics skills to convince the public that they don't want to see resorts on the beaches, freeways in the canyons, and mega-mansions all over our native forest habitat. Joyce is a gem among gems, and we are indebted to her for her fierce devotion to the importance and the beauty of our natural resources.

## TRIBUTE TO ERIC PLAKS

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 11, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Eric Plaks, a teacher at Bronx Charter School for Arts in Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize Mr. Plaks for being named a National Board Certified Teacher by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This program was created in 1987 in order to honor teachers who meet high standards of excellence and professionalism. This

award also aims to identify and integrate highly competent and certified teachers into current educational reform efforts.

We must recognize that education is critical to building a society founded upon respect and acceptance and credit our teachers with producing our responsible leaders and citizens. They deserve to be honored for their commitment and contributions to this crucial foundation which touches the lives of all our children.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Mr. Plaks best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.