

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO AGNES E. GREEN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Agnes E. Green. Agnes E. Green is the eldest of seven children born to David and Agnes Cokley, and the mother of one son, Eric. She is currently the Assistant Director of Public Affairs at Spring Creek Towers and the Editor-in-Chief of its newspaper, The Spring Creek Sun.

Born and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant and now a resident of Prospect Heights, Agnes is an activist who possesses a strong desire to obtain the greatest good for her community.

While living in Crown Heights where her son was raised, she became active in the parent associations and often served as president. Her leadership was rewarded and she became a member on the Executive Board of the city-wide United Parents Association and later the Board President.

As a parent leader, Agnes gained a reputation as an independent, outspoken voice for all children's entitlement to a quality education and parents' rights to participate in their education. Because of her advocacy, she was asked by leaders of the CSD 17 Presidents' Council to represent them in the race for a seat on Community School Board 17. With the collective energy of parents and community support, she was elected in 1983 and in every Board election thereafter, until the New York City School Board was dissolved in 2004.

As a first term Board member, Agnes surprised many by becoming President of the CSB 17 and held other officer and committee chair positions throughout her 17 years as an elected school official.

She was appointed by Mayor Edward I. Koch to serve on the newly created AIDS panel for school-aged children in August 1985. She was the first parent representative to serve during one of the most contentious periods in the City's public school history. The panel reviewed the medical status and family history of children diagnosed HIV positive.

The end of the School Board did not diminish Agnes' commitment to urging the improvement of public school education. She is a founding member of Black New Yorkers for Educational Excellence, a citywide progressive organization whose mission is to actively work for education as a means of liberation.

Agnes, an honor student throughout public school, was also Bushwick High School's first Black and first female to be elected President of the Student Government Association. Her college education began at Brooklyn College and formally ended at New York University where she majored in Broadcast Journalism and minored in English literature.

After attending NYU, Agnes was hired by WCBS Newsradio 88 where she worked for 19 years. She began as a News Desk Assistant

and quickly rose to Chief News Desk Assistant. Through her many years at WCBS Radio she won numerous awards.

Agnes is currently the producer and host of *Everyday People* and *Everyday Voices* aired monthly on Brooklyn Community Access Television.

Her passions include outdoor music concerts, jazz festivals, live theatrical productions, taking photos, and collecting Black memorabilia.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this outstanding journalist for all of her work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Agnes E. Green.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN CLARK

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mrs. Maureen Clark for being awarded National Board Certification in Career and Technical Education Communication Arts by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Maureen is 1 of 2 educators at Foothill High School in Henderson, Nevada to become nationally certified. National Board Certification is a process that requires 1 to 3 years of preparation and testing. Maureen completed an extensive portfolio of assignments, essays, and videotapes as well as tests which assessed her knowledge of the individual subjects she teaches. Once obtaining National Board Certification, a teacher is given the highest honor of professional teaching excellence. Only 116 of more than 20,000 teachers in the Clark County School District, less than 1 percent, have earned this distinction.

Mrs. Clark has a long and distinguished career as an educator. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and a Master's in Art Education from Northern Arizona University. She is an 18-year veteran teacher, teaching the last 7 years at Foothill High School. She currently teaches classes in Computer Graphics, Website Science, and Computer Graphic and 3D Animation. It is said that Mrs. Clark's classes are in high demand by Foothill students and her teaching approaches are described as innovative and exciting. After school, Mrs. Clark is the adviser for SkillsUSA, a club and national organization that prepares students for college by training them in technical, skilled, and service occupations. Under her advisement, SkillsUSA has competed and earned numerous state awards for its technology innovations. Maureen has made a profound difference in our community and we are most fortunate to have this leadership which positively impacts student achievement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Maureen Clark. Her efforts to improve the

educational experiences of the student at Foothill High School are commendable. I congratulate her on her much deserved recognition and I wish her continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN ROBERTS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Lillian Roberts. Lillian Roberts is currently the Executive Director of District Council 37 of the AFSCME, AFL-CIO union. She represents 121,000 public workers in New York City, 50,000 of them retirees, 1,000 titles and 56 locals. She is also Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO, Vice President of the NYC Central Labor Council and Secretary of the Municipal Labor Committee.

Lillian became a union activist as a Nurse's Aide working in a Chicago hospital in the 1950s. She spearheaded the creation of five locals and led an organizing drive at four Chicago hospitals.

Lillian came to New York City, built DC 37's hospital division and became Associate Director of DC 37. She distinguished herself by her skill as an organizer and her ability to connect with rank-and-file members. She established the DC 37 Education fund, the largest union-based adult education program in the country that offers union members a four-year degree with the College of New Rochelle. This program has become a model for unions nationwide.

During the late 1970s and 1980s, Lillian brought into the union thousands of workers in federally funded jobs. She found that experience to be a blueprint for creating unionized jobs for welfare recipients. She also developed the DC 37 Municipal Employees Legal Services program, which provides legal services to members and the DC 37 Personal Services Unit, which offers counseling to those with personal problems.

In 1981, Lillian became the first African-American woman named New York State Commissioner of Labor. During her 6-year tenure, she led the 7,500 employee body to increase the annual job placement level by 5 percent, obtained federal approval of a state plan for a Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program, and computerized unemployment insurance offices and the Job Service program.

Lillian was first elected DC 37 Executive Director in 2002 after serving as consultant to the union she helped build. She was re-elected to a 3-year term in January of 2004. In January of 2007, Ms. Roberts was overwhelmingly re-elected for her 3rd term.

Lillian currently leads the union where she had been a previous Associate Director and consultant. In the 1960s and 1970s, she played a major role in organizing new members into DC 37 and establishing an array of

• 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.

benefits that became the envy of the Nation's labor movement.

With housing costs rising, Lillian approached Mayor Bloomberg with a proposal to give DC 37 members and municipal workers an affordable way to meet the City's requirement that they live in the 5 boroughs. The result is the innovative DC 37 Affordable Housing Program. This program allows DC 37 members and city workers preference for 5 percent of units in city-sponsored lotteries for affordable homes and apartments, down payment grants through the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and homebuyer training and education through Neighborhood Housing Services.

Lillian's leadership is rooted in the lessons she learned while growing up on welfare on Chicago's South Side and fighting for better working conditions as a Nurse's Aide. Growing up as 1 of 5 siblings in conditions of poverty, she was instilled with a deep concern for the needy and a passion for fighting social injustices.

Lillian has been a member of numerous boards including: Board of Trustees of the College of New Rochelle; the State University of New York, the National Equal Rights Committee and the National Committee for Labor Israel.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this labor activist for all of her accomplishments and her empathy for area workers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Lillian Roberts.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on H.R. 1591: the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007. After a great deal of reflection, I have decided to support this legislation. With today's vote, we are taking an important step toward ending the war in Iraq and bringing our troops home.

This legislation does not go far enough for me. I pushed for a vote on a course of action that would have gotten us out of Iraq much sooner and stipulated that all funding go toward drawing down troops. The House Rules Committee did not allow a vote on this position, and even if they had, I know that there are not enough votes to support it.

Today's vote was a very difficult one for me and I have been carefully weighing the impact of this legislation for weeks. In the final analysis, I decided that H.R. 1591 carried enough practical and symbolic weight that if it needed my vote to pass the House, then I should support it.

For me, the most important component of this legislation is that it stipulates the withdrawal of troops must begin no later than March 1, 2008 and be completed within 180 days. It also establishes specific benchmarks that the Iraqi government must meet, benchmarks that mirror the criteria President Bush himself set forth in his 2007 State of the Union

address. If real progress on these benchmarks is not made by July 1, 2007, then U.S. troop redeployment will begin immediately and must be completed within 180 days.

President Bush has been threatening to veto this bill for weeks and I fully expect he will do so if it reaches his desk in its current form. Regardless, the House is sending an important message to the President today by passing this legislation. In the weeks and months ahead, I will continue to do everything I can to end this war. There may not have been enough votes today to bring a faster end to this war, but there were enough to establish a date certain for withdrawal. With today's vote in the House we are closer than we have ever been to ending this war.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act.

In order to have an open and honest debate on the war in Iraq, we must differentiate between the situation that existed in Iraq when we first arrived there, and the situation that exists today. No longer do we find ourselves facing a united front, the clearly identifiable enemy of insurgents and Saddam loyalists. The current instability in Iraq has become a sectarian civil war, a war in which we have no business participating. We cannot use the parameters of a war that have since changed. We are not aiding the enemy in any way by setting reasonable, logical benchmarks, nor are we 'micromanaging' our war effort. The situation has changed, and so must the course we take.

This bill gives us the framework needed to focus our efforts on those who actually mean us harm, and extricate us from a situation in which we are nothing more than a police force, caught in the middle of a sectarian conflict. By committing to a gradual plan of benchmarks and a firm date of withdrawal, we create an environment in which the Iraqi people themselves become responsible for their future. No longer will they be reliant upon our presence to establish their own nation. The United States will be an important ally of the new Iraq, not an enforcer of the status quo in their nation.

I am also pleased that this bill includes several measures to aid our communities along the Gulf Coast. Waiving the local match requirements and forgiving Community Disaster Loans will help the city of New Orleans recover financially from the effects of Katrina. These financial troubles have since been compounded by the Administration's stubborn refusal to treat our disaster, the worst the Nation has ever seen, the same way that all others have been treated. For all previous localities receiving Community Disaster Loans, ranging from Hurricane Andrew to 9/11, 97 percent have been forgiven. This bill would take the long overdue step of forgiving the loans that

were extended to communities along the Gulf Coast. Free of this burden that has been unfairly put upon them, our communities can continue their extensive rebuilding efforts.

Our hurricane protection system, battered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, is still not in the condition it was in before the storm. With hurricane season beginning again just a few months from now, we cannot afford to leave the city unprotected for another year. The money included in this bill for the Corps of Engineers ensures the safety of all citizens in the New Orleans area. The Corps should not be forced to delay action on critical hurricane protection projects because they lack the necessary funding. We have already seen the devastation that can be wrought by a hurricane; it is crucial that the Corps have the resources it needs to protect our city.

I also wish to highlight several other important programs within this bill whose importance cannot be overstated. We face a housing crisis in New Orleans, with public units drastically reduced in number, and no suitable plan for replacing such units in the short term. Eighty million dollars is provided in this bill for HUD tenant rental assistance so that our citizens can return home as soon as possible. Our elementary education system is in dire need of experienced teachers and administrators. Our colleges and universities were closed for months, and sustained significant physical damages. Sixty million dollars has been provided in this bill, and represents another step in the rejuvenation of our educational establishments. Additional funding for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program has been provided, and is sorely needed for future disasters. The slow pace at which such loans were administered in the immediate months after Katrina was shameful, and by supporting this bill we have committed to ensure that it never happens again.

I urge my colleagues to support this supplemental appropriations bill, which provides everything needed by our troops in Iraq, while setting a course for our necessary disengagement. The people of this great country eloquently expressed their disapproval regarding the course of this war in the November elections and, on their behalf, we should do no less than heed their wishes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOANN STRAND

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mrs. Joann Strand for being awarded National Board Certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood Secondary Language Arts by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Joann is 1 of 2 educators at Foothill High School in Henderson, Nevada to become nationally certified. National Board Certification is a process that requires 1 to 3 years of preparation and testing. Mrs. Strand completed an extensive portfolio of assignments, essays, and videotapes as well as tests which assessed her knowledge of the individual subjects she teaches. Once obtaining National Board Certification, a teacher is given the

highest honor of professional teaching excellence. Only 116 of more than 20,000 teachers in the Clark County School District, less than 1 percent, have earned this distinction.

Mrs. Strand has a long and distinguished career as an educator beginning with a Bachelor's Degree from Bemidji State University and a Master's Degree in Secondary Language Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has been an employee of the Clark County School District for 19 years and has spent the past 8 years at Foothill High School as a member of the English Department. Mrs. Strand is also a co-creator with a fellow teacher of Young Entrepreneur Services, Inc., YES, Inc., is a unique company classroom which has been recognized throughout the district for its unique approach to instructing students. This class applies real world business work situations with the necessities of an English class. Mrs. Strand is known by her colleagues as a tireless worker who is both inspiring and relentless in her pursuit of excellence. Joann has made a profound difference in our community and we are most fortunate to have this leadership which positively impacts student achievement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joann Strand. Her efforts to improve the educational experiences of the student at Foothill High School are commendable. I congratulate her on her much deserved recognition and I wish her continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. AURORA  
BROWN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Aurora Brown. Ms. Brown is a native New Yorker and a third generation West Indian who sites education as the strength of her lineage. The Amsted's (family name) were the first black school teachers in Virginia. Ms. Brown taught scholastic and college preparatory classes to youth for employment opportunities. Her students have successfully gone on to colleges and universities such as Morehouse, Spelman and Hampton through her mentoring.

As the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of S&B Cleaning Services, Inc., Ms. Brown's mission to incorporate was derived from previous experiences of managing several janitorial companies and being employed by federal affiliates including 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York.

Ms. Brown received The Council City of New York Proclamation Award in December of 2005 and the Partner in Education Award from the Occupational Training Center of New York in June of 2004. Known for her generosity and fairness when dealing with clients and employees, she makes it her business to oversee personally the human resources development of employing disadvantaged and handicapped individuals.

Ms. Brown's work ethic serves as encouragement for women to venture out and become business owners. She states, "through long hours, trials, and tribulations, moments were grueling, but definitely worth the effort." She also admits the company motto was her

driving force when faced with opposition and adversity. Tedious daily functions of operating a business, she makes time to give to her community as a facilitator of public functions, contributing donations, fundraising for the welfare of child care. Ms. Brown, in conjunction with public officials and local affiliates, has donated toys to the Young Minds Daycare Center for the 2005 holiday season. Her personal choice for donations in 2006 was Family Life Foster Care.

Ms. Brown has others to thank in establishing herself, such as family, friends, and associates, but likes to acknowledge that her Executive Vice-President Edwin Santiago is a key component in the developmental operation of rapid growth of this organization; she also takes pride in acknowledging that her employees are the backbone of S&B Cleaning Services, Inc. There is much more you can expect to see that Ms. Brown has yet to reveal. Just like her company motto "There's not much we don't do."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Aurora Brown for her accomplishments in business.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Aurora Brown.

HONORING ANDREW WISE

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andrew Wise of the Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation in Gainesville, Florida.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2007, Andrew Wise was honored with the Dorothy Richardson Awards for Resident Leadership from NeighborWorks America.

Mr. Wise combined his passion for Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation (NHDC) and his networking skills to recruit a remarkable stream of community, business and educational leaders who have become active in the NHDC organization. NHDC is a non-profit homeownership center that has been in existence since 1982. The organization's goal is to promote and provide decent and affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents of North Central Florida.

Mr. Wise has been an eloquent NHDC ambassador to the many church, community and civic organizations to which he belongs. Within NHDC, his board tenure and experience have made him the go-to person for new board members—especially community residents—in understanding the array of NHDC programs and their many and varied funding sources. He has been invaluable in helping new members move past this steep learning curve by getting them to focus on the mission of the organization and how its board and staff are so instrumental in transforming lives and uplifting the community.

Created in 1991, the Dorothy Richardson Awards for Resident Leadership celebrate the outstanding contributions of dedicated community leaders across the United States. Each year, the NeighborWorks network honors residents who exemplify the qualities of Dorothy Richardson, a Pittsburgh activist who helped advance the community-based development

movement that informed the formation of the NeighborWorks network.

My congratulations and respect go out to Mr. Wise on his lifetime of work and commitment to earn this award.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
DENNIS GJERDINGEN

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor a dedicated and innovative educator, Mr. Dennis Gjerdingen, upon his retirement after 26 years as principal of the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Dennis became interested in childhood deafness when, in 1964, he learned that his newborn son was deaf. He trained as a teacher of social studies and English at Minnesota State University, received his masters in Speech and Hearing at Washington University in St. Louis and did post-masters work there in Educational Administration. He spent 14 years at Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, as a classroom teacher, researcher, associate professor, assistant to the director and as headmaster, before coming to Clarke School for the Deaf in 1981. He is the 6th president in Clarke's 140-year history.

Clarke School is an international leader in teaching listening, speech, language and academic skills to deaf children and assisting families and training professionals to work with them. During his tenure, Mr. Gjerdingen has reorganized the Clarke School and its structure to position Clarke for a rapidly changing future. He designed and administered new Clarke programs, including the creation of the Center for Oral Education on the Northampton campus that helps people of all ages with hearing loss. In the last 10 years, Mr. Gjerdingen spearheaded a strategic plan to expand Clarke to 5 campuses with 4 new schools for young children in Boston, MA, Jacksonville, FL, New York City, and Philadelphia, PA. Clarke School for the Deaf now impacts the lives of more than 10,000 children and adults annually through its educational programs, research, curriculum development and professional training.

The author of more than 30 articles in professional journals, Mr. Gjerdingen is widely recognized as an expert in the field. In 1987 he was appointed by Congress to the Commission on the Education of the Deaf that reported directly to Congress and the President. During this appointment, he helped author a report from which major legislation was adopted. He has also served as president of the International Alexander Graham Bell Association.

It is my great privilege to honor Mr. Gjerdingen for his commitment to providing greater educational opportunities for deaf children and their families and professionals around the country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE  
SCHWARTZ FAMILY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schwartz family for their philanthropic efforts in the Jewish Community of Las Vegas and for their many contributions to provide the Las Vegas Valley with a new community center and synagogue.

The Schwartz family, principals of Great American Capital, a real estate development company found in Las Vegas, have been leaders in the development, acquisition, operation and management of high quality commercial and residential real estate projects in Nevada and Southern California. As a result of their civic generosity, the construction of the Beit Allon Chabad of Summerlin Community Center and Synagogue was completed and opened in April of 2006. This facility has emerged as one of the most magnificent synagogues in Las Vegas and includes the finest, up-to-date facilities for education, socializing, and catering affairs. For their humanitarian efforts and community service the Schwartz family is being recognized as inaugural recipients of the Chabad of Summerlin Founder's Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Schwartz family. Their commitment to the Jewish Community is commendable and I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition. I thank them for their dedication and loyalty and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MELINDA JAMES-  
DELROSARIO, RN, BSN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident Melinda DelRosario. Melinda DelRosario was born in Panama City in the Republic of Panama. She attended the Instituto Nacional in the Republic of Panama and became the youngest member of the senior choir and usher ministry at Rio Abajo Methodist Church. Upon migrating to the U.S. Ms. DelRosario attended Erasmus High School in Brooklyn, New York. In pursuit of a nursing career she earned a BSN Degree at St. Joseph College in Brooklyn, New York graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Upon graduation from St. Joseph College, she assumed various administrative positions in home care and hospitals, among them; Kings Brook Jewish Medical Center as an Administrative Supervisor/Administrator on duty.

Currently, Melinda oversees the Nurse Connection Program with Village Care of New York in conjunction with Roche Pharmaceutical Company. Ms. DelRosario is an HIV Nurse and consultant. She also instructs doctors and nurses in the administration of fuzoen therapy for HIV positive patients. In addition, Melinda provides in home instruction to patients and counseling to families.

Besides working as a healthcare provider, Melinda has been a prolific community activist and commonly known for her spirit of cooperation and punctuality. Twenty-five years ago, she became a member of "The Diggers." This is an organization led by Mr. Roman Foster who researched historical facts on the building and construction of the Panama Canal. This research resulted in the production of a documentary which provided narratives and anecdotes with the contributions of West Indians and the Caribbean works in Panama during the Canal's construction.

Melinda James-DelRosario was also a member of the Madison Democratic Club; the former Secretary of the Panamanian Nurses Association and the Caribbean Nurses Association; Travel Coordinator with MIPOPA which is an organization group headed by Dr. Carlos E. Russell which advocates the rights of Panamanians to vote abroad. She is a member of Panama Vote 2004, an organization led by Dr. George Priestly, which raised funds to support the candidacy of President Martin Torrijos and Probisida, an organization dedicated to providing assistance to HIV positive patients.

Melinda is also a civic minded, community oriented individual who embraces the concept of caring and sharing in issues affecting those who have been disenfranchised.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Melinda James-DelRosario for her good works and accomplishments in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Melinda James-DelRosario.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST ANNUAL  
CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the naming of Chavez Drive and the first annual Cesar Chavez March in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A celebration and fundraiser for the United Farm Workers members will be held on March 31st to coincide with what would have been the late Cesar Chavez's 80th birthday.

Born on a family farm, March 31, 1927, Cesar Chavez witnessed firsthand the suffering of migrant workers. When the family lost the farm during the Great Depression, Cesar toiled in the fields following crops across the Southwest. After serving in the US Navy during World War II he returned to farm work and began his lifelong commitment to justice for migrant workers.

During the 1960s Cesar Chavez, in reaction to the conditions he witnessed in the fields, became a union activist. Adopting the techniques of industrial unions like the UAW, Cesar fought against agribusiness and unfair laws that forbade farm workers from organizing. A nationwide boycott of table grapes and a 25-day hunger strike brought the United Farm Workers international attention. His leadership and personal commitment forced agribusiness to sign the first union contract with the United Farm Workers. He labored to improve the health and safety of the workers. He fought successfully to end the use of harmful

chemicals like DDT and benefited not only the worker but the consumer as well.

When Cesar Chavez died in 1993, over 40,000 people attended his funeral. In a show of respect for the man who had changed so many lives, our nation posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Madam Speaker, Flint, Michigan was the first community in our nation to honor this great humanitarian by naming a street after Cesar Chavez. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Cesar Chavez and his legacy to the American people.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VET-  
ERANS' HEALTH AND IRAQ AC-  
COUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1591.

On May 1, 2003, on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* off the coast of San Diego, President Bush announced to the American public and the world that the mission in Iraq had been accomplished.

Now, nearly 4 years later, our military is still deeply involved in Iraq—with no end in sight.

This spending measure puts pressure on the Iraqi government to follow through on their political and security promises and ensures that our government will take the necessary steps to scale down our military involvement in Iraq.

In fact, it actually gives the Iraqis the leverage they need to push the agenda beyond a military solution.

This legislation may not be the preferred way to end this conflict, but not one good choice remains.

Up until now, Congress has been AWOL in its oversight responsibility. As a result, our military readiness has suffered.

Without this legislation, the readiness and strength of United States military will continue to degrade.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I cannot sit idly by and watch our Army and our National Guard be stretched to the brink.

Nor can we tolerate the strategic risk posed by devoting so much of our military's time, training and equipment to the conflict in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, without this legislation, the administration will not be held accountable to achieve progress and success.

Now is the time to exert oversight of this conflict and make the difficult, but necessary choice of establishing requirements and expectations.

From the deck of the U.S.S. *Lincoln* President Bush said, "Other nations in history have fought in foreign lands and remained to occupy and exploit. Americans, following a battle, want nothing more than to return home."

Mr. Speaker, Americans have bravely fought for 4 years to protect the United States and bring hope to the people of Iraq. For the sake of our military readiness, international credibility and safety of Americans in harm's way in Iraq, it is time to make plans to bring them home.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a hard look at where we are today in Iraq, and vote for legislation that will provide the funding our troops badly need and accountability for success and results in Iraq.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK J. FERTITTA AND LORENZO J. FERTITTA

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friends Frank J. Fertitta, Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. of Station Casino and Lorenzo J. Fertitta, Vice Chairman of the Board and President of Station Casino as well as the entire Fertitta family.

Through the consistent efforts of Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, Station Casino was recently recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 companies to work for nationwide. The management of Station Casino, which has received this recognition for 3 consecutive years, has enacted several policies aimed at bettering the quality of life for its team members. One such program, initiated by Frank and Lorenzo, provides team members with assistance becoming homeowners. Another program offers assistance to team members seeking to become U.S. Citizens; this program offers assistance such as citizenship application classes, study material for the citizenship examination, and payroll advances for citizenship application. As a result of this program, in 2006, 28 Station team members gained U.S. citizenship and currently 260 more team members are attending citizenship classes.

In addition to implementing programs to enhance certain aspects of their employees' lives, Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta have cultivated a working environment founded upon ideals of camaraderie, respect and fairness.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friends Frank Fertitta, Lorenzo Fertitta and the entire Fertitta family. Their dedication to their employees is commendable and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE McDONALD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Joyce McDonald. Joyce McDonald was born to parents Willie and Florence McDonald and raised in Brooklyn's Faragut Houses. Joyce is the third eldest of seven children. She was reared in a household where unconditional love was practiced and family values were instilled.

Joyce attended P.S. 287, Sands JHS 265 as well as Fashion Industry High School. Her love and compassion for people led her to become a volunteer at Cumberland Hospital as a Junior Nurse's Aide at 16-years-old for the terminally ill. Joyce's teenaged years were not always so hopeful.

During her teen years into adulthood, Joyce made many bad choices. Thirty years after-

ward, she changed direction. Joyce has survived various forms of mental and physical abuses which include rape, attempted suicide, depression and a 25-year heroin addiction. In 1995, Joyce tested positive for HIV and was later diagnosed with AIDS.

Despite her diagnosis, Joyce continued to share her life's story and artistic talents with the world.

Without any formal art training, Joyce McDonald is currently a world renowned artist. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, schools, universities, shelters, nursing homes and hospitals. Her testimony and art has been shared throughout the country via the media.

Joyce has received numerous awards, including: the 2002 Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award, the 2003 Church of the Open Door Woman of the Year Award, the 2004 Isler's Award from the Women's Empowerment Movement, and the 2004 Governor's Citation from Maryland. In 2005, Joyce was one of nine Magnificent Women of Brooklyn honored by Senator Velmanette Montgomery and received a citation from the New York Assembly. She has also received the Dr. Martin Luther King Award from Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Joyce McDonald's talents include being an artist, sculptress, designer, writer, singer, poet and motivational speaker. These are talents she attributes to her family, including her Dad who is now deceased, her Mother, her two married daughters and their spouses and her six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of this extraordinary individual, who through her own pain found it within herself to help others.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and her creative works.

GULF COAST HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1227) to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricane Katrina:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the amendment offered by Mrs. BIGGERT. The region affected by Hurricane Katrina could use additional affordable housing units beyond those occupied at the time of the hurricane. However, this is a problem that exists for many communities across the country and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner by adequately funding the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In the 4th Congressional District of Minnesota, the average wait time for public housing is over 5 years, and most waiting lists are closed. There is a deficit of 12,635 affordable housing units for very low-income families. It is a serious problem when too many families do not have safe, stable housing.

The Administration's response to this problem was to flat fund the Section 8 program, ensuring that our communities cannot address

the waiting lists that currently exist, and to propose significant cuts to Community Development Block Grants.

We need a comprehensive solution to affordable housing needs—both in the Gulf Coast Region and across the country. I strongly support the Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Act, and will support efforts to increase access to safe affordable housing for all Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE INY FAMILY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Iny Family for their numerous contributions to the Jewish Community of Las Vegas and for their many contributions to provide the Las Vegas Valley with a new community center and synagogue.

The Iny Family, principals of Great American Capital, a real estate development company found in Las Vegas, have been leaders in the development, acquisition, operation and management of high quality commercial and residential real estate projects in Nevada and Southern California. As a result of their civic generosity, the construction of the Beit Allon Chabad of Summerlin Community Center and Synagogue was completed and opened in April of 2006. This facility has emerged as one of the most magnificent synagogues in Las Vegas and includes the finest, up-to-date facilities for education, socializing, and catering affairs. For their humanitarian efforts and community service, the Iny Family is being recognized as inaugural recipients of the Chabad of Summerlin Founder's Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Iny Family. Their commitment to the Jewish Community is commendable and I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition. I thank them for their dedication and loyalty and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EUGENIA "GENIE" SWINSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eugenia Elizabeth Swinson. Eugenia Swinson, or "Genie," was born in Savannah, GA, to Eugene and Carrie Swinson. She was raised on Long Island's South Shore Bay in New York. Genie and her 9 siblings are products of the Bay Shore Public School District. After graduation, all of them attended college. Genie decided upon C.W. Post College with a major of vocal music.

During her studies at Post, she toured Europe her freshman year with the Chamber and Madrigal Ensembles. Upon returning from the tour, she decided to move to California to launch a professional singing career. This turned out to be a wise decision because once there she had an opportunity to work with

Quincy Jones on the Brothers Johnson debut album as well as tour with Boz Scaggs under the stage name of "Pepper Swinson." There would be many more bands that would come her way.

She returned to New York due to illness, however, after recuperating, she moved to Israel to sing. After working in the Givatim and Tel Aviv, Israel, she once again returned to New York, this time with a new skill. She had mastered the Hebrew language. Almost immediately after arriving in the United States, Genie's health took a turn for the worse. She began a battle with end stage renal disease, due to Systemic Lupus Erythmatosis. This would mean 7 years of dialysis before a successful kidney transplant at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

While in New York, Genie decided to return to C.W. Post College to earn her undergraduate degree in modern languages with a minor in music. She studied Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic. After the transplant, Genie landed a job with the New York City Board of Education as a teacher of Spanish. She received her masters degree in multicultural education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Bronx, New York. She is currently a teacher at a Theatre Arts School in the Bronx and also gives private voice lessons in her home. Genie actively continues her studies in languages. Italian and Portuguese are her current passions. "It's my favorite pastime."

Not long after her transplant, she was approached by a representative from the New York Organ Donor Network and became a volunteer spokesperson for that organization. She appeared at several speaking and singing engagements on behalf of the Network. At several events she sang "Another Chance to Give" (La Vispera de Vida) in both English and Spanish in an effort to bring awareness to the need for organ and tissue donors.

It was her position as the official spokesperson for the Network that led her to an opportunity to sing the national anthem before games at both Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden for both professional teams. Today, Genie remains a strong advocate of organ and tissue transplantation.

Genie has modeled for Mode Magazine and continues to sing for Wilson Pickett's back up band, The Midnight Movers. Accompanied by jazz pianist Dr. Billy Taylor, she recently sang at a gala given by the Jazz Foundation of America which honored its co-founder Ann Ruckert.

"I am a collector of people," said Genie. "I have the same friends today that I had in the second grade. Naturally, I've added on to that distinctive group, but those friends are still an important part of my life. I like to spend time, reading, studying languages and spoiling my nieces, nephews and God's children. I'm honored to be a part of this distinctive group," added Genie.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Genie for sharing her beautiful talents with the rest of us. Through all of her adversity she continued to grace us with her gift of song.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Eugenia "Genie" Swinson.

## TRIBUTE TO 2007 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 10, 2007, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 80 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community, and it is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and his/her school.

Alexander Abramovitz, Shawnee Mission North; Molly Allison-Gallimore, Homeschool; Sydney Ayers, Barstow; Ava Azad, Blue Valley; Lisa Barry, Olathe South; Lindsay Beardall, Shawnee Mission South; Alexandria Bieber, Mill Valley; Abbey Blick, Shawnee Mission East; Ashley Boots, Olathe Northwest; Sarah Briggs, Trailridge Middle; Kristina Buchanan, Trailridge Middle School; Kim Burnell, Olathe North; Amy Byarlay, Olathe South; Sarah Campbell, Blue Valley North; Kelsey Charles, Blue Valley West; Jenna Christensen, Shawnee Mission North; Becca Doran, Shawnee Mission West; Katherine Ebling, Blue Valley; and Marissa Erickson, Olathe South.

Evan Gage, Blue Valley Northwest; Jennifer Garren, Shawnee Mission West; Kathryn Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Kevin Garrett, Shawnee Mission West; Michael Garrett, Westridge Middle; Lindsey Gerber, Olathe North; Jean Gianakon, Shawnee Mission North; Allison Golub, Blue Valley West; Kaley Hagemann, Olathe East; Jessica Hebenstreit, Pembroke Hill; Tess Hedrick, Shawnee Mission East; Logan Heley, Antioch Middle School; Lauren Hiatt, Olathe North; Spencer Hill, Shawnee Mission Northwest; Jing Jian, Olathe North; Janelle Johnston, Shawnee Mission West; Michele Kerns, Blue Valley West; Rachel Knapp, Westridge Middle; and Jessica Kruger, Olathe North.

Hailey Lapin, Blue Valley Northwest; K. Clemence Lawson, Olathe Northwest; Jake Ludemann, Shawnee Mission North; Sarah Martin, Shawnee Mission West; Magdalena May, Olathe North; Kaela McWherter, Blue Valley North; Courtney Miller, Blue Valley West; Rebecca Miller, Olathe North; Jovana Mirabile, St. Thomas Aquinas; Peri Montgomery, Shawnee Mission West; Megan Moomau, Olathe North; Alyssa Morrison, Mill Valley High School; Stephanie Nemer, Spring Hill High School; Evan Neuman, Trailridge Middle; Alexandra Olsen, Prairie Trail Junior High; Sam Parkinson; Sweta Patel, Olathe North; Meredith Pavicic, St. Teresa's Academy; and Lauren Peterson, Shawnee Mission Northwest.

Angela Podoll, Westridge Middle; Courtney Rathke, Olathe North; Kaytlin Renfro, Shawnee Mission East; Bryce Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Kyle Reynolds, Olathe Northwest; Cassie Rhodes, Spring Hill High School; Kaitlyn Rittgers, Olathe Northwest; Alex Rorie, Mission Valley; Beth Russell, Olathe Northwest; Michael Shoykhet, Olathe North; Devin Smith, Olathe North; Elaina Smith, Prairie Trail Junior High; Haylee Solcum, Trailridge Middle School; Peter Spitsnogle, Shawnee Mission East; Jessica

Stack, Olathe Northwest; Alexandria Szalawiga, Olathe South High School; Nicole Tepper, Mill Valley High School; Irene Wang, Olathe North; Danielle Weathers, Mill Valley; Marin Willis, Spring Hill Middle; Jessica Wilson, Spring Hill High School; Alexis Young, Chisholm Trail Junior High; and Jenny Zhong, Blue Valley Northwest.

## A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH BATTLE POINTER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Deborah Battle Pointer. Deborah Battle Pointer is a true child of the Diaspora with Carolinian, Jamaican and Black Foot Indian roots. She was born and raised in Connecticut and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from SUNY Cortland and a Master's Degree in Education from Cambridge College. The issues of access and equality for all have been important cornerstones in her academic career. For the past 30 years, she has worked in higher education, and served her community as a volunteer while maintaining her involvement in the creative arts.

Deborah was the first Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Cornell University, the first black woman to hold the position of Director of Admissions at Columbia University's School of Engineering and former Director of Financial Aid at both Columbia College and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. While residing in Ithaca, New York, she was elected to the Ithaca School Board where she served two terms.

Ms. Pointer is a co-founder and Co-Executive Producer of "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry," a television series shown on the Home Box Office cable network. She was also an Executive Consultant to the Broadway hit show, Def Poetry. The television series aired for the first time in December of 2001 and continues to be a hit on HBO today. Deborah and other Executive Producers of Def Poetry were recognized with a Peabody Award for Excellence in Television for the HBO program and received a Tony Award for the Broadway production in 2003.

In October of 2001, under the company name Bone Bristle Entertainment LLC, Deborah and her business partners created a poetry anthology published by Random House, "Bum Rush the Page." The anthology features works of 200 poets and has sold more than 15,000 copies. She has recently published a children's picture book, "I Am Hip-Hop" through her non-profit organization Healum Inc. founded by Deborah Pointer and Ronald Grant. Healum Inc. is dedicated to the efforts of ending child abuse.

Deborah is currently a consultant to the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Downstate where she is involved in development and community outreach. She is also one of a few African-American Christmas and Kwanzaa ornament designers and was featured as an Editor's Choice in "Decorative Gifts and Accessories" magazine.

Ms. Pointer has authored several magazine articles on financing and college education

and has worked on a series of videotapes on financial aid for students. The videotapes aired on Public Broadcasting Stations in the New York tri-state area. For many years she was a consultant to ESPN on selecting the High School Athlete of the Year. Deborah is currently a member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Task Force on BCAT, President of the Rutland Road Block Association and a member of numerous other organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Deborah Battle Pointer and her commitment to the children of Brooklyn, New York. I also want to thank Ms. Pointer for sharing her gifts with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful and talented woman.

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF DAVID  
BROWN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true public servant of South Carolina's Second Congressional District. David Brown, chief executive officer of Beaufort Memorial Hospital of Beaufort, South Carolina, passed away Monday, March 19, 2007. Brown fell ill last month and was hospitalized at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he passed.

Brown ably led the hospital during a time of tremendous growth. The facility is now twice the size it was when Brown took over in 1996. During his tenure as CEO, Brown developed a long-term affiliation with Duke University Health System in heart and cancer care. Most recently, he worked with Beaufort to bring additional workforce housing to the area and led the hospital's expansion of services across the Broad River.

Brown, son of Emerson M. Brown and the late Winifred Ryan Brown, was born in 1951 in Germany, where his father was assigned as a U.S. foreign service officer. Brown also lived in India, the Netherlands, and Canada and attended high school in Switzerland and in Maine. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1974 and a masters of business administration with honors in 1976, both from Boston University.

Brown began his career in healthcare in 1976 as assistant executive director of Prince George's County Foundation for Medical Care in Landover, Md., and became executive director within a year.

In 1982 he joined the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington as vice president for professional services. Before leaving the Washington area in 1996, Brown became president and CEO of the Greater Southeast Community Hospital Foundation, which operated two hospitals as well as long-term care facilities, home health agencies, pharmacies and other health care-related businesses.

Brown is survived by his daughter, Caitlin Ryan Brown; son, Ryan David Brown; father, Emerson Brown of Reed City, Mich.; sister, Catherine W. Brown of Washington; and brother, Christopher G. Brown of Columbus, Ohio.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDETTE  
AUDIGE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident, Ms. Claudette Audige. Claudette Audige was born on December 7, 1962, in Kingston, Jamaica. She has been a resident of New York for more than 21 years. Ms. Audige is the wife of Andre Audige and the mother of 3 beautiful children, Chase, Chad and Jodie.

Claudette Audige has been an experienced loan consultant for more than 20 years. She is noted for her wisdom and compassion for encouraging home ownership. She has inspired and helped many people to save their homes as well as purchase a home.

Most of Mrs. Audige's extensive community involvement has been with young people. She was a counselor at Good Samaritan Church, in the Bronx, and St. Michaels, in Sheldon, New York. Her community activities include participation in the McDonald's sing along concert series, a drug awareness campaign, and the neighborhood gang violence awareness program. The assistance she provides for children goes beyond the call of duty since she works closely with the youth in her community.

She is sensitive to the needs of homeowners and it is out of that compassion that led her to become a financial consultant. In addition, the high rate of housing foreclosures among her friends and family was another incentive for her to embark on this profession. Claudette gives workshops to new homeowners and advises them of their financial status. Due to her own past financial hardships, she has developed a flair for assisting people to accumulate wealth through the power of prayer and financial wisdom. Financial empowerment guides and motivates Mrs. Audige to teach others to accumulate wealth and prosperity.

This extraordinary woman goes above and beyond the call of duty and is commendable to the standards befitting the praised, virtuous woman described in Proverbs.

Her motto is "if I can help someone let not my living be in vain." Claudette Audige strives to educate the young and the old to possess the knowledge of financial wisdom. She believes that everyone can own a home with the proper education.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive works of Claudette Audige as well as her commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for all that she does for current and prospective homeowners.

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RECOGNITION OF THE HUNTINGTON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Huntington Veterans Af-

fairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Huntington, West Virginia. I am so proud to report that the Huntington VAMC was named the "Best Performing Facility" for 2006.

This is a well deserved honor for the dedicated employees of the Huntington VAMC who work so hard to ensure that our Nation's veterans receive the quality they deserve. This honor is even greater considering this is not the first time the Huntington VAMC has been singled out for its high quality care. Just two years ago, this center received similar recognition from the VA.

It is wonderful to know that the veterans who call West Virginia home have such a top-notch medical facility to provide care. As we all recognize, our veterans are our heroes and these heroes deserve only the best care available.

It is important that we remember our veterans have given so much to the future of our country and have asked for so little in return. Our veterans, as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and prayers of all West Virginians.

I am honored that the Huntington VAMC is in my district. I hope that this entire body will take a minute to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the Huntington VAMC and to honor the sacrifices that our brave servicemembers have made and continue to make.

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A TRIBUTE TO AY'TASHA T.  
HANTON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Ay'Tasha T. Hanton. Ms. Hanton is the proud daughter of Edna M. Fulton, and Willie E. Hanton Sr., stepdaughter of Maudine Hanton, who she affectionately calls "Mom." Ay'Tasha was born in New York City as the only daughter of seven children. Ay'Tasha's father expired when she was 1½ years old. Without the relationship of her father, she faced many challenges. With the loving support of her mother, family and friends, she matured into a strong, independent woman.

A nine-year employee of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Ay'Tasha has extensive knowledge in Finance Administration, Policy and Procedures, Performance Improvement, Graphic Design, Community Affairs and Healthcare Administration. In April of 1998, her career in health care began when she became the Coordinating Manager of Chemical Dependency Outpatient Services and the Mental Health Geriatric Program at Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center serving the Fort Greene Community. As an Assistant to the Sr. Associate Director, Ay'Tasha worked diligently to aide the Chemical Dependency patients who strived daily to maintain sobriety from their addictions. She also worked attentively to aide the Geriatric population as they faced the uneasiness of Mental Health.

In October of 2005, Ay'Tasha was re-assigned as the NYS OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) Administrator of Chemical Dependency Inpatient and Outpatient Services at Woodhull Medical

Center, where she studied the communities' statistics.

Recognizing her statistical talents, Ay'Tasha was given additional responsibilities by the Associate Executive Director of the Division of Chemical Dependency for the North Brooklyn Health Network in the newly established Performance Improvement Department, helping the Assistant Director in strategizing ways to support the population suffering from substance abuse addictions.

Her most recent opportunity towards climbing the corporate ladder came in March of 2006 when she was assigned to assist the Associate Director of Psychiatry in restructuring Woodhull's Psychiatric Emergency Department. As the Administrative Manager of Psych ED, Consultation and Liaison Services and the Chemical Dependency Inpatient Detoxification Units, Ay'Tasha is also faced with the daily challenge of aiding the Psychiatric patients as well as encouraging, mentoring and challenging her staff to heightened levels, while advocating for the Williamsburg and Bedford Stuyvesant communities.

Throughout her HHC career under the umbrella of the Department of Psychiatry, Ay'Tasha has been a member of many committees such as Cumberland's Open Access Team, Billing/Finance, Information Technology and Community Affairs.

Ay'Tasha's walls are lined with many awards, certificates, and presentations as a testament of her hard work. She has also received extensive continuing education in Healthcare Professionalism such as Managerial, Administrative Assistant, Graphic Design, and the list continues. Ay'Tasha's most heart-felt accomplishment is her Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Bethel Bible Institute. Ay'Tasha is presently seeking her Bachelors Degree in Health Administration.

Ay'Tasha understands the importance of children. She nurtures her nieces, nephews, godchildren and a host of other youth. Not only is she an inspiration to children, Ay'Tasha mentors young women in her community. Ay'Tasha encompasses the true identity of a role model in today's society.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Ay'Tasha T. Hanton for her commitment to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and the great things she has done.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 1591, a measure that would set dangerous and unprecedented timelines for U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States of America, killing thousands of innocent people in a horrific fashion and forever changing America's role in the fight against global terrorism.

Just days later, President Bush and leaders of this Congress together affirmed America's commitment to leading a global war on terrorism. Our goals are to bring those responsible for 9/11 to justice while working to prevent future acts of terrorism.

Since then, the bravery of our troops, the courage of our leaders, and most importantly the vigilance of the American people have helped prevent further attacks on American soil.

Our strategy of taking the fight to the terrorists is working. Our continued efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are making a real difference, both there and here at home. We are moving closer to the day when the Iraqi army and police force will be adequately prepared to take full control of their country.

What day will they be prepared to do so? Our military commanders might have a good idea. Leaders of the Iraqi military might know. Neither have set a date certain—neither have published a time line for withdrawal, because they understand the danger in doing so.

As a Member of Congress, I do not know the exact day this withdrawal should happen. In short, I believe it should be on the day when we have achieved our objective. As a Congressman, I expect continued, measurable progress toward that day—and, like every American, I hope that day is soon. But it is too early to tell what day that is; if telling emboldened our enemy and put our troops in harm's way, I wouldn't tell.

Yet according to the measure before us today, a majority of my colleagues apparently believe they know the exact day. They've picked a day when—whether the job is finished or not—we will pack up and go home.

This is bad public policy, it is bad military strategy, and it cuts the very legs out from under the soldiers who have so bravely fought the battles to keep America safe. The road to this day has been long, sometimes difficult, but largely successful. If we remain committed to leading the fight to keep the American people safe from terrorism, then we owe it to our military commanders to help them finish their job without arbitrary and capricious intervention from politicians.

Mr. Speaker, the timelines for troop withdrawal are not the only bad idea in this legislation. Woven into a bill that is designed to fund our military is more than \$20 billion in non-emergency spending on such items as peanut storage and spinach farmers.

Millions of Americans wake up and go to work each morning to provide for their families and help make America a better place. As the saying goes, they work hard, play by the rules, and pay their taxes.

These are the families I keep in mind each time I cast a vote on public policy.

This measure contains hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars being diverted from national defense to pork-barrel spending to benefit the pet projects of certain interests.

Like many Americans, I am outraged by the reports that Democrat leaders are promising this and additional pork-barrel spending in exchange for Democrat votes for this measure.

Each of these dollars came from taxpayers, and taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, there are good things in this bill, like funding for our troops in battle, im-

proved health care for our soldiers and veterans—things I am proud to support.

However, when weighing the good and bad in this measure, the pro-family, pro-troop, pro-American vote is easy to identify. That vote, in this case, is “no,” and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA T. WILSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Aida T. Wilson. Aida T. Wilson was born in Panama City in the Republic of Panama. She is the eldest of five children born to Olga and Charles Tyrell. After completing high school at Santa Familia School for Dressmaking in Panama City, she was immediately employed by Maloul Brothers for five years in Colon, City of Panama.

Ms. Wilson migrated to the United States in 1956 and immediately began to further her education by attending several adult education programs while employed as a seamstress. She was later employed by one of New York City's most prestigious department stores Lord and Taylor. After serving in several positions she became their Merchandising Auditor. She retired in 1994 after 37 years of service with the company. Following one year of retirement, she was hired to work on a part-time basis at Community Board 5 in East New York as a Community Service Aide and has maintained this position for the past 11 years.

Ms. Wilson has been a communicant of St. Laurence Church RC for the past 30 years. She has served on their Board of Trustees; as member and past President of the Laurencean Guild (Rosary Society); Chairperson of the Liturgy Committee; Treasurer of the Church AARP Chapter; and presently a Lector at Sunday Masses and a member of the Parish Pastoral Planning Committee. Mrs. Wilson is an active member and Past President of the Brooklyn New Lots Lions Club and Part District Treasurer for the Lions of District 20 K1 (Brooklyn and Queens). For her lionistic activism, she has been recognized with many awards and citations including the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service, Lion of the Year, Knights of the Blind Award and the highest recognition by an association, The Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Aida Wilson is married to Lloyd G. Wilson, (retired MTA Motorman). This union brought forth a son Rodney, and a daughter Sharon who have blessed them with six grandchildren: Tyrell and Cherrell Wilson, Jazine Miller, Eryka, Elissa, and Jessica Hill. A step granddaughter Kristin Reid Hill, son-in-law Eric Hill and daughter-in-law Angela A. Wilson.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community for all of her good works and kind gestures.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Aida T. Wilson.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INFANT AND TODDLER DURABLE PRODUCT SAFETY ACT AND THE DANNY KEYSAR CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY NOTIFICATION ACT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today I am once again introducing two bills that would help prevent needless deaths and injuries of young children: the Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act and the Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act. These bills would help us protect infant and toddlers from dangerous products, both before they arrive on the shelves—and after they end up in homes.

The Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act would require infant and toddler products to receive a federal seal of approval before they are sold. This bill is long overdue.

Currently, most consumers believe that, because a product is on a shelf, it is safe. A Coalition for Consumer Rights' survey in Illinois found that 75 percent of adults believe that the government oversees pre-market testing for children's products; 79 percent believe that manufacturers are required to test the safety of those products before they are sold. For most products, neither is true.

In fact, there are no mandatory safety standards for the majority of the children's products being sold today. The majority of the standards that are in place are "voluntarily" set by the very industries looking to make profits. They are also allowed to police themselves about whether the standards are enforced.

Let me stress what that means: although there may be voluntary standards in place, there are no requirements that all potential hazards are addressed in those standards. For instance, the voluntary standards for bassinets set by the industry did not have height requirement for the sides or any test to make sure the baby couldn't fall out. Only because of the tenacity of advocates like Kids in Danger, was one finally set. There are also no consequences for the manufacturer if the standards are not met, and no requirements for products to be tested to see if the standards are met. This is true even for baby carriers, cradles, play pens, and high chairs. For the few products that do have mandatory federal standards, because there are no testing requirements, the standards are meaningless.

Although the Consumer Products Safety Commission—the CPSC—requires no testing and manufacturers may not perform their own tests, do not be mistaken, children's products are tested. They are tested in our own homes, with our children and grandchildren as test dummies. The cost of those tests can be a panicked child, amputated fingers, fractured skulls, or a dead child.

Unfortunately, a trip to the emergency room or the morgue is often the only way to know if a product is unsafe. This is unacceptable.

Parents and caregivers must have assurance that when they buy a product, it will be safe. Therefore, the Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act would not only require the CPSC to issue mandatory safety standards for infant and toddler products, it would

require the testing and certification of these products by an independent third party before they are allowed to be sold to anyone.

To protect children should unsafe products make it into their homes—as is currently happening—we also have to make sure that we can get the hazards out as soon as possible. The Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act would help us do that by requiring that all children's durable products sold have recall registration cards attached to them and that manufacturers directly contact those who fill them out should there be a recall.

Although there is a shocking number of recalled products, our current recall system is failing. Actual notice of a recall is dependent on news outlets picking up the story and spreading the word. Notification targeted to owners of the products is rare, and many parents remain unaware of the dangers even when products are recalled. In fact, many families still have the dangerous products listed in this report in their homes because they have not happened to turn on the television at the right time or read the right newspaper. We need to make sure that notification is directed at the families that have bought these faulty products so they don't have to rely on chance to hear the news.

My colleague, Rep. FRED UPTON, and I named our bill that would help solve this problem the Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act because his story is a tragic example of the inadequacy of our current recall practices.

Danny Keysar, the precious 17-month old son of Linda Ginzel and her husband, Boaz Keysar, died when the Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib he had been napping in at his babysitter's home collapsed. The rails of the crib folded into a "V"-shaped wedge when he stood up, trapping his neck. He was strangled to death. It was May 12, 1998, five years after the CPSC had ordered it off the shelves because it was so dangerous.

Word of its hazard had not reached Danny's parents, the caregiver with whom he was staying, or a state safety inspector who visited the home just eight days before Danny's death. Had the Child Product Safety Notification Act been in effect, there would have been a much greater chance of saving Danny's life—and the 11 children who have since died from the TravelLite.

We know that recall registration cards work. My bill is modeled after the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration's recall system for car seats. Since NHTSA started requiring car seats to have registration cards in 1993, the number of families registering increased by at least tenfold. In fact, 53 percent of parents who obtained cards mailed in the cards. Recall repair rates have gone up by 56 percent—all for a mere 43-cents per item. This bill will give families a much greater chance to repair, return, or discard any dangerous products that have made it into their children's nursery.

It is past due that we give parents the security they deserve and children the safety they need. I urge my colleagues to support these two bills.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 267 CONDEMNING THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN FOR ITS SEIZURE OF BRITISH SAILORS AND MARINES

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduced House Resolution 267 with my fellow Iran Working Group co-Chair Congressman ROB ANDREWS (D-NJ) and Iran Working Group Vice-Chairs Dr. CHARLES BOUSTANY (R-LA) and RON KLEIN (D-FL). This resolution condemns the Islamic Republic of Iran for seizing 15 British sailors and marines in the Persian Gulf and calls for their immediate release. These sailors and marines, based on the HMS Cornwall, had finished a routine search of a civilian vessel in Iraqi waters at the time of the kidnapping. The Iranian regime now says it may charge the sailors and marines for illegally entering Iranian-controlled waters.

The British soldiers were captured a day before the UN debated additional sanctions for Iran's continued efforts to enrich uranium. The sanctions were unanimously approved, and include a ban on arms sales from Iran as well as freezing assets of 28 people and organizations involved with the nation's nuclear programs.

Our resolution also asks the Security Council to explore new economic sanctions against Iran, including a restriction on gasoline imports. Despite its status as a top oil producing nation, Iran is highly dependent on foreign gasoline due to severe mismanagement of its domestic energy supply. An international restriction on foreign gasoline is the most effective economic lever in our diplomatic toolbox to prevent further Iranian hostility, deny Iran's ability to militarize the Persian Gulf and enforce Iran's nonproliferation commitments.

The Iranian regime defied international law by seizing sailors in waters outside of its jurisdiction. Our resolution sends a strong message of condemnation from the House of Representatives.

I want to thank Reps. ANDREWS, BOUSTANY and KLEIN for leading with me on this resolution. I look forward to working with them and the more than fifty original cosponsors on this important initiative.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUE WATER HIGHWAY ACT OF 2007

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Blue Water Highway Act of 2007.

As Members of this body know, the ability to cost-effectively transport goods to domestic markets is vital to our economy. It's becoming increasingly clear, however, that economic and population growth is far outpacing our ability to maintain and expand our existing transportation infrastructure, posing serious, long-term challenges to our current reliance upon land-based shipping.

In Florida and around the country, roadway congestion and driver shortages are already making it difficult for trucking companies to expand capacity. Freight shipping by rail is encountering serious capacity problems in some regions, as well. And, recent estimates indicate that overall freight traffic will continue to increase exponentially in the coming years—up as much as 70 percent by 2020.

Madam Speaker, we are presented with a choice as we seek to address this capacity crunch: We can try to engineer our way out of the current situation at hundreds of billions of dollars in new federal expenditures. Or, we can find alternate innovative modes of transportation that will help absorb some of the traffic our growing economy continues to create.

While we must continue to invest in our surface transportation infrastructure, I believe that an alternative, environmentally sound mode of transportation is at our fingertips that will lessen highway congestion, save energy, and reduce air pollution.

Short sea shipping, or what I call the “Blue Water Highway,” involves shipping cargo by sea between U.S. ports. By establishing a “highway” along our coast where smaller cargo ships travel from port to port along the Eastern Seaboard, Gulf Coast, Pacific Coastline, and the Great Lakes, we have the opportunity to significantly reduce highway congestion in an environmentally friendly and economically sound manner. Additionally, sea-based shipping would mitigate against wear and tear on our highways, potentially delaying the need for expensive taxpayer-funded improvement projects and allowing such funds instead to be used to free traffic congestion.

Though getting the Blue Water Highway up and running is no small task, I believe that a modest tax policy change provided in my legislation would significantly encourage the development of a short sea shipping industry.

The Blue Water Highway Act of 2007 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt cargo shipped between U.S. mainland ports from the harbor maintenance tax. This simple tax reform would remove the primary prohibitive cost to short sea shipping, allowing designated cargo vessels to travel from Port Canaveral in Florida, to Baltimore, and then onto New York and Bridgeport, Conn. making other port calls along the way without having to pay the cargo tax each time it enters a port.

Madam Speaker, amending the harbor maintenance tax is a reasonable policy objective that would go a long way toward moving short sea shipping from the backwater of the shipping industry.

HONORING THE BREESE CENTRAL  
LADY COUGARS BASKETBALL  
TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Breese Central Lady Cougars basketball team on their success in winning the championship game of the 28th annual Class A state tournament at Redbird Arena in Normal, Illinois.

Jessica Hemann, Courtney Strieker, Leann Voss, Britni Holtmann, K.C. Root, Christy

Rolfingsmeyer, Katie Robben, Kelsie Netemeyer, Katelin Wiegmann, Tiffany Himes, Katie Scheer, Lauren Budde, and Cassandra Deiters make up this victorious team of athletes, which are lead by Head Coach Nathan Rueter and Assistant Coaches Angela Witte and Kelly Hasheider.

The Number 11 State-Ranked Breese Central ladies received medals after winning against Number 9 State-Ranked Rochester in a 47–41 victory.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Breese Central Lady Cougars on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

TRIBUTE TO DOLORES HUERTA

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 37. This resolution honors Dolores Huerta for her commitment to protecting the rights of women and children everywhere, and improving the lives of farm workers.

I want to thank my colleague from California, Rep. HILDA SOLIS, for sponsoring this resolution.

Since 1955, Dolores Huerta has been a pre-eminent figure in the civil rights movement. She has dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of workers, women, and children. Dolores has lived a life full of compassion and love for her fellow man. Her actions helped to change the way farm workers were treated and further established fair treatment and respectable working conditions for them.

As a strong female leader, Dolores Huerta defied cultural and gender stereotypes. She has been awarded the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award and was inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993. Together with Cesar Chavez, she founded the National Farm Workers Association, now the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

Beyond her professional work, she is a proud mother of 11 children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to send a message of support for the rights of all workers and to honor the accomplishments of a true revolutionary, Dolores Huerta, by supporting H. Res. 37.

RECOGNIZING LOYOLA UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO’S CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize; Loyola University Chicago for its enduring commitment to community service and its creation of the Center for Public Service. I am pleased that the Center will house the congressional papers of former Congressman Henry J. Hyde and former Congressman Dan Rostenkowski.

Loyola’s Center for Public Service will undertake the task of encouraging citizens to

dedicate their lives to civil service and government. Through research and discourse, this non-partisan academic unit will increase education on important policy issues.

Both Congressman Hyde and Congressman Rostenkowski attended Loyola, so it seems fitting that their work will be preserved there.

Congressman Hyde recently retired from Congress after serving the people of the Sixth district of Illinois for 15 terms. The former Dean of the Illinois delegation served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1995–2001 and was later Chairman of the International Relations Committee.

Congressman Rostenkowski, or Mr. Chairman as he is still known, served my district in the House and was a legislative force for 34 years. As the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he played an important role in tax and trade policy for thirteen years.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Loyola University Chicago for its creation of the Center for Public Service and its collection of the congressional papers of former Congressmen Henry J. Hyde and Dan Rostenkowski. I wish its faculty, staff and students the best of luck as they pursue lives of public service.

TRIBUTE TO SAM MURPHEY FOR A  
LIFETIME OF DEDICATED SERV-  
ICE TO THE NATION AND THE  
PEOPLE OF CENTRAL TEXAS

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant of the people of Central Texas, Sam Murphey. Sam is about to embark on a well-deserved retirement after 22 years of service in the U.S. Army and 16 years looking after the needs of the people of Central Texas as my right-hand man and District Director.

Sam Murphey is a decorated soldier and veteran whose distinguished service in the United States Army and his service to the constituents of Central Texas is unparalleled in my experience. The positive impact Sam has had is immeasurable and proof that one person can truly make a difference in the lives of others. Sam is known by many names: husband, father, grandfather, motivator, leader, and confidante. I join the many others who are fortunate to call him “friend”.

Sam graduated from the University of Texas in 1967 earning a bachelors degree in business administration and a commission in the Regular Army of the United States as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery. Sam later earned his master of science degree in management from the University of Central Texas in 1981 and he has completed an additional 18 post-graduate hours of study in political science.

Following his graduation from the University of Texas, Sam began a 22-year career in the U.S. Army that took him to assignments in the United States, Europe, Korea and Vietnam. He spent his combat tour in Vietnam as a Field Artillery Forward Observer and Liaison Officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Other notable experiences during his military career include a teaching assignment in the Gunnery Department of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, graduation from the Marine Corps

Command and Staff College, and an assignment at the U.S. Air Force Academy as Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 29. He retired from the Army at Fort Hood, Texas on October 1, 1989.

In March 1991, as a newly elected Congressman, I was wise enough to hire Sam as my primary contact for the military and veterans communities in what was then District 11. Sam excelled in that role and became the District Director in January 1996. As a local veterans leader, his counsel and advice have been indispensable over the years.

Among many other accomplishments, Sam played a key leadership role in the successful fight to save the Waco VA hospital from closure and helped make it into a national center of excellence. The massive modernization of Fort Hood in the 1990s had Sam Murphey's fingerprints all over it. Countless soldiers and their families have benefited from Sam's hard work to make dramatic improvements in barracks, housing, and training facilities at Fort Hood. Sam was also instrumental in opening Gray Army Airfield to commercial aviation, providing land for the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery and Tarleton State's upper level institution in Killeen.

As a district director, it goes without saying that Sam is very active in local community affairs, but he also spends much of his free time to give back to the community. He continues to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Heart O' Texas Federal Credit Union. He is a past president of the University of Central Texas Alumni Association, and has taught government and business classes at the University of Central Texas and Central Texas College as a member of their adjunct faculty. He is a past chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served 6 years as Commissioner on the Harker Heights Planning and Zoning Commission. He is a co-founder of the Harker Heights Economic Development Corporation and is a past president of the Central Texas—Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He is a graduate of Leadership Temple and Leadership Killeen and is a co-founder of the Leadership Belton program. He was recently named Chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Sam and his wonderful wife Peggy, his much, much better half, are retiring at the same time to enjoy their beautiful family together in Harker Heights, Texas. Peggy is retiring after a career of service to the soldiers and families at Fort Hood, a place that I had the privilege to represent for 14 years and is very close to my heart. The Good Lord has blessed Sam and Peggy with two children, Steven and Kathleen and five grandchildren, Samantha and Steven Murphey, Hartley, Elle and Sophia Corsi.

May the Good Lord continue to watch over them and as Sam is fond of saying, "bless their little hearts."

Thank you, Sam for your personal friendship and for your service to the people of Central Texas and the citizens of our Nation. We wish you and your family all the best in the years ahead.

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TRIBUTE TO GARY PLAYER

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to carry on a tradition started by the late Congressman Charlie Norwood, whose death this year was a great loss to Georgia and the U.S. House of Representatives. Each year on the eve of the Masters golf tournament in his hometown of Augusta, GA., Congressman Norwood would honor a golfer of great acclaim before his colleagues in the House.

This year, that tribute belongs to Gary Player, a world-renowned golfer whose accomplishments extend far beyond the links. In April, Mr. Player will tee up at the Augusta National for the Masters tournament for the 50th consecutive year, a remarkable achievement of longevity in any career. Few events in sports compare to the grace and beauty of the Masters tournament, and for a half century, Mr. Player has played an important role in one of the most cherished and most watched sporting events in the world.

Gary Player's record is the envy of countless golfers. It includes 159 victories worldwide. He holds nine major championships including: three Masters, three British Opens, two U.S. Opens and one PGA Championship. In addition, he has won the World Match Play Championship four times.

Outside the game of golf, Mr. Player has dedicated his life to family—he is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary this year—and to serving the underprivileged.

In 1983, he established the Gary Player Foundation to address the education crisis in South Africa. The Player family started the Blair Atholl School—complete with a primary school of 400 students, a pre-elementary school for 75, a community resource center and a sports complex. The foundation ensures high-quality education, a nutritional feeding scheme and basic medical care for each child. Besides his foundation, Gary Player hosts the annual Nelson Mandela Invitational Golf Tournament, one of the largest charity events in South Africa. To recognize his many achievements, Gary Player was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Saint Andrews University in 1995.

Gary Player has lived an incredible life and he doesn't take those blessings for granted. He has said, "I have been so lucky with golf, with my family, with my health, all I can be is thankful." Let us wish him continued luck and thanks for his accomplishments on and off the course. Mr. Player, good luck in Augusta.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DHS SAFE ACT TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BADGES, IDENTIFICATION CARDS, UNIFORMS, AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced, together with my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security, Chairman Thompson of Mississippi and Mr. Rogers of Alabama, legislation that will prevent terrorists or others with bad intent from posing as Homeland Security officials or officers. This common sense bill will require the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that sensitive material—badges, identification cards, uniforms, and protective gear—is made in the United States. As these items would be vulnerable to theft in transit, it just makes sense to make sure they start and stay in America.

When the Department of Homeland Security buys identification cards overseas, there is no system in place to ensure that they are not stolen and misappropriated by terrorists, who could then pass into restricted areas with fraudulent credentials. In countries with less robust ethical and management standards for business, manufacturers might even be willing to sell uniforms or badges to the highest bidder. The men and women who serve in positions that protect our security are put at risk by a policy that does not secure these materials, and the practice of purchasing them overseas without appropriate safeguards must end.

It is certainly not uncommon for cargo to be hijacked or lost, particularly in the staging areas at our Nation's ports of entry. The potential theft of uniforms, badges, or ID cards by the truckload pose a clear threat. These items are meant to serve as validation that those charged with securing our country are who they say they are; misappropriation is unacceptable.

This legislation will not slow down the Department at all with regard to purchases; it merely ensures that sensitive materials are kept securely inside the United States when appropriate. The bill contains a waiver for small purchases and for material that will be used outside of the United States. It gives the Department the flexibility to procure materials outside of the United States if necessary and as long as steps are taken to prevent misappropriation.

This legislation is focused and targeted at the area of greatest risk in procurement. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support it.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

## Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Strategic Forces Program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program, with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session.

SR-232A

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook.

SH-216

9:45 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Labor.

SD-124

10 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine reducing government building operational costs through innovation and efficiency, focusing on legislative solutions.

SD-406

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine risks and reform, focusing on the role of currency in the U.S.-China relationship.

SD-215

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Coast Guard Dive Program.

SR-253

## Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 223, to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

SR-301

## Appropriations

## State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Agency for

International Development and foreign assistance programs.

SD-138

10:30 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Navy.

SD-192

Aging

To hold hearings to examine affordable drug coverage that works for Wisconsin, focusing on preserving senior care.

SD-562

11:45 a.m.

## Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 193, to increase cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and foreign governments and entities in order to secure the strategic and economic interests of the United States, S. 613, to enhance the overseas stabilization and reconstruction capabilities of the United States Government, H.R. 1003, to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, S. Res. 30, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to address global climate change through the negotiation of fair and effective international commitments, S. Res. 65, condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance, S. Res. 76, calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, and Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan, and the nominations of Paul J. Bonicelli, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Curtis S. Chin, of New York, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Eli Whitney Debevoise II, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Sam Fox, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Belgium, Zalmay Khalilzad, of Maryland, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Margrethe Lundsager, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, Katherine Almquist, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Douglas Menarchik, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. (Re-appointment), and Ford M. Fraker, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

## Appropriations

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for United States Forest Service.

SD-124

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System.

SR-253

3 p.m.

## Appropriations

## Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-192

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing on effective strategies for engaging parents and communities in schools.

SD-430

3:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program.

SR-232A

## MARCH 29

9:15 a.m.

## Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian trust fund litigation.

SR-485

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program, with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session.

SD-106

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine an update on Iran; may be followed by a business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-419

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Gold Star Wives of America, Fleet Reserve Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

SD-226

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David James Gribbin IV, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works	2 p.m.		APRIL 10
Business meeting to consider S. 801, to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse", S. 521, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse located at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, as the "Gerald W. Heany Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse", the Public Buildings Cost Reduction Act, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and the nominations of Roger Romulus Martella, Jr., of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Bradley Udall, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.	Judiciary	Business meeting to consider S. 236, to require reports to Congress on Federal agency use of data mining, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), S. 119, to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts, S. 621, to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II, and S. Res. 108, designating the first week of April 2007 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week" and to discuss the possibility of the issuance of certain subpoenas in connection with investigation into replacement of United States Attorneys.	10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). SR-253
SD-406			APRIL 11
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs			9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine issues relative to Filipino veterans. SR-418
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee			10 a.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs To hold hearings to examine the availability and affordability of property and casualty insurance in the Gulf Coast and other coastal regions. SD-538
To hold hearings to examine eliminating and recovering improper payments, focusing on the Office of Management and Budget report entitled "Improving the Accuracy and Integrity of Improper Payments".	2:30 p.m.	Closed business meeting and hearing regarding certain intelligence matters. SH-219	Rules and Administration To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Smithsonian Institution. SR-301
SD-342	Intelligence		APRIL 17
Finance			10 a.m. Judiciary To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice. SD-106
To hold hearings to examine clean energy from the margins to the mainstream.			APRIL 25
SD-215			2 p.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on mental health issues. SR-418
Judiciary	10 a.m.		APRIL 26
To continue hearings to examine Department of Justice hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence. SH-216	Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee	To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, and the United States Capitol police. SD-138	10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine clean coal technology. SR-253

MARCH 30