EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KATHLEEN KEMP, PH.D.

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Kathleen Kemp, Ph.D., who is retiring this year after nearly 40 years of teaching political science, the past 28 years of which were spent at my alma mater, Florida State University.

Dr. Kemp is a skilled and popular instructor who has authored many publications and won numerous awards. In 1990, I was a student in her American Presidency class. I can say without reservation or exaggeration that Dr. Kemp changed my life.

On the last day of my last class at Florida State, Dr. Kemp pulled me aside to recommend that I consider volunteering for a local congressional campaign. I took her advice and worked for the campaign throughout that summer and into the fall of 1990. Following the election, the candidate, Congressman Pete Peterson, hired me to work on his Capitol Hill staff. This opportunity, which would never have arisen without Dr. Kemp's advice, started me on a road that would eventually lead to my election to Congress. More importantly, I met my future wife, Kelly, on that same campaign and we now have two beautiful daughters.

So, Madam Speaker, I can honestly say that Professor Kathleen Kemp greatly influenced my career and had a profound impact on my life. I have no doubt that countless other students she has instructed over the years can say the same.

I thank her and wish her all the best in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. TIMOTHY BLOCK FOR HIS ROLE IN HEPATITIS TYPE B RESEARCH

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Timothy Block for his efforts in the research of Hepatitis B. This truly remarkable individual has dedicated his life to expanding knowledge of and solutions to a disease that kills one million people each year.

Motivated to cure Hepatitis B by one afflicted area family with nowhere else to turn, Dr. Block established the Hepatitis B Foundation in 1991. Its mission: to discover a cure and to help patients with the disease. In 2003, Dr. Block and the Hepatitis B Foundation created the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research, a nonprofit organization that researches the disease in search of a breakthrough. As volunteer President of the organization, Dr. Block led the formation of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center of Bucks County, Pennsylvania's first Biotech center.

In addition to his work with Hepatitis B research, Dr. Block has initiated a Summer Research Internship Program. The program affords college students the opportunity to participate in research careers under the supervision of scientists. The Hepatitis B Foundation also hosts an annual convention called the "B Informed Patient Conference," at which people from around the country can share experiences and learn from experts.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Block has brought hope to millions of Hepatitis B patients and has spearheaded discovery research in the field. His zeal for helping other members of his community is unparalleled and the personal responsibility he has taken on for Hepatitis B patients throughout his career is commendable. I applaud his service to his community and to those affected by a deadly disease.

CIVICS CLASS VOICES CONCERNS ABOUT IRAQ

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the growing sentiment about the war in Iraq felt by not only the youth of my district, but by the youth of the Nation as well.

Recently, a senior Civics Class from Boone County in my district wrote to me expressing their concerns for the war and the effects this war has had on the homefront. These students represent a generation that will have to deal with the direct consequences of the actions we take today.

I'd like to read to you a portion of that letter.

> Our primary concern is the war in Iraq. We are in favor of fighting terrorism, but America went into Iraq under false pretenses. We now know that Iraq had nothing to do with the attack on 9/11. We believe that the reason we went to Iraq is to gain a stronghold on the oil fields. We are trading blood for oil. We have a strong feeling that American should have never invaded Iraq because our presence there is breeding more terrorism around the world. We are giving terrorists a common foe to retaliate against. We are incubating more hatred from other terrorists and now giving them a reason to unite.

I not only share the students' concerns about the war in Iraq, but I also share their concerns about the effect our involvement in the region has had here at home. The men and women of our military have gone above and beyond the call when it comes to serving their country in Iraq, but more is still being asked of them. While many of our troops are serving their third tour of duty, the President continues to move forward with his plan to send more troops into the region.

These students also point out that as this added strain on our military families continues, the strain on our domestic budget grows every day.

They go on to write, "Another of our concerns is the way our economy is being affected by the war. Just think of what $2.9 trillion dollars could have done for this Nation. Oil companies are making an annual profit of $39.5 billion dollars while many people in this Nation suffer in poverty. They are suffering because in today's society one cannot support a family on the minimum wage of $5.15 an hour. The money spent on the Iraq war has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the recipients of Social Security. Many older Americans have to choose between medication and food because they cannot afford both. Add to this the fact that thousand of Americans still do not have any health insurance."

I believe that no American should have to be burdened with such consequences. We must find a way to balance the cost of this war with the cost that families are continuing to pay here at home.

I applaud these young men for speaking up. They represent the voice of the majority of Americans who want us out of Iraq, and I want them to know that concerns have been heard. Rest assured, I will continue to do all that I can to make sure that their voices never go silent and that we continue to strive for the best course of action in Iraq and for our Nation here at home.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARDEN STATE SYMPHONIC BAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of the Garden State Symphonic Band.

The Garden State Symphonic Band was founded in 1907 as the Goodwill Fife & Drum Corps. In 1920, the name was changed to the Goodwill Band, and they performed under this name until 1958, when it became the Bay City Band. It was not until 1967 that the Garden State Symphonic Band took its current title.

Modeled after the extraordinarily successful Sousa Band of the early 20th century, the Garden State Symphonic Band's primary goal is to remain a traditional American professional concert band while reaching as much of the community as possible. This organization is the oldest band of its nature in New Jersey and one of the only remaining in the entire mid-Atlantic region.

Currently, the band is under the direction of Christian Pedersen, Jr., of Fords, NJ, and is composed of an ensemble of musicians hailing from some of the most prestigious music conservatories in the Nation. Many band members have previously performed with well-known orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, while others have performed on Broadway with major musicals.

The Garden State Symphonic Band has played at numerous venues including the Garden State Arts Center and the Clinton Museum, in addition to several county and municipal parks. Each summer, the band provides 8–10 free outdoor performances entitled ''Concerts by the Bay'' at Bayview Park in Perth Amboy.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Garden State Symphonic Band. Through its cultural and artistic contributions, the Garden State Symphonic Band has become an integral part of the New Jersey community.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. HINOJOSA and the Mrs. BIGGERT, for introducing H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. As a member of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and a cosponsor of this resolution, I am proud to support this measure.

In this 21st century economy, more Americans have access to financial services and products than ever before. With the click of a button, consumers can perform a variety of financial activities over the Internet, from paying bills to managing investments. Increased availability of credit allows more people to enjoy the benefits of easy access to capital and enhanced purchasing power. Today, half of all American households own stocks. This growing number of ''investor class'' Americans are participating in financial markets through retirement plans, investment vehicles or Internet trading accounts.

Yet, as this resolution recognizes, we must do more to ensure that American citizens not only have access to these important financial services, but are equipped with the knowledge to make critical financial decisions as they plan for the future. Whether it is buying a home, paying for college, starting a small business or planning for retirement, it is imperative that we help individuals develop a solid foundation in personal finance.

We must also continue efforts to ensure that individuals are equipped with the proper tools to make smart financial decisions from an early age. Reading, writing and math, the traditional cornerstones of our education system, need to be supplemented with a curriculum that will equip America's youth to meet the real-life demands of the 21st century. In the fast-paced and increasingly complex world in which we live, teaching our students about personal finance issues, from basic spending decisions to investing and saving for retirement, is critical. The efforts of organizations like Visa USA, Citigroup, the Credit Union National Association, the American Bankers Association and the Securities Industry Association have helped to bring financial literacy programs to our Nation's youth in classrooms, after-school programs and libraries. I am proud that in my own district, Bonita High School, the Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills and the Glendora Public Library have had the opportunity to benefit from these programs.

It is also important to note that efforts to enhance financial literacy should not just be confined to our own country. As we strive for expanded trade and investment with our global partners, the financial ups and downs in world markets have a greater impact on our local economies. Helping to spread financial and economic literacy to emerging markets is critically important to establishing stability in developing nations. For example, in 2004 Citigroup and the Citigroup Foundation provided more than $22 million in support of financial education programs in activities that reached millions of people in more than 40 countries. These activities included community development projects to support the expansion of thrift and credit-based cooperative groups in India and the development of a micro-finance industry in China.

Ultimately, expanding access to the financial system and knowledge of its workings provides individuals with greater choice when managing finances, building wealth and making investments. These activities in turn lead to increases in economic activity and growth that benefits our entire Nation. I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of financial literacy and support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO NEW DIRECTIONS ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate New Directions, a remarkable program located in the congressional district I represent, on celebrating its 15th year.

New Directions is a superb veterans' service organization located on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs property. Started by Toni Reinis and John Keaveney 15 years ago in a small rented house, it has grown to encompass four facilities totaling 223 long-term residential treatment beds for homeless veterans and their dependents.

New Directions has become a national model for the successful treatment of veterans battling co-occurring disorders—mental illness and substance abuse. Over the past 15 years, New Directions has been responsible for assisting over 8,000 homeless veterans and their families in getting back on their feet and reintegrated into our community.

New Directions provides a comprehensive network of therapeutic services to assist veterans. Veterans living at New Directions are given job training and placement assistance, parenting and money management classes, legal and financial assistance, remedial education and resources for alumni. Residents leave New Directions with a job, housing, a savings account, computer skills, renewed self-confidence and the support of mentors and peers. Under Toni and John's guidance, veterans undergo astounding, life-altering transformations.

As veterans enter the building, the first thing they see is a plaque on the outside of the building that refers to New Directions as ''The Last House on the Block.'' Veterans arrive often feeling they have bottomed out and are without hope of overcoming their challenges. New Directions offers them another chance to turn their lives around.

Los Angeles has the largest population of homeless veterans in the Nation. An estimated 24,000 veterans live on the streets of Los Angeles. Many of them suffer from co-occurring disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder—PTSD—as well as chronic medical problems. New Directions welcomes these veterans and offers them a safe environment to address their challenges.

I want to thank and acknowledge Toni and John for the tremendous contributions they have made to veterans these past 15 years. Their dedication and commitment are inspirational. They have helped rebuild countless lives and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our highest praise and thanks to Toni Reinis and John Keaveney on celebrating the first 15 years of New Directions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original co-sponsor of the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007. This bill provides a three-year authorization for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST is one of three agencies targeted by the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). The ACI aims to double the federal investment in physical science research over the next 10 years. This investment will ensure that American remains technologically competitive in the complex global marketplace.

NIST plays a unique role in that its scientists and engineers have a 100-year plus history of working directly with American industries to address their needs for measurement methods, tools, data, and technology. These are the building blocks that allow industry to grow and prosper. To cite just a few examples, NIST's labs develop chemical, biochemical, and chemical engineering measurements, data, models, and reference standards, provide measurement science for the electronics and electrical industries, and research and develop test methods and standards to improve the usability, reliability and security of computers and computer networks for work and home.

The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007 supports the President's ACI by authorizing NIST's labs at a rate that would double the budget over the next 10 years. The bill also supports the competitiveness of American's small and medium-sized manufacturers by authorizing the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program. Finally, the bill ensures that new research findings will find their way quickly to the marketplace by authorizing the Technology Innovation Program to provide grants to accelerate the development of high-risk technologies.

I thank Mr. EHLERS and Mr. GINGREY for their extensive input in developing this bill and my Democratic colleagues for incorporating our priorities into this bipartisan legislation. I look forward to working on this bill with all of my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, EDEN AREA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Eden Area chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWVEA). Throughout its extraordinary history, LWVEA has been known for promoting respect for individuals, valuing diversity, and empowering communities through civic engagement. This year LWVEA celebrates 50 years of service through encouraging the informed and active participation of individuals in government.

The League of Women Voters was first organized on February 14, 1920 in an effort to unite organizations who believed in the League's principles. The goal of this collaborative effort was to develop and codify legislation and public policy that protected future advocacy groups and promoted voter education throughout the electorate.

The League prevailed in implementing legislation that addressed labor, social security and social justice concerns pertaining to woman's rights. Specifically, the League urged legislators to enact provisions for Federal aid for child care and maternal programs. In the 1930's, the League advocated successfully for the enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts. The League played an important rule in transmuting hundreds of federal jobs from the Spoils System to the Civil Service designation. Credit is owed to the League for establishing the United Nations pursuant to World War II. Later, the League was recognized by the United Nations as being a nongovernmental organization.

The Eden Area group, like the national organization, is a nonpartisan political organization whose mission is to build citizen participation in the democratic process. The League of Women Voters, Eden Area group strives to educate policymakers and the general public on important issues in the public interest at all levels of government. LWVEA is committed to studying community issues in an unbiased manner, and achieving positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

The Eden Area Chapter has made immeasurable strides in furthering the nation's democratic objectives. Some recent and notable achievements of the Eden Area Chapter's work include sponsoring an Alameda County community forum on open government; writing letters and newspaper articles in support of state legislation on campaign finance reform; and promoting universal health care for all Californians. The LWVEA also has televised and moderated candidate forums for city, county and state candidates; provided translation services and ballot measure pros and cons; and conducted elections for homeowner associations and other community groups.

Today the members and supporters of the League of Women Voters, Eden Area have come together to celebrate not only their 50 year anniversary, but also their permanent and positive impact on our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting the League of Women Voters Eden Area Chapter for their profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

A TRIBUTE TO SOL LEWITT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to celebrate the life of Sol LeWitt, one of America's greatest artists and a resident of Connecticut's Second District. Sol died last week on Sunday, April 8, 2007.

Sol lived a distinguished and accomplished life. After earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University, and bravely serving in the Korean War, Sol spent much of his early life studying art at the New York City School of Visual Arts and working at the Museum of Modern Art. While in New York, Sol began what would later become a flourishing and influential career as an artist.

Sol is best known for his work with drawing and sculpting two and three-dimensional works. His exhibitions have been shown all over the world in the most prestigious of museums, including the New York Museum of Modern Art, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Gemeentemuseum in The Hague, and the Krunsthalle in Switzerland. He is frequently referred to as one of the country's most prolific artists and as someone who has helped shape the modern art movement.

Given all of Sol's significant life accomplishments, he was an exceptionally humble man who was loved by those around him. His wife Carol was especially devoted, and is an exceptionally caring and compassionate individual.

I rise today to salute the life and accomplishments of Sol LeWitt and join Members in praying for his family. He will be missed by all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST GALLO

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the House of Representatives is considering H. Con. Res. 88, a resolution honoring the life of Ernest Gallo. I am an original cosponsor of this resolution and a long-time admirer of Ernest Gallo, who sadly passed away on March 6.

Ernest Gallo was a pioneer in the field of winemaking and a generous philanthropist. He was also a friend to me and my late husband, Congressman Robert Matsui. His story is remarkable and exemplifies the American dream. Born to Italian immigrants, Ernest and his brother Julio, took just $5,900 in savings and a winemaking pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library, and from this modest start built the world's second-largest winery. He foresaw the potential for the California wine industry and relied upon smart ideas and hard work to build an incredibly successful business that today serves as an industry model. Today, the Gallo Winery is an important driver of northern California's regional economy, providing good jobs for 4,600 families.

But Ernest's lifetime contribution to California and the Nation went beyond his business achievements. As he became more successful, Ernest gave back to the community where he grew up. Ernest Gallo's personal generosity is demonstrated by such endeavors as the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto and the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California, San Francisco. These important institutions stand as a reminder of Ernest Gallo's life and his spirit.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution and honoring the life and memory of Ernest Gallo.

NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act.

Increasing access to cancer screening for women at risk is an essential part of preventing deaths from breast and cervical cancers. However, unfortunately, women with fewer resources and women of color, who are disproportionately uninsured or underinsured, are significantly less likely to have access to preventative screenings such as mammograms and Pap tests.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1132, which reauthorizes the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, NBCCEDP, to improve access to screening and diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancers among underserved women. It also authorizes increased funding for this lifesaving program.

Since it was created in 1991, NBCCEDP has provided breast and cervical cancer screening services to more than 2.9 million uninsured and underinsured women. It has diagnosed more than 29,000 breast cancers, 94,000 precursor cervical lesions, and 1,800 cervical cancers. H.R. 1132 renews our commitment to saving women's lives through screening and early detection of breast and cervical cancers.

Ensuring that all women have access to these vital health services must be a priority. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE GRADUATES OF TEANECK'S 21ST CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the exemplary community policing program conducted by the Township of Teaneck and to congratulate the 41 citizens who will graduate next month from Teaneck's 21st Citizen Police Academy.

The program gives citizens the opportunity to experience first-hand the work and techniques of the Teaneck Police Department. For eleven weeks, citizens participate in classroom activities, field trips to a prison and a medical examiner's office, and hands-on exercises. Students can gain a strong understanding and appreciation for the work that the police do every day to keep our communities safe. Students can also gain the skills necessary to help be eyes and ears in our communities, helping the police keep those neighborhoods safe.

I commend the Police Department for taking the initiative to organize this program. Particularly in our post-9/11 world, we know that an active and alert citizenry is one of our best defenses against terrorist and criminal behavior.

I also commend the 41 citizens who have taken time from their busy personal and professional lives to participate in this program: Sal Aliano, Kimberly Anderson, Shonita Badger, Alan Barsamian, James Bennett, Jon-Michael Bernal, Tiffany Blandford, Michael Bonanno, Giuseppe Casalinuovo, Angela Cespedes, Alba Coello, Mario Coello, Marva Coleman, Nancy Elsayed, David Fisher, Kevin Frederick, John Hohnadel, Tiara Jonson, Cynthia Johnson, Beverly Joseph, Chris Kowalczyk, Gladis Lizardi, Tara Lizardi, Gina Lampley, Celia Maldonado, Usman Malik, Jahmilah Mansfield, Tara McVey, Mireilly Meiss, Travara Morton, Sharde Mott, Avani Patel, Yoselin Perez, Flor Ramirez, Alba Ramos, Omer Savasci, Michael Schmitt, Andre Sousa, Jenene Taylor, Stacey Ann Wilson, and Leslie Srolovits.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET NICHOLAS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Margaret Nicholas, a member of the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, Branch #227 in Warren, OH. Mrs. Nicholas was named a Fraternal Most Valuable Participant for the week of October 2, 2006. These Fraternal MVP's embody a spirit of generosity, dedicating their time to the betterment of their communities through their charitable endeavors.

The HRFA was founded 110 years ago, with the mission to preserve, promote, and support the cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of Hungarians in America. Mrs. Nicholas has long been active in the Warren branch of the HRFA, currently serving as the Branch Manager.

Over the years, Mrs. Nicholas has been involved in many charitable activities, among them assembling care packages for troops serving overseas, which she has done since the days of the Vietnam War. Over the past two years, she has helped deliver over 4,000 cookies to the VA hospital in Brecksville, OH for the annual Join Hands Day. She is deeply involved in her church, helping to cook sausages to raise money for missions, organizing a vacation bible school, as well as serving as both a deacon and an elder.

I would like to commend Mrs. Nicholas on her outstanding devotion the improvement of the lives of people, not only in her community but across the country and around the world.

FREEDOM FOR LÁZARO RODRIGUEZ CAPOTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lázaro Miguel Rodriguez Capote, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez Capote is a member of the Cuban Pro Human Rights Party and a peaceful pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. As an opponent of the tyrannical regime in Havana, he has worked for basic human rights for the people of Cuba despite constant harassment and repression because he believes the Cuban people are entitled to basic human rights and democracy; in other words, freedom from tyranny.

On February 24, 1996, three U.S. citizens and a resident of Florida were assassinated when two civilian Brothers to the Rescue aircraft, on a humanitarian mission, were destroyed in international airspace by Cuban MiGs on the direct order of the Cuban dictator. The downing of the Brothers to the Rescue airplanes over international waters by the tyranny left an indelible impression on the consciences of Cuban pro-democracy activists and in countless millions throughout the world.

Mr. Rodríguez Capote was one of the many human rights activists in totalitarian Cuba who sought to commemorate the tragic deaths of these men but who was prohibited from demonstrating by the tyranny. Although Mr. Rodríguez Capote was threatened by state security thugs prior to his participation in peaceful demonstrations, he refused to allow his voice to be silenced. Consequently, he was wrongfully arrested on February 22, 2002 on trumped-up charges of "espionage and enemy propaganda".

Mr. Rodríguez Capote was summarily incarcerated and to this day languishes in grotesque subhuman conditions without having even been tried for a single crime. He is being held indefinitely in a totalitarian dungeon, suffering abhorrent conditions because he refuses to accept the reality inflicted upon Cuba by the tyranny. Since his incarceration he has held several hunger strikes to attract attention to the plight of Cuban political prisoners,

Mr. Rodríguez Capote is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. These men and women are symbols of freedom and democracy, who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Madam Speaker, let me be very clear, the brutal repression practiced by the tyranny in Havana is incompatible with the democratic values and the international law of our hemisphere. Mr. Rodríguez Capote is suffering in a dungeon because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lázaro Miguel Rodríguez Capote and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 71, legislation that I introduced, which commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had a close working relationship with AHEPA.

The Nation's largest and oldest association of American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to combat bigotry and discrimination and help Greek immigrants assimilate into American society.

Today, its mission is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Over its history, AHEPA has achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has fostered American patriotism, sheltered the elderly, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and advanced rapproachment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Additionally, AHEPA's members exemplify the American Dream. With their strong work ethic, Greek-Americans have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts.

Currently headed by Supreme President Gus James, II, AHEPA has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their support of this bill and for moving it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I also want to acknowledge my fellow Caucus Co-Chair, Representative BILIRAKIS, for joining me in introducing this bill.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH JOHNSON'S 2007 MASTERS TOURNAMENT VICTORY

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, today, my colleagues and I from the Iowa delegation are introducing a resolution congratulating Zach Johnson on his 2007 Masters Tournament victory. Zach Johnson is the first Iowan to win the Masters, and is only the second native born Iowan to win a major golf championship. As many Iowans will recall, Jack Fleck won the 1955 U.S. Open Championship at Olympic Club in San Francisco. Zach has joined the ranks of golfs greatest champions, including Byron Nelson, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, and many others.

I'm particularly proud of Zach's accomplishments because he is a true Iowan, and from the 2nd District, which I represent. He was born in Iowa City and raised in Cedar Rapids.

Zach was a member of the Regis High School golf team in Cedar Rapids. His talent and dedication helped lead the team to an Iowa 4A State Golf Championship in 1992. He also played on his Drake University golf team in Des Moines, there he helped lead the team to three NCAA regional meets and two Missouri Valley championships.

Zach continued to impress in his early professional career. He won his first PGA Tour event at the 2004 Bell South Classic and qualified for the 2006 U.S. Ryder Cup team representing the U.S. as one of 12 golfers in Kildare, Ireland.

On Sunday April 8, 2007, Zach Johnson showed great skill, patience and will. He withstood the challenge of the weather and of the course, and won the prestigious 2007 Masters Tournament. All of Iowa is proud of our hometown success story.

HONORING GIL COHEN FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE VISUAL ARTS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Eighth District resident. Mr. Gil Cohen has recently received the Bucks County Arts Award for his devotion and talent as an artist. An exceptional aviation artist, Mr. Cohen is a member of many local art groups.

As a young boy in Philadelphia, Mr. Cohen became an expert in identifying the various World War II planes flying overhead. He combined this knowledge with a love of history and a gift for painting, first as an artist with the United States Army in West Germany and later as a freelance artist. One of his greatest accomplishments is a series of oil paintings depicting the Eighth Air Force during World War II.

Mr. Cohen has received a number of awards for his work, and he has exhibited his paintings at the National Military Park system, the Kennedy Center and the Pentagon. He is a member of the Air Force Art Program, the New York Society of Illustrators, and the American Society of Aviation Artists. He is also a past Vice President and Chairman of the Exhibition Committee of the American Society of Aviation Artists. He is a Coast Guard Illustrator and has served as a member of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Byers Bucks Fever Art Exhibition committee.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Cohen has proven himself to be both an accomplished artist and an upstanding citizen. His past service to the United States of America as an Army and Coast Guard illustrator demonstrates his commitment to his country, as does the work he still does in his community. Madam Speaker, such an exemplary model for society is seldom found, and I rise today to honor Mr. Cohen for his service and commend him for his talent.

IN HONOR OF JOHN JOSEPH HAMMILL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true servant of New Jersey and the States, who devoted his life to the safety and well being of his neighbors and community. John Joseph Hammill, a veteran of the United States Navy, Highland Park Police Department and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, passed away on December 6, 2006 at the age of 59.

Born on July 23, 1947 in Jersey City, Mr. Hammill moved to Carteret, New Jersey as a teenager. After graduating from Carteret High School, Mr. Hammill enlisted in the United States Navy and served in a military hospital in Yokohama, Japan until 1969.

When Mr. Hammill returned home, he joined the Highland Park Police Department, dutifully protecting his community for 8 years and attaining the rank of Detective, First Grade. Demonstrating exceptional knowledge and passion for traffic safety, Mr. Hammill transferred to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office in 1977, where he served as a detective in the Fatal Accident Unit until his retirement from law enforcement in 1994.

Mr. Hammill's relentless commitment to public service brought him out of a brief retirement to the Damon House Drug Rehabilitation Center in New Brunswick. Through hard work and dedication he ascended quickly through the organization to the role of Assistant Director, where he served in this capacity until retiring in 2004.

While devoting his professional career to serving the public, Mr. Hammill was equally unselfish with his personal time, working to better his community through organizations such as the New Jersey State Policeman's Benevolent Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the New Jersey Coalition Against Impaired Driving, the Middlesex County Alcohol Association and as an AARP defensive driving instructor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Mr. John Joseph Hammill. A caring family man, Mr. Hammill served his community and country with pride and honor. His life's work served as an inspiration to us all, and he will be deeply missed.

LIEUTENANT TODD JASON BRYANT POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 988, the Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office Building Designation Act. Todd Bryant, a First Lieutenant in the United States Army, was killed in action on October 31, 2003 when his Humvee encountered an explosive device on the road between Fallujah and Baghdad. He was 23 years old. He is a recipient of the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Purple Heart, the Iraqi Freedom Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Star.

Bryant, a 2002 graduate of West Point, was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion and 34th Armor Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. Todd Bryant was deployed to Iraq in September 2003, a few days after he married his wife Jenifer.

Todd was born at the Long Beach Naval Hospital. Although he grew up in Riverside, he attended La Canada High School, located in La Canada-Flintridge, California, one of the cities I am privileged to represent. While at La Canada High, he participated in the band and played for the Spartans football team. Todd came from a military family. His parents, Larry and Linda, prior to both working at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Canada-Flintridge, both served as Captains in the U.S. Air Force. His older sister Tiffany is a fellow West Point graduate and his older brother Timothy is a U.S. Marine. Although Todd excelled at being a solider, he also had other interests. He volunteered as a Congressional intern in Congressman KEN CALVERT's office and he spent a summer participating in Service America at West Hills Elementary School in Bremerton, Washington in 2001. Learning more about Todd's interests and actions, one can not come away without noting the extraordinary impact he had on his friends, family and community. Today, his friends and family are still reminiscing about his humor, his love of In-N-Out burgers and his charisma.

Mr. Speaker, without question, Congress and the American people will continue to honor and remember the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in this war. We hope this small act of memorializing Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant at the Rubidoux post office honors his memory and serves as a reminder to those in the community of the remarkable heroism of Todd and his family.

TRIBUTE TO J. LLOYD ''BUD'' JACOBS, JR.

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Lloyd ''Bud'' Jacobs, Jr., a remarkable educator who is retiring from the Los

Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) after 38 years of service.

Bud Jacobs, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, began his career with LAUSD as an English teacher at Fremont High School. He later worked as an instructional advisor for Regional Administrative Region C-LAUSD and an as assistant principal at Bret Harte Intermediate School, John Muir Middle School, and Venice High School.

From 1992–2000 Bud Jacobs was principal of Venice High School, which Newsweek Magazine rated as one of the top 100 high schools in America. Venice High School also received presidential recognition for 2 National Science Bowl championships. Since 2000, he has served as director of instructional support services for LAUSD's high school programs.

Bud Jacobs has been honored as an outstanding administrator by the Association of California School Administrators and the California Council for the Social Studies.

In addition to his career with LAUSD, Bud Jacobs served as a fellow with the Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh and with the Harvard Principals' Center. He has been a trustee for the Los Angeles Educational Alliance Reform Now (LEARN) and president of UCLA's School of Education Alumni Support Group (EUCLAN).

Bud Jacobs has earned the profound respect and affection of students, teachers and administrators within LAUSD. The Los Angeles community owes him a debt of gratitude for his dedication to our students and tireless commitment to educational excellence. I congratulate him on his extraordinary contributions and wish him good health and happiness as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in complete support of the Financial Literacy Month Resolution which addresses the public's lack of knowledge of basic financial principles and aims to lessen our Nation's already enormous consumer debt.

According to recent studies, many young Americans seem to be lacking personal financial management skills. The facts indicate that for nearly a decade now, high school seniors have possessed an insufficient knowledge of personal finance. Attempting to address this gap in knowledge and to prevent future financial blunders, 16 states are requiring basic financial education in their high schools. I strongly believe that, as a result of such efforts, many young citizens will become financially responsible. This will not only enlighten their personal lives, but ultimately combat our growing consumer debt.

Along with America's youth, many adults are also seemingly incapable of properly managing their finances. It is my understanding that, three years ago, a Retirement Confidence Survey found that 42 percent of workers surveyed had not calculated how much money they will need for retirement; and additionally, 37 percent of the workers said that they were not saving for retirement. From these statistics and with the current status of Social Security, I feel that it would be beneficial for many Americans to be educated on financial opportunities; including, but not limited to, qualified cash and deferred arrangements. Thus, we must promote nation-wide financial literacy programs to help citizens seize such opportunities.

In closing, our Nation's expanding consumer balance and the economic fears of many Americans can both be assuaged through H.R. 273. I am delighted that many of my fellow members are already in favor of this resolution, and I encourage my other colleagues to follow suit.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

FREDDIE MAC,
McLean, VA, April 16, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: On behalf of Freddie Mac, I am writing to express our support for the bi-partisan Congressional resolution (H.R. 273) supporting April as ''Financial Literacy Month,'' cosponsored by 115 Members of the House of Representatives.

As a secondary mortgage market entity, Freddie Mac has made home possible for one in six home buyers and more than four million renters in America. We greatly understand the important role financial literacy plays in obtaining and maintaining good credit. Credit records affect everything from renting an apartment to buying a home, paying for a college education to purchasing a car. Poor credit histories limit the ability of many consumers to attain financial security, particularly those in under-served communities—including low-income consumers, minorities and immigrants. Without good credit, it's difficult to save money, become a homeowner, and accumulate wealth.

In response to the need to increase financial literacy and awareness, Freddie Mac developed the CreditSmart®, and CreditSmart® Español consumer education curricula. CreditSmart is designed to help consumers understand, build, and maintain good credit. Since its launch in 2000, the CreditSmart program has reached in excess of one million people through its outreach network of Community Based organizations, conventions, initiatives and web access. (www.freddiemac.com/creditsmart)

CreditSmart is used in numerous communities across America and is taught to consumers by college instructors, nonprofit counseling agency staff, consumer and community group staff, police officers, employers, lenders, real estate professionals and mortgage brokers. Just two months ago, Freddie Mac launched CreditSmart Asian a new three-part series of multilingual guidebooks focused on helping Asian Americans become more informed consumers. This program will be available in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and English.

Freddie Mac has also been a leader in sponsoring a successful consumer awareness campaign to help consumers avoid predatory lending practices. Don't Borrow Trouble®, is a national award-winning campaign that combines public education and counseling services to help homeowners avoid lending practices that strip away their home's equity. Pioneered in Boston by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Massachusetts Community & Banking Council (MCBC), Freddie Mac has expanded the campaign to communities nationwide to almost 50 cities and states throughout the country. These campaigns have helped inform more than 100,000 consumers across the U.S.

Freddie Mac commends you for your bringing this resolution to the House of Representatives to continue to draw awareness to the need for financial literacy and we are grateful for your leadership of the Financial Literacy Caucus.

Sincerely,

KIRSTEN JOHNSON-OBEY,
Director, Congressional Relations.

STATEMENT BY FORUM CEO DONALD L. EVANS ON FINANCIAL LITERACY RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, DC.—Financial Services Forum CEO Donald L. Evans issued the following statement on H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting Financial Literacy Month:

''Financial assets—stock, bonds, mutual finds, and insurance products—are powerful tools for building wealth and providing for a secure future. With a record number of Americans approaching retirement, financial literacy is more important than ever. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa and Rep. Judy Biggert are bringing appropriate focus to the goal of providing a better financial education to all Americans. We appreciate their efforts to raise awareness of financial literacy and fully support their efforts.''

Last April, the Financial Services Forum released a survey finding that two in five (42 percent) of Americans say they know only some, very little, or not much about how to effectively manage their long-term personal finances and retirement security. The poll also found that 60 percent of young people (between the ages of 18 and 34) say they do not have the knowledge they need to effectively manage their personal finances and retirement security.

The Financial Services Forum has also issued a report detailing the significant commitment of Forum member firms to financial literacy programs.

A copy of that report and the survey are available on our web site at www.financialservicesforum.org.

AMERICA'S COMMUNITY BANKERS,
April 11, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of America's Community Bankers (ACB) and its over 1000 member institutions, I am writing to express our strong support for H. Res. 273, a Resolution to support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. ACB commends you both for your ongoing leadership and commitment to increasing awareness of financial literacy in the United States, and we are also pleased that a similar Resolution, S. Res. 126, has been approved by the United States Senate.

The American financial services system often presents a maze of decisions, and ACB has always made financial literacy a top priority to help consumers choose wisely. ACB's members are dedicated to strengthening America's communities by meeting the financial needs of consumers fairly and efficiently. As the responsibility for individuals to manage their own finances increases, so does our responsibility to provide individuals from every economic background with the tools they need to navigate their financial environment. ACB is committed to ensuring that all Americans have fair and equitable access to credit, and that consumers have the necessary skills to make wise financial decisions.

The goals expressed in H. Res. 273 recognize many of ACB's core principles, and we look forward to continuing to work with both of you, along with the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, to make financial literacy a priority of the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

ROBERT R. DAVIS,
Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Government Relations.

CONSUMER BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, VA.

Re H. Res. 273

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: The membership of the Consumer Bankers Association has taken a leadership role in providing financial education, offering instruction in every field of personal finance, including home ownership, foreclosure prevention, credit card usage, basic budgeting and a host of other topics relevant to the needs of our customers. CBA has found that such efforts have helped produce knowledgeable consumers with the financial skills needed for the responsible use of the products and services available today from our member banks.

It is because of the intensive and extensive efforts to educate their customers that our membership welcomes your efforts to recognize the importance of financial literacy by promoting Financial Literacy Month through H. Res. 273. We believe the Resolution is a welcome part of the campaign so that everyone is provided the tools to navigate the sometimes complex waters of today's economy.

We congratulate you for highlighting the commitment to financial literacy. CBA pledges our full support to promote the goals of Financial Literacy Month and offers our assistance to the Congress and our communities in creating a better-educated population of financial services consumers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we can be of further assistance in your endeavors to promote financial education.

MARCIA Z. SULLIVAN,
Vice President and Director, Government Relations.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 4 2007.—The National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL) strongly supports the bipartisan congressional resolution (H. Res. 273) designating April as ''Financial Literacy Month,'' to increase awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that can result from a lack of understanding about personal finances.

''NAAHL represents America's leaders in moving private capital to those in need,'' said NAAHL President and CEO Judy Kennedy. ''Our members have helped lead efforts to increase financial education nationwide, especially for low- and moderate-income persons.''

''For example, NAAHL members ShoreBank and NeighborWorks America, in partnership with the federal banking regulators, have pioneered programs and approaches which have resulted in greater financial literacy in underserved communities,'' Kennedy said.

''We commend Reps. Ruben Hinojosa (D–Texas) and Judy Biggert (R–Ill.) for introducing this resolution that supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.''

The resolution has more than 100 cosponsors in the House of Representatives. A similar resolution, S. Res. 126, has been approved by the Senate.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: The Texas Credit Union League is pleased to support House Resolution 273. As you know, the Texas Credit Union League through our Foundation supports financial literacy in a big way. Project NEFE—a statewide collaborative initiative to bring the accredited High School Financial Planning Program along with comprehensive training to schools across Texas—is one of the primary missions of our Foundation. All material and training is offered free of charge.

The NEFE curriculum meets the learning objectives and standards approved by the Texas Education Agency and State Board of Education to meet the requirement. Credit unions are all about people helping people, and there is no greater way to demonstrate that commitment than credit unions working with teachers and providing the volunteer efforts to train our children in financial matters. We have been extremely pleased and excited on how our Foundation, Texas Cooperative Extension and NEFE have worked together to deliver this free education to our younger generation.

On behalf of the seven million credit union members concerned with the issue of financial literacy, we applaud you and your many cosponsors. We look forward to joining our voice with yours in the cause of financial literacy.

Sincerely,

DICK ENSWEILER,
CEO/President, Texas Credit Union League.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 364

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the officers and members of American Legion Post 364, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 364, and all national members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion is a community-service organization, made up of patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans. The American Legion Auxiliary is a women's patriotic service organization, created to assist the American Legion. Through community service programs, both of these fine institutions have made a great impact on our community and to the veterans living in our region.

This year, Mr. Jerry Howard will serve as the American Legion Department of Virginia commander. A 22 year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Jerry has been a member of the American Legion for 23 years. He has previously served as Post 364 commander, 16th District commander and Department of Virginia vice commander.

Ms. Marcia Wheatley will serve as the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Virginia president. A 12 year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Marcia has served as Unit 364 president and 16th District president.

Together, Jerry and Marcia will represent Virginia at state and national veteran events where they will promote programs that benefit veterans, troops, and children. Also, they will travel here, to Washington DC, to meet with members of Congress to discuss legislation needed to provide for the health and well being of troops and veterans.

Other recent officer selections include Virginia Department Historian Barbara Barnes, Auxiliary National Security Chairman Dianne Cabot, Post 364 Commander William Moriarity and Unit 364 President Raye Ferrington. These individuals bring a stellar record of accomplishment to these institutions, and the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary will benefit greatly from their experience.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Their tireless efforts on behalf of the community, state and nation deserve our highest praise. I commend and congratulate all of these officers on their selection to these positions, and wish them further success as they continue to work for our Nation's veterans.

HONORING DALE BROWN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Warren County School District Superintendent Dale Brown for winning the Kentucky School Board Association's 2007 F.L. Dupree Outstanding Superintendent Award.

Mr. Brown was named superintendent of the Warren County School System in 2000. The school district has flourished under his stewardship throughout the past 7 years. Among his many accomplishments, Brown is particularly noted for maintaining the school system's budget while overseeing an ambitious $4 million technology overhaul that has outfitted every classroom with an ACTIV board.

Superintendent Brown has also won widespread praise for his efforts to increase energy conservation; creating an energy education program and overseeing the Commonwealth's first energy efficient school in Alvaton, KY. These initiatives have saved the school district over $2 million in energy costs over the last three years, demonstrating a remarkable local commitment to our nation's quest to promote energy independence.

More than 23 different native languages are spoken by Warren County School District students. Mr. Brown has created a new comprehensive language program for limited

English proficient students uniquely tailored to their individual needs.

It is my great privilege to recognize Mr. Dale Brown today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his excellent work in public education. His dedication to the Warren County School District is felt by students, teachers, and administrators alike. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to everyone in the Virginia Tech community, and to all of their shocked and grieving loved ones. I know I also join millions around the nation who are at a loss to fully comprehend yesterday's shootings on the Virginia Tech campus that took 33 lives, including the shooter. I also pray for the quick and full recovery of all those who were injured.

I am also profoundly saddened to learn that Daniel O'Neil, of Lincoln, RI, was a victim of yesterday's shootings. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Madam Speaker, every life that was lost yesterday was taken too early. Every life taken had a history, a family and dreams for the future. In the coming days, these lives will be identified, and we will hear many terrible stories about what happened in those buildings. We will also hear about heroic acts in the face of unimaginable terror. As a nation, we must find solace in each other and reach out to those that need us the most.

As long as I have been in public service, I have tried to answer the question, ''how can we make our country safer than it is right now?'' Unfortunately, yesterday's events showed us all how much work needs to be done. While many questions remain, we do know that yesterday marked the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. I believe it is our job in Congress to make sure an incident like this never happens again. As we await the findings of the investigation, we must look to our laws and security procedures to make sure that they are protecting our citizens. I also hope we can learn from this tragedy will spur a national discussion on how we can reduce gun violence.

Today, let us reflect on the lives we have so senselessly and tragically lost. May we keep them and their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, and may their memory live on forever.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 273—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Have you seen the headlines recently? Only yesterday, it was reported that mortgage defaults are at an all time high in California. According to one report, 46,760 borrowers defaulted between January and March. That's an increase of 23.1 percent relative to the previous quarter, and 148 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

In another story, I read that foreclosures of homes in California were 11,033 in the first quarter. That's an 81.5 percent increase over last quarter.

I'm concerned about the effect that this is having on families in my home state. I'm also concerned about the effect that this is having on the economy of the nation as a whole.

While it is impossible to say that this crisis could have been avoided, we can certainly do more to shield consumers from its worst effects. One of those ways is to promote greater financial literacy.

This bill, H. Res. 273, is an important tool for increasing awareness, and points the way forward toward creating greater financial literacy in our communities.

The potential benefits of greater financial literacy are almost incalculable. We can be sure that greater awareness and understanding of finances will lead to higher savings rates. It will allow consumers to gain access to less expensive and less risky loans. And it will protect people from getting into a precarious financial situation without their understanding the consequences.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and for us to join together to not only promote the goals of financial literacy, but also, to make them a reality.

TRIBUTE TO THE FILM SCHOOL OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of The Film School of San Antonio, a magnet program on the campus of Harlandale High School in the Harlandale Independent School District of San Antonio, Texas.

Utilizing a rigorous, sequential and customized curriculum, the Film School of San Antonio provides first hand experience in the collaborative arts of filmmaking, screenwriting, animation and drama. Additionally, the film school prepares students for job opportunities, scholarships and college admissions. With a strong foundation in media, students also compete in national contests and film festivals.

The Film School of San Antonio and its students have earned a wealth of awards and accolades. In 2005, the program received an Emmy nomination for their film ''La Corrida,'' a documentary on the plight of illegal immigrants in ''No Mans Land'' just north of the U.S./Mexican border. In 2006, the program's student produced film Mocha, made history when it won a non-student category Emmy Award. This is the first high school to be able to claim this achievement in Texas. Most recently, the school was invited by the Sundance Institute to attend the internationally recognized Sundance Film Festival to meet and network with Producers and Directors.

The famous actor and filmmaker Orson Welles once said that, ''A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet.'' The students at the Film School of San Antonio are poets that through film find their expression. Through their engagement with the program and the assistance of their dedicated teachers, the students at the Film School of San Antonio are able to give their poetic visions a reality.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to the program director George F. Ozuna; the school instructors: Pete Barcenez, Dagoberto Patlán, Daniel Garcia and Sharon Shuler; the school's students: Briana Baiz, Mercedes Casarez, Krysten Casias, Samuel Garcia, Michael Levine, Felix Perez and Raul Servin; and their families. Their work is inspiring. I am proud of their success and hope that film continues to bring them much personal satisfaction.

VAN JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
Van, WV, February 22, 2007.

Congressman NICK RAHALL,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: We are the Senior Civics class of Van Jr/Sr High School in Boone County, West Virginia. We watched President Bush's State of the Union Address and the Democratic Response. We are writing to you to discuss our concerns within the government today. Our Civics class consists of all male students, who (if the draft is enabled) would be sent to fight for a cause we don't understand.

Our primary concern is the war in Iraq. We are in favor of fighting terrorism, but America went into Iraq under false pretenses. We now know that Iraq had nothing to do with the attack on 9/11. We believe that the reason we went to Iraq is to gain a stronghold on the oil fields. We are trading blood for oil. We have strong feeling that America should have never invaded Iraq because our presence there is breeding more terrorism around the world. We are giving terrorists a common foe to retaliate against. We are incubating more hatred from other terrorists and now giving them a reason to unite hence the statement, ''The enemy of my enemy is my ally''.

We highly oppose the sending of 21,000 more soldiers to Iraq. Instead, we must start bringing soldiers home, because who is going to protect us while our soldiers are fighting overseas? Some soldiers are serving their third tour of duty against their will, compliments of the Backdoor Draft. America should have never gone further than Afghanistan. We have forgotten about Osama Bin Laden in our rush to topple Saddam Hussein.

All we are doing right now is debating while our soldiers are loosing their lives. Let us quit talking and do something! Young lives and futures depend on your actions. Please take into consideration the lives you can save instead of destroy.

Another of our concerns is the way our economy is being affected by the war. Just think of what 2.9 trillion dollars could have done for this nation. Then look at this figure, oil companies are making an annual profit of 39.5 billion dollars while many people in this nation are suffering in poverty. They are suffering because in today's society one cannot support a family on the minimum wage of $5.15 an hour. Only three percent of Americans today are financially well off. The outsourcing of good paying American jobs is causing our unemployment rate to rise. If this trend continues, poverty will become more common and our society will become even more unstable.

The money spent on the Iraq war has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the recipients of Social Security. Many older Americans have to choose between medication and food because they cannot afford both. Add to this the fact that thousands of Americans still do not have any health insurance.

America has become greedy and corrupt. When did America stop caring about the common people? The Civics Class of Van High School wants the voice of the common man to be heard in Washington, D.C. We are the future of this great nation and our representatives must consider this while debating the course our country will take, not only in Iraq, but also at home.

Sincerely,

The Senior Civics Class of Van Jr.-Sr. High School: Justin Gent, Christopher Boulet, Robert Burnett, Joshua Cook, Jason Hoosier, Matthew Kuhn, Terry Legg, Gregory O'Dell, Jonathan Simms, Robert Valle, Scott White, Kasey Whitman.

RECOGNIZING JONATHON OTTO FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Jonathon Otto for his efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Otto has raised money for and helped rebuild the Mississippi town of Bay St. Louis, which was decimated in Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Otto has been nominated for the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce's 2007 Ambassador Award.

Mr. Otto's career with Penn Valley Contractors, Inc. as a construction superintendent and estimator, along with his passion for helping others, made him the perfect candidate to spearhead fundraising efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the Bucks/Mont Katrina Relief Project.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Otto has truly risen to the challenge. He raised more than $2 million and personally oversaw reconstruction efforts. He stepped up and coordinated the collection of materials, volunteers, and transportation, supervising the construction of a brand-new daycare center in Bay St. Louis.

Beyond the Katrina Relief Project, Mr. Otto has served the community in a variety of ways, including acting as Treasure and Director of the Phillips Mill Community Association, trustee of the Newtown Friends School, treasurer and clerk of the Finance Committee, and director of the Heritage Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Otto is an inspiration for us all. When a community was in trouble, he jumped in and began rebuilding. On behalf of the residents of the Eighth District, of Bay St. Louis and of all Americans, I congratulate Mr. Otto on his commendable efforts with the Katrina Relief Project. In a stunning display of good will and humanity, he has reminded us of the important things in life and the value of community.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METROPOLITAN YOUTH SYMPHONY OF ARIZONA WAYNE ROEDERER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony of Arizona. This is a remarkable milestone for any organization, but especially for a volunteer-run, nonprofit one. As a long-time supporter of the arts, I must take this occasion to commend them on a job well done, and commend them for undertaking this ambitious endeavor.

Let me tell you a little bit about MYS. In the spring of 1982, a group of interested parents and music educators from the East Valley began exploring the potential for developing a youth orchestra. Their goal was to provide a challenging program of excellence in orchestral music for your school musicians through the ninth grade. The first Metropolitan Youth Symphony season was launched that same year as more than 150 youngsters participated in the September auditions. The gala premiere concert, on November 10, 1982, featured two string orchestras and one full symphony orchestra.

The growth of Metropolitan Youth Symphony has been impressive. Now in its 25th season, the 267 members of MYS, under the direction of Wayne Roederer, musical director/principal conductor; Lew Felton, associate conductor; and Amy Bennett, Division III conductor, are divided into three string orchestras and one full symphonic orchestra. Members attend weekly rehearsals at Westwood High School and perform in at least four formal concerts each season. Over the years, MYS orchestras have been invited to perform in a variety of locations including Phoenix Symphony Hall, the Mesa Amphitheatre, Fiesta Mall, Disneyland and Washington, DC. On June 13, 1993, members of Division I, the full symphony orchestra, received the honor of performing at New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. The gala 25th anniversary concert will be performed at the Ikeda Auditorium of the Mesa Arts Center at 7 p.m. on April 28, 2007, with alumni performing with Division I.

In addition to orchestra performance opportunities, MYS sponsors wind sectionals, a recital series, Division I weekend retreat in Prescott, a scholarship competition and the MYS Fiddlers.

The mission of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony has always been to educate young instrumental musicians through the ninth grade in the art of orchestral performance through the use of the world's finest orchestral music to develop character, discipline, leadership, cultural awareness, and a strong commitment to excellence. This enables MYS to contribute to the East Valley's rich cultural heritage and create a higher level of appreciation for the performing arts.

This occasion marks not only the 25th anniversary of a vibrant organization, but the retirement of Musical Director and Principal Conductor Wayne Roederer. Without him, this anniversary would not have been reached, and hundreds of young musicians would have missed out on the experience of performing with similarly motivated individuals. I say thank you and well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE LADY HORNETS BASKETBALL TEAM OF HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lady Hornets Basketball Team of Harris-Stowe State University for their crowning achievement on March 3, 2007 when they became the first-ever Lady Hornets team to clench the American Midwest Conference—AMC—title.

To win this historic title the team, led by Head Coach Christopher Lewis, soundly defeated the Columbia College Cougars by a score of 78–58 on the Cougars' home court in Columbia, Mo. To put the score in perspective and to appreciate the tenacity of the squad, a brief recap of the victory might be appreciated.

Trailing by six points early in the first half, the Lady Hornets worked a 40 percent shooting effort into a halftime advantage of 36–29. They opened the second half with one of their patented runs, extending their lead to 13. They continued to increase their field-goal percentage to 51 percent and their three-point success to 43 percent. Senior guard Laniya Stevens led the Hornets with 23 points and junior guard Chanel Ross added a double-double with 21 points and 10 steals. Both Stevens and Ross received First Team All-Conference honors, while Kanisha Pettis received an All-Conference honorable mention. Stevens received another honor when her number, 20, was retired by the school.

With their victory—their sixth consecutive win—the Lady Hornets moved on to play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Tournament or the NAIA, also a first for the team.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Lady Hornets Basketball Team of Harris-Stowe State University—Jamira Easley, Dionn Jackson, Chareka Terry, Dominique Allen, K'Vonn Brittingham, Tawanda Barns, Briranda Griffin, Kanisha Pettis, Erica Anderson, Chanel Ross, Carmon Weaver, Laniya Stevens, Kimberly Lang, Valarie Mason, Amy Williams, Stephanie Roberts, Tamara Black, Shelia Walker and Marvis Jackson—for becoming the first team to earn the American Midwest Conference title. From a 73-game losing streak a few years ago to champions today, the Lady Hornets have become a shining example of what commitment, perseverance and hard work can accomplish. They are a force to be reckoned with and the pride of the school and the entire St. Louis community. In their honor I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in honoring the team, their coach, Christopher Lewis, Athletic Director Richard Fanning, University President Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., and the entire university. With such continued dedication and hard work, a national title could be in the Hornets' nest in the near future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES W. MURRAY

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of my constituents, James W. Murray of Oakland City, IN. For the past 33 years, Murray has served as president of Oakland City University. During his remarkable tenure at OCU, the school has undergone massive and exciting improvements.

When Murray arrived on campus, the school had only 324 students. Today the total enrollment exceeds 2,300, and OCU has become the second largest employer in Gibson County, IN. President Murray also oversaw OCU gaining full accreditation and university status. The school's main campus has undergone extensive facility expansion during his tenure, and as an advocate for fiscal responsibility, I congratulate President Murray for executing these projects debt-free.

Murray also deserves commendation for his distinguished service as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He served in both Korea and Vietnam and received three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

President Murray will retire on May 31, and I am proud to honor his exceptional career. His contributions in service to our country and commitment to education deserve recognition.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN COLEMAN AND ANTHONY PIZZA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize two long-time advocates in our community, Joan Coleman and Anthony Pizza. Both will be honored at the inaugural "Stand Up for Victims" event on April 25, 2007, sponsored by Advocates for Victims and Justice, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. The organization was developed by Mr. Pizza and Mrs. Coleman to assist crime victims and provide educational and prevention programs to the community. Advocates for Victims and Justice, Inc. also assists older adult victims of crime as well as victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Joan Coleman was the first Executive Director of the Toledo/Lucas County Victim Witness Assistance Program, initiated in 1990 by then Lucas County Prosecutor Anthony Pizza. The Prosecutor believed that the victims of crime and their families suffered needlessly through inadequate attention from the court system itself and deserved special attention as they navigated that system. Under Joan Coleman's able tutelage, the Victims Witness Assistance Program has grown to a staff of seventeen with offices throughout Lucas County.

A graduate of the University of Toledo with a degree in Education/Social Work, Joan put her experience as a community activist to work in establishing and growing the Victim Witness Assistance Program into a premiere service providing outreach for Spanish-speaking victims; assistance to victims of juvenile offenders in Juvenile Court; a crisis response team for short-term assistance to victims of domestic violence throughout the county, a three-part intervention in the local schools to educate schoolchildren about the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the community known as the Victims Forum; Kids' Space for children of female victims of violent crime who could not appear in court without this free child watch service; Suburban Courts' Services to provide support and advocacy for victims in the Maumee and Sylvania court systems; and Victims Forum Peacemakers, a school-based program which teaches children the skills to combat bullying.

In an effort to fully address the challenge of funding for all of these services, Joan sought the establishment of a non-profit foundation. Advocates for Victims and Justice, Inc. was incorporated in 1994 to help retain and expand victims' services to meet the ever-increasing needs of the community. Private donations remain a vital source of funding for the programs which Joan worked so tirelessly and passionately to establish.

Those honoring her describe Joan best as they "gratefully thank and honor the woman whose vision, energy, commitment and passion for victims of violent crime and their families has given many thousands of people a sense of acceptance and hope." More than just an administrator, Joan Coleman has accompanied thousands of victims into the courtroom remaining by their side. It is not unusual for victims and their families to remain in contact with the Victim Witness Assistance Program long after their proceedings have been finalized. This fact is the most telling tribute to this remarkable woman.

Anthony G. Pizza, was elected Lucas County Prosecutor in 1976 and served continuously until his retirement in 1996. In this twenty-year period, Tony "endeared himself to the citizens of Lucas County as a man with both a huge heart and a passionate conviction that crime has no place in our community."

Born in Toledo in 1921, Tony graduated from St. Charles grade school and Libbey High School, where he played varsity football and was class salutatorian. He attended Kenyon College and graduated from the University of Toledo College of Law in 1950. He and his wife Madlynn, married now 63 years, together raised four children and have six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Tony actually began his career in the Prosecutor's Office in 1951, where he served as an assistant prosecutor. Thus it can be said that Tony devoted his entire career as an advocate for justice on behalf of the citizens of our community. In all, Tony Pizza served our community for 45 years in the office of the Lucas County Prosecutor, an impressive tenure during which he often used innovative methods to fight crime. During all those years, he never let difficult situations or personal tragedy drag him down and his "sunny disposition, leadership, and dedication to our community" inspired us all.

Tony Pizza also understood the ability of his office to address non-criminal needs and causes. As one example, he successfully stopped the State of Michigan from building a hazardous waste dump which would pollute the waterways of Northwest Ohio by filing suit in the U.S. District Court.

Though retired as Prosecutor for a decade, Tony still practices law. His family remains paramount and he has earned the privilege of spending warm winters in Florida. The recognition offered him in the tribute describes this incredible man among men as "a most deserving attorney and Prosecutor, as well as a uniquely blessed and courageous human being. 'Lest we forget!' is the testimony inscribed on the Toledo Police Memorial. It also perfectly describes Anthony G. Pizza, mentor and friend to all of us privileged enough to know him."

It is wonderful that the Advocates for Victims and Justice, Inc. has chosen to honor these two amazing people while they are able to enjoy the recognition and know how much they mean to the people of our community. I offer my personal congratulations to both Joan Coleman and Tony Pizza as they receive this honor, and my own heartfelt thank you to each for courageous and selfless service.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 99, the 2008 House Budget Resolution, and I congratulate Chairman SPRATT for advancing the priorities of American families.

This budget moves our country in a new direction. First, it is fiscally responsible. In contrast to the 6 years of high budget deficits under the former majority, this proposal provides for a surplus in 2012 by strictly adhering to the pay-as-you-go principle adopted in the first days of the 110th Congress. It also protects the integrity of taxpayer dollars by instituting initiatives to crack down on wasteful or fraudulent spending. It is critical that we do not burden our children and grandchildren with crippling debt which threatens the competitiveness of this Nation.

H. Con. Res. 99 provides for the top priority of the Federal Government—which is to keep our Nation safe and to keep our promises to the brave men and women that serve in the Armed Forces. This bill increases funding for veterans' health care and services by 14 percent, provides more homeland security funding than the Bush administration requested, and funds the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

The Democratic budget resolution also makes critical investments in our future by doubling funding for the National Science Foundation and making significant increases in math and science education. This budget recognizes that one of the most efficient and effective investments we can make is in our children's education. It increases funding for No Child Left Behind, special education, Head Start, and student aid programs—all of which have been neglected or reduced over the past 6 years. Studies have shown that by recognizing the needs of children today, we both save taxpayer dollars in the long run, and ensure the availability of highly skilled workers in the future.

Last November Americans made clear that access to health care is a top priority for families and should be for the Congress. This

budget rejects the draconian cuts to Medicare and Medicaid proposed by the Bush administration and provides for an expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program to insure millions more children.

This budget recognizes that those who need tax relief in this country are not corporations and the very wealthiest. This proposal includes relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax for millions of middle-income taxpayers and extends other middle-income tax cuts like the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and State and local deductions.

The budget resolution is a statement of priorities. Chairman SPRATT has proposed a common-sense, fiscally responsible budget that puts families first and grows our economy. I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 99 and urge all my colleagues to join me.

I also congratulate the Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus for the budget ideas they put forward. I have supported both of these amendments today largely because of the increased attention to diplomacy, peace, and investment in the global community. These issues must continue to be a part of the appropriations debate.

RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS OF TROOP 648 FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Cameron Morgan, Evan Carlin O'Rourke, Christopher Anthony Piemonte, William E. Pierce, and Joshua Paul St. Louis of Alexandria, Virginia, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. As members of Troop 648 in the Chain Bridge District of the National Capital Area Council, these Scouts have exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship in earning Boy Scouts' most prestigious award.

At Troop 648, these Scouts have provided leadership in a variety of positions. They have led as Senior Patrol Leaders, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, and as Troop Representatives to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society. They have also served as Junior Assistant Scoutmasters to Troop 648 supervising and supporting the other Boy Scouts.

Together and collectively, these Scouts have trekked through the mountains of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, explored underground caves, sailed the Chesapeake Bay and gone on numerous camping trips. They have earned dozens of merit badges and many service awards, including the President's Volunteer Service Award (Gold) for providing over 250 hours of service to the community in a twelve month period. They have earned numerous environmental awards including the World Conservation Award and the William T. Hornaday Award. These young men are truly exemplary Scouts.

For their Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects, these young men have organized and managed dozens of volunteers. They have led conservation projects, trail construction and park restoration involving hundreds of hours of work. Our communities are truly a better place to live because of their efforts.

Madam Speaker and fellow members of Congress, I ask you to join me in commending these present and future leaders for their accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for achieving the distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE DENNIS MALONEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and an exceptional community leader who tragically passed away in February of this year, Mr. Dennis "Denny" Maloney. Today Denny's friends, family and colleagues gather in Deschutes County, Oregon to celebrate his life with the dedication of the new "Dennis Maloney Community Justice Center." This is a fitting tribute to a man who gave so generously of his time and his talents throughout a distinguished career in service to others.

My colleagues, Denny Maloney was born on March 20, 1951 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Patrick and Carol Maloney. Denny graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin, where he studied humanities. It was in Minnesota where Denny would acknowledge his most significant achievement occurred. It is there that he met and married his lovely wife, Nancy. Together, they raised five outstanding daughters, Tracy, Shannon, Caitlin, Kelly and Molly. Those who knew Denny knew not only a man with a strong sense of civic commitment, but a father and husband with tremendous devotion and commitment to his family.

Madam Speaker, those of us in Oregon, especially communities in central Oregon, are so fortunate that Denny's upbringing and education instilled in him the drive and desire to make the world a better place. He led by example, and remarkable results followed. Denny was a longtime advocate for troubled youth and was a nationally recognized expert and innovator on the subject of juvenile rehabilitation. Madam Speaker, Denny didn't believe in giving up on someone. He saw the inherent good in humanity and in the people he met, and he devoted his life to giving people a second chance. Denny worked to ensure that troubled youth received mentoring and counseling, while demonstrating the significant value of being an upstanding member of society and a real contributor within one's community. Simply put, Denny Maloney positively changed the lives of many of his fellow citizens.

During his lifetime, Denny amassed over 30 years of experience in the field of community corrections. For 16 years, he served as the Director of the Deschutes County Department of Community Justice in my home state of Oregon. There, he initiated a variety of juvenile and adult corrections programs that are globally renowned.

He wrote extensively about the methods he developed and the positive impact of his programs is evident not only across our nation but in the international community as well. Nearly 30 states restructured their entire juvenile justice systems based on Denny's presentation on restorative justice. Additionally, the U.S. Department of State has distributed information based on Denny's juvenile justice research to over 250 countries and his methods are being used worldwide as a foundation for justice system reform.

Madam Speaker, during his phenomenal career of contributions, Denny Maloney generously shared his experience and his expertise with others. The work that he did improved the lives of countless people across our country, and I'm grateful to have known him.

While his services and accomplishments speak volumes, perhaps most importantly, Denny Maloney inspired all who knew him to do more to help those in need and to improve the quality of life for all citizens. He always wore an infectious smile, and he encouraged us to keep a positive attitude in our work and throughout our daily lives. He was a good friend and trusted counselor to me and to many others. We will all miss his wisdom, wit, enthusiasm and ability, and we will never forget the mark he left in our communities and in our hearts.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK BUCKLES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the long life and continuing achievements of Mr. Frank Buckles. One of four known surviving veterans of the WWI, Frank recently celebrated his 106th birthday.

Frank was born in Missouri in 1901 and was only 16 when the United States entered the First World War. Frank's age, however, did not prevent him from serving his country. After being turned away by the Navy and Marines, he convinced an Army recruiter he was old enough to enlist.

Frank served in England and France during the war; first as a car and ambulance driver and later as an escort for returning German POWs. After the war, he returned to America and worked for the White Star Line Steamship Company and the Banker's Trust Company.

In 1941 Frank became entangled in the Second World War. The Japanese Army invaded while Frank was working in the Philippines and he spent three years as a prisoner in Japanese war camps.

These remarkable experiences could easily fill two full lives, but for Frank it was only the first half. He came home from the war and settled down to start a family, moving to West Virginia in 1954 and managing Gap View Farm.

Frank has been there ever since. At 106, he is still active on his 330 acre cattle farm.

Madam Speaker, in a time when America faces a grave external threat, we can find comfort and strength in our Nation's history. During the 106 years since Frank Buckles' birth, the United States has grown into the greatest Nation on earth. The service, determination, patriotism and love that Frank has shown throughout his life represents the very best of this great country. West Virginians are honored to call Frank one of our own.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING WOMENS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Wyoming womens basketball team. On March 31st, the team handily defeated the University of Wisconsin to win the Womens National Invitational Tournament for the first time in school history.

As the Representative of the great State of Wyoming, it is my pleasure to join my fellow citizens as our state beams with pride for these 14 very accomplished young women and their coach, Joe Legerski.

Madam Speaker, millions of people across America call themselves basketball players, but only the truly elite will ever have the satisfaction and delight of calling themselves national champions. Members of the Wyoming Cowgirl basketball team are now living the dream of every young girl who has ever laced up her high tops and joined her local hoops team.

But the road to the WNIT Championship wasn't easy. In the semi-finals, the Cowgirls were pitted against the defending WNIT champs, Kansas State University. In front of a boisterous home crowd, the Cowgirls won a triple-overtime thriller, earning a ticket to the first post-season championship game in the program's history.

Three days later, over 15,000 fans arrived at Laramie's famous Arena-Auditorium to watch the Cowgirls roll to a 72–56 victory over the Wisconsin Badgers. Their victory came in front of the largest-ever crowd of Cowgirl basketball fans, a testament to the State's overwhelming support and pride for these women.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Amy Bolerjack, her sister Jodi Bolerjack, Mallory Cline, Elisabeth Dissen, Annie Gorenstein, Angiah Harris, Gemma Koehler, Megan McGuffey, Megan Mordecai, Justyna Podziemska, Dominique Sisk, Rebecca Vanderjagt, Aubrey Vandiver, and tournament MVP Hanna Zavecz.

These Cowgirls have proven they know how to get 'er done. They are living a dream come true, and they will have memories to last a lifetime.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON UKRAINE POLITICAL CRISIS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a concurrent resolution which addresses the current political crisis in Ukraine, a country of strategic importance to the United States. My resolution urges all sides to the ongoing impasse to act responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis and ensure a free and democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law. I am pleased that Rep. KAPTUR, a co-chair of the Ukrainian American Caucus, has joined me as original cosponsor.

Ukraine's current political conflict is the result of the ongoing power struggle that President Victor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich have now been engaged in since Yanukovich became Prime Minister last August. This power struggle, rooted in hastily conceived constitutional reforms, threatens to undermine Ukraine's hard-fought and substantial democratic gains, especially those won since the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Exactly 2 weeks ago today, President Yushchenko issued a decree dissolving parliament, asserting that the Prime Minister was attempting to monopolize power, and called for new parliamentary elections for May 27. Parliament has refused to disband and questions the legality of the presidential decree. Ukraine's Constitutional Court is to rule on the legality of the decree and both sides have agreed to abide by the Court's decision. Unfortunately, some of the Court's judges have already complained of threats and pressure, especially from Yanukovich's supporters. Clearly, this is unacceptable and steps have been taken to protect the judges.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that Ukraine has made real democratic gains since the Orange Revolution. A year ago, as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I had the privilege of leading the OSCE-led International Election Observation Mission to Ukraine's parliamentary elections and the pleasure and profound satisfaction of pronouncing them free and fair. Also, in contrast to the first 13 years of its independence, Ukraine in now designated by Freedom House as a "free" country, and not merely "partly free." Nevertheless, despite the progress, there have been missed opportunities and some of the promises of that historic revolution have gone unfulfilled.

Democratic institutions and the rule of law in Ukraine are still emerging and fragile and lacking in their ability to safeguard democratic gains, and it is this weakness that has made it possible for this power struggle to ripen into a full-blown political crisis. First and foremost, my resolution calls for the crisis to be resolved in a manner that adheres to the rule of law consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national security, in keeping with its OSCE commitments. It is also essential that the dispute is resolved in a peaceful manner. I am encouraged that demonstrations in Kyiv have been peaceful and that all sides to the dispute appear to recognize that any kind of violent conflict would have very negative consequences for Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, prolonged instability is clearly not in Ukraine's interests and that nation's political leaders need to find a transparent way out of the current impasse that all parties will abide by. I hope that responsible dialogue consistent with the rule of law leads to a positive outcome for the Ukrainian people and the democratic path they have chosen.

As this resolution underscores, Congress has been a staunch supporter of the development of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine since the restoration of that nation's independence in 1991. The consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine will further strengthen that country's independence and sovereignty, enhancing Ukraine's aspirations for full integration with the West. I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution as a demonstration of Congress' interest, concern, and support for the Ukrainian people.

HONORING RIVERDALE'S LADY WARRIORS ON THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL SEASON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2006–2007 Riverda1e High School Lady Warriors and their championship basketball season. The Lady Warriors are from my home town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and I am proud of them for this tremendous accomplishment.

I know these ladies put forth intense determination and perseverance as they captured the first girls basketball championship for a Murfreesboro team in 83 years and the first ever for Riverdale High School.

The Lady Warriors were dominant throughout their season. Their final win over Memphis Northside was the team's 17th straight victory.

I commend Riverdale High School principal Tom Nolan, Lady Warriors head coach Michael Burt and assistant coaches Brianne Dodgen, Tisha Hayes, Jamey Arnold and Cuyler Lanier.

I extend my congratulations to the 2006–2007 AAA State Champion Lady Warriors: Anne Marie Lanning, Alex Bivens, Jessica Whitens, Nikki Talley, Shellina Burgess, Morgann Swoape, Clarke Davis, Hillary Grider, Payton Dickinson, Candace Spurlock, Rachel Orman, Natalie Lanning and Manager Jackie Donovan.

HONORING DR. PATRICK MAXWELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor G. Patrick Maxwell, M.D., FACS and thank him for his contributions to the practice of plastic surgery and his service to others. Dr. Maxwell's talents as a pioneering plastic surgeon are world renowned.

Dr. Maxwell received both his undergraduate and M.D. from Vanderbilt University and completed residencies in general surgery and plastic surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Maxwell has published over 100 scientific articles, and lectured and performed live surgical demonstrations in over 20 countries world-wide.

In 2005, Dr. Maxwell was awarded the Presidential Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. This award acknowledged his "excellence as an educator and innovator bringing art and science to a new level for the specialty." Additionally Maxwell has received virtually every accolade awarded to an American plastic surgeon. These awards include the Robert H. Ivy Society Award, the James Barrett Brown Award and Maxwell is a three time recipient of the Walter Scott Brown Award. Dr. Maxwell continues to be an innovator in his field and has ten U.S. patents for medical devices. Dr. Maxwell has been instrumental in revolutionizing developments in reconstruction for survivors of breast cancer.

Maxwell's contributions are not limited to the field of plastic surgery. In addition, Maxwell is

the co-founder of the Tennesse-Kentucky chapter of Operation Smile, past president of the Nashville Chapter of the American Cancer Society, a founder and board member of the Aspen Center for Integrative Medicine and co-founder and Executive EVP Diversified Specialty Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Maxwell for his extraordinary contributions to plastic surgery and for the profoundly positive impact he has on our community.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP G. KIKO

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I rise before you today to say a few words about one of my longest serving and closest staff, Philip G. Kiko. Phil was one of the first people I hired on my personal staff in 1979, when I was a freshman Member of Congress, and in the years since, he has become a close friend and confidant.

During my tenure on the House Committee on the Judiciary, a Committee upon which I have served throughout my tenure in this body and chaired from 2001 to 2006, Phil served the country and Committee ably by pushing through several pieces of legislation that, in my opinion, have made this country a better place. Just look at the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1982, a historic event that reaffirmed the promise of voting equality to millions of Americans. And then, as General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Committee on the Judiciary last year, Phil led staff negotiations that led to near unanimous House and Senate passage of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. His unique capacity to bridge partisan divisions to advance the promise of equality our Constitution provides to all of America's citizens best illustrates his unrivaled abilities as a consensus-builder and negotiator.

Moreover, the skills Phil demonstrated during consideration and passage of this legislation were applied to advance other legislation whose titles are as familiar as they are historic. Phil was a driving staff force behind congressional passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which has been hailed by child safety and law enforcement groups as the most comprehensive federal child protection legislation in a generation.

And who can forget the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 which demonstrated fundamental vulnerabilities in America's law enforcement and intelligence communities. Phil played a central staff role in consideration and passage of the USA PATRIOT and USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act, laws that have provided America's law enforcement and intelligence agencies with the tools necessary to detect, disrupt and deter terrorist attacks before they occur on American soil. Phil has also played pivotal roles in congressional passage of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, the Class Action Fairness Act, REAL ID Act, and other legislation that will distinguish his years of service to the Committee as among the most productive and meaningful in our Nation's history.

Madam Speaker, most Americans have probably never heard of Phil Kiko, but they have heard of the aforementioned bills he has worked on, and they have certainly been affected by them in some way, shape or form. Phil's tenacity and passion for working on ideals that he believed to be right and just often pushed him and those he worked with, to spend many a late night in the Capitol—but the benefits of his dedication went ultimately to Americans like you and me.

It is never easy to say goodbye, especially to one who has been by my side for decades. But I also know that there comes a time when we must all simply move on. That time has come for Phil Kiko, and so I stand before you, and the rest of my colleagues, and I ask you all to join me in wishing Phil all the best, as he takes his next step.

On behalf of the Committee on the Judiciary, the House of Representatives, and myself, I thank you Phil, for all your service to this Nation, and congratulate you on a job well done.

HONORING THOMAS HEBEL FOR LIFETIME BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas Hebel on his recent nomination for the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in the area of Business Achievement. His success as the owner of Bucks Country Gardens and dedication to his community set him apart as an outstanding individual, and it is my pleasure to join in the recognition of his extraordinary career.

The great honor of this Lifetime Achievement Award is not one easily attained. The award takes into account both Mr. Hebel's remarkable success within his business venture and his commitment to his community. Mr. Hebel has been an exemplary model in both of these areas.

An accomplished landscaper, Mr. Hebel graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in landscaping, and was hired as a landscape designer at Tom Royer's Nursery and Greenhouses. He worked his way up to partner, and upon Mr. Royer's retirement, purchased the business, becoming the sole owner. He renamed the business Bucks Country Gardens, and in just thirteen years, the business grew from five employees to sixty-five employees.

Mr. Hebel and his staff donate time to volunteer in the community. His efforts include serving as President of the Bucks Beautiful program, the company's annual beautification of a Bucks County organization, working on the Bucks County Designer House and serving on various committees for the Pennsylvania State University.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hebel embodies the true American spirit. He has risen from designer to business owner but never lost his passion for gardening or for helping his community. He has dedicated himself to his career and his community and I commend him today for his outstanding service.

HONORING VASKEN HOGOPIAN, PH.D.

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Vasken Hagopian, Ph.D., who is retiring after more than 40 years of teaching, the past 37 years of which were spent at my alma mater, Florida State University.

Professor Hagopian is recognized as a world-renowned expert in high energy physics. His research has involved the use of high energy particle accelerators to study the properties of fundamental particles, such as the proton and the neutron.

I first crossed paths with Professor Hagopian as an astronomy student at Florida State in 1986. I later worked with him during my time as a legislative assistant for former Congressman Pete Peterson of Florida in the mid-1990's.

Over the years, students often asked him why it is important to study astronomy and related fields. Professor Hagopian would famously reply, "You never know, one of you might end up in Congress one day and have to vote on science budgets and space exploration." Like most things he taught his students, he was, in the long run, proven right.

I wish Professor Hagopian well as he pursues new challenges and moves into the next phase of his extraordinary life.

HONORING CHIEF LUTHER J. TAYLOR OF THE SOUTH BEND FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, IN, Luther J. Taylor, who has devoted his life to the protection of his community. For the past 34 years he has served as a firefighter for the South Bend Fire Department, 21 of those as Fire Chief.

Chief Taylor's career as a firefighter started in 1972. At that time he never intended to build a career but rather to move on to another profession after a few years. Yet, his feelings of duty to his community and enjoyment for his job led him to a long and illustrious career. Today the South Bend community honors this career.

First appointed Fire Chief by Mayor Roger Parent in 1985, Taylor's adept management style and creative ideas led him to be reappointed under the two succeeding mayors. In his 21 years as Fire Chief he has greatly increased the professionalism, efficiency and lifesaving capacity of the South Bend Fire Department. Through Chief Taylor's leadership, the South Bend Fire Department has become one of the top fire departments in Indiana.

From 1992 to 1993 Chief Taylor served as the President of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association. This association strives to increase the professionalism and success of fire departments throughout Indiana. He has served on numerous other boards across the State of Indiana each benefiting greatly from his expertise.

In 2005 Chief Luther Taylor was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest honor bestowed by governors of Indiana, by Governor Joe Kernan. This award is given only to those who make major contributions to the lives of Hoosiers.

So today, on behalf of the citizens of South Bend, I thank Luther Taylor for his years of dedication to the safety and security of our community. As he retires from almost 35 years on the South Bend Fire Department, I pay special tribute to one of the finest fire chiefs to ever serve Indiana. His service will always be remembered for numerous lives that were saved as a result of his efforts and the changes that each citizen can see as a result of his leadership.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity today to recognize the 100th anniversary of my community of residence, the city of Lenexa, Kansas, one of the leading communities in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Lenexa officially became a city on May 8, 1907, and the community is coming together for an eight-day celebration from May 5–12 of this year.

Lenexa was platted in 1869 by French-born civil engineer, Octave Chanute, who, in addition to designing the original Hannibal Bridge over the Missouri River in Kansas City, also served as a mentor to the Wright Brothers in their quest for flight. Lenexa was named for Na Nex Se, a highly respected, hard-working Shawnee Indian woman, the daughter-in-law of Chief Black Hoof. Thirty-eight years later, on May 8, 1907, Lenexa was incorporated as a City of the Third Class in Kansas.

In Lenexa's earliest days, people from various backgrounds and cultures came together to form this great city. With a population of approximately 300, the young city boasted a healthful location, graded schools, three churches, suburban train service, excellent telephone service, and an electric railway station.

Today, Lenexa, which has grown to a population of 46,000 residents and enjoys a healthy business base, is considered a city of choice for a variety of high tech and bioscience companies. The city also is looked to as a leader in local government initiatives such as watershed management and public safety.

Lenexa, which is known as the City of Festivals for the numerous festivals and events it hosts each year, will hold a week-long community celebration (May 5–12, 2007) to mark the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, Lenexa cherishes its rich history, heritage and culture, and with this celebration marking the city's 100th anniversary, Lenexa honors its past while looking forward to the future. I join with my neighbors, friends and constituents in Lenexa in honoring this important milestone.

INTRODUCING THE ENHANCED OPTIONS FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I raise to introduce the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act. This legislation allows critical access hospitals to use beds designated for critical access use, but currently not being used for that purpose, for assisted living services financed by private payments.

This bill will help improve the financial status of small rural hospitals and extend the health care options available to people living in rural areas without increasing federal expenditures. Currently, fear that rural hospitals will lose critical access status if beds designated for critical access are used for another purpose is causing rural hospitals to allow beds not needed for a critical access purpose to remain unused. This deprives rural hospitals of a much-needed revenue stream and deprives residents of rural areas of access to needed health care services.

My colleagues may be interested to know that the idea for this bill comes from Marcella Henke, an administrator of Jackson County Hospital, a critical access hospital in my congressional district. Ms. Henke conceived of this idea as a way to meet the increasing demand for assisted living services in rural areas and provide hospitals with a profitable way to use beds not being used for critical access purposes. I urge my colleagues to embrace this practical way of strengthening rural health care without increasing federal expenditures by cosponsoring the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL FOSTER PARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Foster Parents Day. Foster parents are vital to the development of today's children and tomorrow's leaders. As former President John Fitzgerald Kennedy once proclaimed, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." Foster care parents dedicate their lives to care for the less fortunate children, with little compensation or recognition. They perform this noble task under very difficult circumstances with love and care. Recognizing these efforts is important.

There are 523,000 children in foster care in the United States today. Congress has made a number of improvements to foster care laws over the last decade; improvements that have helped support our children and families. It is good to recognize these advances, but we should take a moment to consider how we can improve the system further.

There are currently over 2½ million children being cared for by family members nationally. However, unless these relatives have waivers from the Department of Health and Human Services, they are not eligible for foster care maintenance payments. Withholding financial support from family providers greatly ignores the needs of these children and families. Almost 19 percent of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30 percent to 40 percent of children in foster care have chronic medical problems. It is unrealistic to expect these providers to afford appropriate care for these vulnerable children simply because they are family. This is a very personal problem to me. The 7th Congressional District in Illinois—my Congressional District—has the highest percentage of children being raised by grandparents in the nation. Two other Chicago districts follow close behind. It also upsets me greatly that the limitations in our system have a disproportionate effect on minority children and families, who tend to opt for guardianship rather than adoption.

So, I join my colleagues in supporting a day to recognize foster parents and their tremendous contribution to society.

VAISAKHI DAY CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on April 13 and 14, the Sikhs community celebrated Vaisakhi Day with events in Washington, New York, London, Canada, Australia, and wherever Sikhs live. It was a very proud day for them. The Washington, DC, event was led by Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat, a well-known Sikh activist and supporter of a free Khalistan.

Large numbers of Sikhs showed up in these locations to celebrate the day. They called for freedom for the Sikh nation. They raised slogans in support of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. Freedom is the birthright of all peoples and nations.

When America became independent, Punjab was already independent. Dr. Gunnit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, has called on Sikhs to celebrate Vaisakhi Day by rededicating themselves to achieving the freedom that is their birthright.

Madam Speaker, we should put this Congress on record with a resolution in support of self-determination for Khalistan and throughout the subcontinent. Why is India opposed to a free and fair vote on the matter, in the democratic way? We should end our aid and trade with India until I the basic rights of all are allowed to be enjoyed, the way that democratic countries behave.

VAISAKHI DAY CELEBRATED WITH PARADES, EVENTS

WASHINGTON, DC, Apr. 14, 2007.—Vaisakhi Day, the 308th anniversary of the creation and consecration of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh, is being celebrated with parades and events in Washington, London, New York, Canada, England, Australia, and around the world.

The Washington parade occurs on April 14 under the leadership of Dr. Paramjit Singh

Ajrawat with the cooperation of the local Sikh Gurdwaras. Later in April, the annual Sikh Day Parade in New York will be held.

Guru Gobind baptized the first five baptized Sikhs, known as the Panj Piaras, on Vaisakhi Day in 1699, then asked them to baptize him. He declared, ''In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi (''I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs'') Just two years after his departure from this earthly plane in 1708, the Sikhs established their own independent state in Punjab.

At the time that America became independent, Punjab was an independent country already. It was independent from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849, when the British conquered South Asia. Today Sikhs struggle to regain the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon them over 300 years ago.

Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa. On Vaisakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh baptized the Sikhs and required them to keep the five Ks. He made the Sikhs into saints and soldiers. That memory is celebrated on Vaisakhi Day each year.

''I send Vaisakhi Day greetings to all Sikhs and I urge all Sikhs to take this occasion to fulfill Guru Gobind Singh's vision by working to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian oppression,'' said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to achieve independence for Khalistan. Khalistan declared itself independent on October 7, 1987. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been killed since the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. More than 52,000 are being held as political prisoners, some for over 20 years.

''Vaisakhi Day should be a time to renew our commitment to freedom for our Sikh brothers and sisters in Punjab, Khalistan so they can live in prosperity, dignity, and security. Only a free Khalistan can end the repression of the Sikh Nation,'' Dr. Aulakh said. ''Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Van Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is closer than ever. Now is the time to claim it''

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

According to the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, the average high school graduate does not possess basic personal financial management skills. These young people are unable to balance a checkbook, and most have little knowledge of basic practices such as earning, spending, saving and investing.

This lack of awareness has serious consequences for young people. Without a fundamental understanding of finance charges and accumulating interest, young people become prone to credit card abuse, which often results in overspending and long-term debt. As they take on greater and greater financial responsibilities, these men and women are similarly unprepared to finance higher education, handle a mortgage, and save for retirement. The implications of this behavior extend beyond personal welfare. Consumer debt in the U.S. reached $2.4 trillion in 2006, $825 billion of which comes from credit card debts.

Financial literacy should be a fundamental part of every young American's education. The ability to manage one's finances is essential to building wealth and leading a prosperous economic life. On the other hand, those who lack the ability to manage money face lifelong obstacles to fulfilling their human potential and creating a solid economic foundation for their families.

I thank my distinguished colleagues, Congressman HINOJOSA and Congresswoman BIGGERT, for their work leading the House Financial Literacy Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING CHRISTELLA GRESS ON RECEIVING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY COMMODORE GREANOFF INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor Ms. Christella (Chris) Gress from Grand Island, New York, who today received the first annual Commodore Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award from the United States Coast Guard.

The Commodore Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award recognizes the most distinguished United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Commander, and parallels existing Coast Guard leadership awards for officers, chief petty officers, and civilians. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, established by Congress in 1939, has more than 27,000 members who are engaged in missions that involve boat safety education, search and rescue, and homeland security operations.

Ms. Gress is the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 35, District 9 Eastern Auxiliary Region. As Commander of her Flotilla, Ms. Gress dedicated over 800 hours of her time to advance the mission and goals of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Her commitment to the Auxiliary becomes even more impressive when one learns that she is holding multiple college teaching-jobs and working on a doctoral dissertation.

Ms. Gress is described as tireless and a natural motivator, and is credited with developing a strong sense of collective identity within her Flotilla. Ms. Gress hosted team exercises and fellowship events that welcomed new members and increased activity among experienced members. Under her leadership, Flotilla membership participation expanded in programs including vessel examinations, operations, and public education. In addition, Ms. Gress was the driving force behind an award-winning Flotilla newsletter.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Gress has earned the respect and high admiration of her community and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am proud to recognize her as the first recipient of the Commodore Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAWRENCE, KANSAS, COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the Lawrence, Kansas, Community Nursery School [LCNS] was founded in 1948 after a group of mothers attended a conference on preschool play offered by the University of Kansas Extension School and sponsored by the Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy. They founded the school on three main principles—that the school must be: a parent cooperative; integrated, both racially and religiously; and low-cost. Today LCNS is the second oldest operating parent cooperative preschool in the Nation, and those principles remain at the corner of the school.

On April 17, 1948 the school opened with its first class of 10 mothers and 14 children. Financial support for the school came from the Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy and the Oread Meeting of Friends. The tuition was set at $1.00 per week. In 1951 the Kansas State Board of Health licensed the school, and in July of 1952 the school was incorporated under Kansas State Law as the Lawrence Community Nursery School. The school received its permanent license to operate in 1961.

The school was housed in various churches and schools for its first 6 years. After at least eight different locations, in the spring of 1955 the members of the advisory board, the board, and the general membership voted to start a 3-year building fund campaign chaired by Dr. Helen Gilles, a well known local pediatrician, to raise money to buy a permanent home for the nursery school.

The campaign was a huge success. With support of local businesses, members of the cooperative, and the community at large, they were able to raise over $2,000 in their building fund by May 1956, more than 2 years ahead of schedule. In March 1956, Dr. Gilles presented the idea of buying the Wesleyan Methodist Church at the comer of 7th and Alabama Streets. In August 1956, they put a down payment on the church. In September 1956, the board voted to paint the school ''barn red with white trim.'' This is how the building remains today, and it has become a permanent fixture in the Old West Lawrence neighborhood and the greater community as a whole.

Several months of renovations and sharing the school with the church followed. Although the site was used by the school in the fall of 1956, the church remained. In the summer of 1957 the church moved out, and the Little Red Schoolhouse was the home of the Lawrence Community Nursery School. Madam Speaker, I join with the LCNS community and with all Lawrencians in celebrating the completion of the 50th school year at their permanent home at 645 Alabama Street.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to $500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, tenninal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to $3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition; such as cancer or a physical disability that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB–GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress' failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress' refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, parents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment! If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our Nation's already overcrowded emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above $18,000 dollars per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above $15,000 dollars per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that loncome parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

RECOGNIZING THE CHICAGO 2016 OLYMPIC BID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that, on April 14, 2007, the city of Chicago was selected as the United States' candidate for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The Chicago Olympic bid represents a choice by the United States Olympic Committee to share the hometown qualities of this great American city and state with the world's athletes, guests, and over 3.6 billion people who take part in the Olympics via global television broadcast. If Chicago is selected by the International Olympic Committee, the 2016 Games will be the first Summer Olympics held in the Americas since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Chicago's passion for sports, record of hosting international events, and cultural heritage make it a fitting host for these momentous games. Already a professional sports powerhouse, Chicago is arguably one of the most sport-oriented cities in the United States. Indeed, Chicagoans are famous for their enthusiastic support of their home teams, be it the Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Cubs, Bulls, or the World Series Champion White Sox. Chicago boasts one of the largest marathon events worldwide as well—the Chicago Marathon.

Chicago also enjoys a long history of hosting historic world gatherings, including the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition, the 1959 Pan American Games, as well as matches for the 1994 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. Although Chicago was to host the 1904 Summer Olympics, this honor ultimately went to St. Louis to coincide with the St. Louis World's Fair.

In addition, Chicago's world-class architecture, renowned skyline, multi-cultural, historical, and pop-cultural contributions are expected to weigh heavily as positive attractions in the Olympic bid considerations. The international community will be dazzled by Chicago's view from atop the Sears Tower, they will be serenaded by the deep passion of our Blues music, and they will savor our restaurants, which are second to none.

The 2016 Chicago Olympic bid offers America the chance to demonstrate not only the most amazing level of competition the world has to offer, but also to showcase the values that make America and the Olympic movement so significant, such as fair play, friendship, hope, and inspiration. The world will have the opportunity to learn surprising and amazing things about Chicago. By way of the 2016 Summer Olympics, Chicago will become the world's second home.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN SENDS VAISAKHI GREETINGS TO SIKH NATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, April 13 is a very important day in the Sikh community. It is called Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the consecration or the Khalsa Panth in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh. It is celebrated in Sikh families around the world. There is a parade here in DC and later one in New York. I rise today to offer Vaisakhi Day greetings to the Sikh community.

Recently, the Council of Khalistan issued Vaisakhi greetings to the Sikh Nation. In the letter, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan urges the Sikh nation to work for the liberation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. The Indian govemment has subjected the Sikhs and other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others, to major atrocities. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered by the government since 1984. More than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and lens of thousands of other minorities have lost their lives at the hands of the regime and its operatives. The Movement Against State Repression reports that more than 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial, as well as tens of thousands of other minorities.

Freedom is the birthright of all peoples and nations, and Dr. Aulakh points out that Guru Gobind Singh conferred sovereignty on the Sikh Nation. That birthright has been suppressed.

Dr. Aulakh also pointed out the ongoing activities in support of Khalistan in Punjab and elsewhere. On behalf of the Sikh nation, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon recently submitted a memorandum on the oppression of the Sikhs and the need for independence to the United Nations Human rights Commission in Geneva. Former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh ran in the recent Punjab elections on a platform supporting Khalistan. He also organized a seminar on Khalistan. Sikh leaders were arrested on two separate occasions just for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. Jagjit Singh, President of Dal Khalsa, was quoted in the Deccan Herald as saying that "the Indian goverument can never suppress the movement. Sikh aspirations can only be met when they have a separate state." Yet India prefers to continue its repression, stationing half a million troops in Punjab alone.

Only independence will allow the Sikhs and the other oppressed minorities to live in freedom, prosperity, security, and dignity, which is their birthright. It is clear that as long as they remain under India's rule, they cannot get just and fair treatment. The atrocities will continue. This is unacceptable, Madam Speaker.

We should be on record in support of self-determination for Khalistan and throughout the subcontinent. We should also stop our aid and trade with India until it learns to respect the human rights of all people. This is in accord with American principles and these are practical steps we can take to bring real freedom to South Asia.

[April 4, 2007]

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!

On April 13, the Sikh Nation will celebrate Vaisakhi Day, observing the 308th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends and all Sikhs a Happy Vaisakhi Day. As you know, Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa. On Vaisakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh baptized the Sikhs and required them to keep the five Ks. He made the Sikhs into saints and soldiers, giving the blessing ''In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshani'' (''I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.'') Just two years after his departure from this earthly plane in 1708, the Sikhs established their own independent state in Punjab. Today we struggle to regain the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us over 300 years ago.

We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of ''Khalistan Zindabad'' and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Every morning and evening we recite, ''Raj Kare Ga Khalsa.'' Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

Last week, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, representing the Council of Khalistan, presented a memorandum on Sikh sovereignty and the release of the Sikh political and non-political prisoners in India to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The memorandum discussed the Human Rights Violations, persecution, torture, genocide of Sikhs since 1984 as well as the current situation in Punjab, Khalistan. The ongoing effort to reclaim the freedom that is our birthright took another step forward with this delivery.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 23 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. In addition, over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police Custody, then secretly cremated as ''unidentified bodies.'' Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in illegal custody for over 20 years! Repression and genocide of this magnitude at the hands of the Indian government is unparallelled in the late part of the 20th century. India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

Recently, Chief Minister Badal backed off his promise to repeal Section 5 of the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, the section that allowed the free transfer of Punjab's river water to Haryana and Rajasthan to continue. This promise was essential to getting him elected. Although he is the leader of the Akali Dal, Badal has again shown that he is under the control of the Hindutva movement. It is time for the Sikh leadership to stop kowtowing to the Indian government and start protecting the interests of the Sikh Nation. He should immediately sever his alliance with the BJP. As every Sikh knows, the BJP is determined to destroy the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation.

Dr. K.S. Aulakh (no relation) recently resigned as Vice Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University after Mr. Badal ordered him to open the University gate, which had been closed because of robberies and a murder, something that he could not do. Dr. G.S. Kalkat, former Vice chancellor of PAU and chairman of the Punjab Farmers Commission, described this resignation as unfortunate and said there should be no political interference in the workings of the University could not be tolerated. Dr. Darshan Singh, former Dean of Postgraduate Studies at PAU; Dr. D.R. Bhumbla, former Vice Chancellor of Haryana Agricultura University; Prof. Pritpal Singh Kapur, former pro-Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University; Dr. Darsban Singh, former Dean of Postgraduate Studies at PAU; and Lt. Col. Chanan Singh Dhillon, retired President of the Indian Ex-Services League; among others, were also critical of Badal's political interference. Dr. K.S. Aulakh was appointed by Mr. Badal several years ago when Badal was Chief Minister before, so this was an unusually courageous act on his part and he is to be saluted for it. Mr. Badal is Chief Minister of Punjab. Why doesn't he even want to protect the students, faculty, and staff at PAU from robberies and murders?

Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti is another who is under Indian government control. A couple of years ago, he was quoted as saying, ''We don't want separate territory.'' Apparently, Vedanti would rather maintain the oppression and the atrocities against the Sikh Nation than enjoy the glow of freedom, as promised to us at the time of independence. Has he forgotten our heritage of freedom? How can the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion deny the Sikh Nation's legitimate aspiration for freedom and sovereignty? Is he not stung by the words of one of his predecessors, former AkalTakht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh, who said, ''If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh''? Is Akal Takht occupied by a person who does not believe in Sikh values and Sikh aspirations?

Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8–13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would ''lay the foundation stone of Khalistan'' and he was right.

Khalsa Ji, at this time of Vaisakhi, the whole Khalsa Panth must be energized to reestablish a sovereign, independent Khalsa Raj by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. It is time for Sikhs to look back at our history of persecution and suffering over the past two decades. The Hindu government of India, whether run by the Congress Party of by the BJP, wants minorities either subservient to Hinduism or completely wiped out. In spite of the fact that the religions believe completely opposite things, Hindus desire to engulf Sikhism just as they did with Jainism and Buddhism in India. They think that Buddhism is part of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was born in India. Similarly, Guru Nanak was born Hindu, so they proclaim Sikhism to be part of Hinduism. Yet Guru Nanak said that he was ''neither Hindu nor Muslim.'' Jesus was born Jewish. Does that mean that Christianity is merely part of Judaism?

On this auspicious occasion celebrating the birth of the Khalsa Panth, we must bring back our Khalsa spirit. We must remember our heritage and tradition of ''Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah'' by committing ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian Occupation. We need a new Sikh political party which has a dedication to the interests of the Sikh Nation as its sole objective, to establish Khalsa Raj by liberating Khalistan, severing all political ties with India.

The Indian government wants to break the will of the Sikh Nation and enslave them forever, making Sikhism a part of Hinduism. This can only be stopped if we free Punjab from Delhi's control and reestablish a sovereign, independent country, as declared on October 7, 1987. We must recommit ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Raise slogans of ''Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah,'' ''Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,'' ''Khalistan Zindabad,'' and ''India out of Khalistan.'' Use this vaisakhi to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan. In spite of India's best efforts, they cannot arrest all of us. Their jails are overflowing as it is. We must keep the pressure on every day to force India to withdraw from our homeland and allow the glow of freedom in Khalistan.

The flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab in spite of the Indian government's brutal repression. Perhaps this is why India is afraid to hold a free and fair vote on the subject of independence. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. The time to achieve our independence is now. Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is closer than ever. We must rededicate ourselves to achieving it.

Pantha Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH

President, Council of Khalistan.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE RECENT TERRORISTS ATTACKS THAT OCCURRED IN CASABLANCA, MOROCCO AND IN ALGIERS, ALGERIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning in the strongest terms the recent terrorist attacks in Morocco and Algeria.

Often times we forget that we are not the only country or people affected by the scourge of international terrorism. Radical extremists have affected and disrupted the lives of many of our friends and allies all over the world. Daily, we see images and hear stories of blatant, unprovoked, vicious attacks on innocent

men, women and children. Our enemy is not limited to fighting on a military battlefield. Our enemy does not discern its victims on the basis of race, religion or nationality.

The most recent examples of this complete disregard for human life are the attacks occurring this last week in Morocco and Algeria. Not only did the attacks result in several deaths and injuries, but whole communities were devastated and thrown into extreme chaos.

The people and governments of Morocco and Algeria must know that we stand behind them and that America does not condone any act of terrorism, killing several people and devastating communities by the chaos and havoc wreaked by them.

I am pleased my colleague and friend, Representative MICHAEL ROGERS from Michigan, has joined me as an original cosponsor of this resolution. I strongly urge our colleagues to support it and urge its swift consideration.

FARM RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I introduced legislation today, along with my Alabama colleagues Reps. SPENCER BACHUS, JO BONNER, BUD CRAMER, and MIKE ROGERS, to enable America's farmers to better manage the risk to their livelihoods in times of severe weather and skyrocketing energy costs. The Farm Risk Management Act (FARM Act) would create risk management accounts, using both USDA and individual farmer contributions, to reduce the financial impact of disasters on the agriculture community. The FARM Act would allow farmers to insure their income by creating a whole-farm risk management program based on total revenues from all their farming activities. This is a departure from the current crop insurance program, which provides coverage based on a specific commodity. The new risk management account goes beyond the scope of current crop insurance by allowing farmers to withdraw funds from their accounts to help offset any unforeseen farm expense including high energy or fertilizer costs. With my new proposal, a farmer would deposit money into the new risk management account. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would then match the farmer's contribution in this tax-deferred, interest-bearing account, rather than subsidizing a portion of the crop insurance premium for the farmer as is done presently. As a result, farmers would effectively be self-insured.

More and more, we are seeing farmers lose their farms due to the unfortunate combination of increasingly harsh weather, rising operational costs and a Federal crop insurance program that is too expensive to help many cover their losses. Recent Farm Bill hearings and subsequent meetings I have had with farmers in the Southeast have led me to the conclusion that current crop insurance programs are not working. The present system is too expensive, leaving many farmers exposed to uncontrollable risks. It also allows room for fraud which only serves to drive up program costs for everyone.

There is an urgent need for significant crop insurance reform that will offer hard-working farmers the tools they need to manage the unique risks involved in agricultural production. This approach of individual risk management accounts could address many of the problems associated with the current crop insurance system and save the Federal government money by alleviating the future need for ad hoc disaster assistance. Most importantly, it will give farmers struggling against natural forces beyond their control greater flexibility to make a living while performing the vital task of putting food on America's table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACKIE ROBINSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and groundbreaking accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of integrated Major League Baseball. Sixty years ago this month, Jackie Robinson overcame institutionalized opposition to become the first African-American Major League Baseball player. He proved himself to be among the best that have ever played the game. He was a member of six World Series teams and earned six consecutive All-Star Game nominations. In 1962 Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his multiple sports accomplishments, Jackie Robinson accomplished great things in his personal life. He was a key figure in the establishment a growth of Freedom Bank. He also served with honor and distinction as a second lieutenant in the United States Army from 1942–1944. In 1984, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It gives me great pride to have served during the 108th Congress when we awarded Jackie Robinson the Congressional Gold Medal.

Throughout his life Jackie Robinson stood up against inequality, served as a great role model for all American citizens, and proved that anything is possible. I recall one story that exemplified his commitment to justice, when he faced court-martial charges for insubordination resulting from his refusal to obey an order to move to the back of a segregated military bus in Texas. I salute Jackie Robinson and commend him on his life of accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with my colleagues ''The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.'' I introduced legislation in both the 108th and 109th Congresses focused on strengthening U.S. manufacturing, and both times it was passed by the House. I am pleased that this bill contains many of the same provisions as well as others, since the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing remains a pressing issue.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), started in 2006, launched a three-pronged approach to competitiveness by strengthening research at the National Science Foundation, Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the laboratories and construction of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This bill addresses the last of these agencies by fully supporting the ACI requested improvements, as well as reauthorizing programs at NIST crucial to our global competitiveness.

Although manufacturing has experienced tremendous technological gains over the last few years, international competition has exacted a terrible toll on our nation's manufacturers. In particular, our small and medium-sized firms are under tremendous pressure to become more efficient, to modernize, and to cut their prices. There is no evidence that these pressures are likely to go away.

This bill will help address long-term problems facing our nation's manufacturers by broadening and strengthening manufacturing extension services and creating a new program to revive manufacturing innovation through collaborative research and development.

Specifically, this bill will address the competitiveness needs of our Nation by:

Reauthorizing the critical programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a federal research laboratory dedicated to ensuring U.S. leadership in technology-based standards and industries; creating a new collaborative research and development program for manufacturing technology; creating a fellowship program at NIST to develop U.S. manufacturing research expertise; reauthorizing and creating a new grant program within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program so that the MEP Centers can extend their expertise to a range of problems beyond their current scope of activities; and establishing the Technology Innovation Program and Advisory Board to help bring more innovative technologies to market.

I want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for working in a bipartisan manner to introduce this bill, which addresses such an important topic to our nation. I appreciate the efforts of the majority to consider the input of the minority members of the Science and Technology Committee.

Madam Speaker, it is incredibly important to our future for this nation to remain competitive today. Congress must provide a coherent federal response to the changes that are underway in manufacturing, and to support the technological innovation that is fundamental to retaining our manufacturing strength. This bill provides a mechanism for that crucial response and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the 110th Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBRARIAN INCENTIVE TO BOOST RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IN AREAS OF NEED (LIBRARIAN) ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Librarian Incentive to Boost Recruitment and Retention in Areas of Need (LIBRARIAN) Act of 2007, with Representatives VERNON EHLERS (MI–3), RAÚL GRIJALVA (AZ–07), and JOHN SHIMKUS (IL–19). Senators JACK REED (RI) and THAD COCHRAN (MS) will also be introducing a companion measure today in the Senate. The LIBRARIAN Act of 2007, which is endorsed by the American Library Association, will offer much needed help to recruit and retain librarians in schools and public libraries located in low-income areas. We accomplish this by establishing a loan forgiveness program for college students who obtain a master's degree in library science and latter commit to serve as librarians in disadvantaged communities.

The introduction of the LIBRARIAN Act is timely since today we celebrate National Library Workers Day. Our Nation's public and school libraries and the people who keep them open are national treasures. Every day, these libraries provide an invaluable public good to our communities. Together they offer crucial access to education, skills training and unique information. These services are particularly important in low-income communities where resources are often scarce.

Unfortunately, libraries are losing their most valuable asset: librarians. According to a 2002 School Library Journal survey, 30 states and the District of Columbia reported either a severe or extremely severe librarian shortage. The librarian shortage is attributed to two principal factors. First, an alarming number of librarians have reached the age of retirement and the number is expected to increase dramatically in the next decade. The American Library Association, the oldest and largest library association in the world, projects that between 60 to 65 percent of currently practicing librarians will retire by the year 2020. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that more than three out of five librarians are aged 45 years or older—many of these librarians will become eligible to retire in the next 10 years.

The second factor causing the librarian shortage is that libraries are now in direct competition with highly salaried private sectors needing workers with librarian skills such as those in multimedia technology, database administration and systems analysis. Today it is not uncommon to encounter a librarian earning less than $29,000 annually, despite the fact that the position is highly specialized and requires a master's degree in library science. Not surprisingly, librarians are increasingly leaving their profession and using their invaluable education and experience in other more lucrative employment arenas.

Sadly, low-income community libraries will suffer most from the coming librarian shortage. While well-funded suburban libraries can afford to recruit and retain librarians, low-income area libraries lack the resources to attract well qualified staff. Moreover, most librarians look to relocate to highly desirable areas creating an even greater difficulty for low-income area libraries to attract qualified candidates to fill job openings.

Earlier this year, I received first-hand confirmation that if the LIBRARIAN Act passed we could attract more students to the profession. A young student in my district who had learned about the LIBRARIAN Act wrote to me stating that she would now consider a career as a librarian and gladly work in a low-income community. Previously, this student had not entertained the idea of becoming a librarian.

There is strong precedent in law for canceling student loans under the Federal Perkins Loan program. Several categories of professionals who service low-income areas currently receive such a benefit. Teachers working in special education, Head Start and educationally disadvantaged schools under the Title I Program, special education and Head Start, as well as members of the armed services, law enforcement officers, Peace Corps volunteers, medical technicians and nurses can qualify for forgiveness of their Federal Perkins student loans.

Specifically, the LIBRARIAN Act allows Federal Perkins loan cancellation for full-time librarians with a master's degree in library sciences who are employed in: a public library that serves a geographic area that contains one or more schools eligible for educationally disadvantaged school funding under Title I; or an elementary or secondary school library that is eligible for educationally disadvantaged school funding under Title 1.

Librarians working full-time in these areas would qualify for up to 100 percent Federal Perkins loan forgiveness depending on their years of service as a librarian in the disadvantaged schools or public libraries. Specifically, they would qualify for: 15 percent loan forgiveness for each of the first and second years of such service; 20 percent loan forgiveness for each of the third and fourth years of such service; and 30 percent loan forgiveness for the fifth year of such service.

Since loan forgiveness would apply to the years of services that are completed after the enactment of this Act, students entering a library sciences program and librarians with outstanding Federal Perkins loans stand to benefit. In the end, the susceptible communities that are detrimentally affected by a librarian shortage stand to benefit the most from this bill.

Madam Speaker, it is time to take steps towards alleviating this shortage of librarians in America. The loan forgiveness provisions of the LIBRARIAN Act will be a valuable tool in attracting some of our brightest and best students to become tomorrow's educators in the communities where they are most needed. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the passage of this important legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST GALLO

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this week the House voted to honor Mr. Ernest Gallo, a pioneer and innovator in winemaking and exceptional example of the American entrepreneurial spirit. Born on March 18, 1909 near Modesto, California, Ernest Gallo grew up working with his brother, Julio, in a vineyard owned by their immigrant father. With less than $6,000 and a pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library, the brothers founded E & J Gallo Winery in 1933. From these humble beginnings, Ernest and his brother built a wine empire, bringing a love of wine to the U.S. customer and permanently establishing California as the epicenter of America's wine industry. Today, E & J Gallo Winery produces approximately 900 million bottles annually, selling them under 40 different labels and distributing to 90 different countries. Throughout the years, Gallo received honors for his achievements in winemaking by a host of organizations ranging from the American Society of Enologists Merit Award for outstanding leadership in the wine industry to the Gold Vine Award from the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine wine fraternity and the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from The Wine Spectator. In recent years, Gallo Winery has continued this trend of excellence, being named Winery of the Year in 1996 and 1998 by the San Francisco International Wine Competition and being named "Wine of the Century" at the Los Angeles County Fair wine competition. These honors are owed in no small part to the passion and innovation of Ernest Gallo. In his passing, we have lost an American legend and a dear friend.

TRIBUTE TO SHAWNEE MISSION UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church has been an important presence in the City of Overland Park and Johnson County, Kansas, since 1967.

In 1970 the Church, sited on historical grounds that date to the 1871 Breyfogle Farm, the 1913 Mathey Farm, and the 1948 Burgdorfer Farm, purchased the house and barn, vintage 1913, from a previous church congregation. This site will be the location of the Church's 40th anniversary celebration, following its worship service on May 20, 2007.

The Church has provided liberal religious services and education for adults and children, has sponsored forums with knowledgeable speakers on public issues, has initiated a pathfinding Coming of Age program for youth in the denomination, and has presented a nationally-recognized World Religion Series. Additionally, the Church has promoted democracy by serving as a voting site in the community and has encouraged members to support many local, national, and international charitable efforts including SafeHome, Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity, Crosslines, American Indian Center, Million Voices for Darfur, UNICEF, and many others.

Through the years the Church has been a good neighbor to the surrounding residential area through its maintenance of buildings and

grounds, including the front garden which has been recognized as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The Church also is a member in good standing of the Unitarian Universalist Association [UUA], the international umbrella group of UU congregations and has been certified as a Welcoming Congregation by UUA.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church are celebrating the past and present successes of their church community and are planning for the future of their church community. I am pleased to join with, Johnson County, the City of Overland Park and with men and women of goodwill throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area in recognizing and congratulating the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church upon its 40th anniversary as a vibrant member of the metropolitan area's interfaith communities.

IN MEMORY OF DR. GURCHARAN SINGH, HUMANITARIAN AND FREEDOM ACTIVIST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I was distressed to learn that Dr. Gurcharan Singh, a Sikh scholar from Long Island, was killed March 31 in a hit-and-run traffic accident. Professor Singh was on his way to the Gurdwara (the Sikh place of worship) at the time. The driver has not yet been found.

Professor Singh was a professor at Marymount Manhattan College and a leader In the Sikh community in New York. He was a father and grandfather. According to WNBC–TV, he was "a counselor to New York's Sikh community and a philanthropist devoted to bringing people of different faiths and nationalities together." He was also an activist in support of Sikh freedom, serving as an advisor to the Council of Khalistan, which leads the effort to free the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. In that capacity, he would accompany the Council's President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, when he would go to the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Prior to teaching at Marymount, Dr. Singh had been a professor at Columbia University. He taught political science and international studies.

The Council of Khalistan issued a press release about Dr. Singh's passing. It was also reported on WNBC Channel 4 in New York, on Yahoo News, on several Sikh and South Asian news outlets, and around the Internet.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I wish to extend the sympathies of the U.S. Congress to Dr. Singh's family, friends, and students. I'm sure that everyone joins me in this. I know that he will leave a void that will be very difficult to fill.

Madam Speaker, the best tribute we could pay to Dr. Singh is to continue his work, as Dr. Aulakh points out. This Congress can help by stopping aid to India and trade with that country until all people there enjoy human rights and by going on record in support of self-determination for Dr. Singh's Sikh Nation and for the Nagas, Kashmiris, and all the people seeking freedom in India. Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

PLAINVIEW SCHOLAR, LEADER MOURNED AFTER HIT-AND-RUN DEATH

GURCHARAN SINGH, 77, TAUGHT AT COLUMBIA, MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

PLAINVIEW, N.Y.—A family and a community were mourning Saturday night the death of beloved professor and role model killed by a hit-and-run driver on Long Island, NewsChannel 4's Aimee Nuzzo reported.

Gurcharan Singh, 77, a scholar and a professor, was also a counselor to New York's Sikh community and a philanthropist devoted to bringing people of different faiths and nationalities together, according to family and friends.

''He is the gem of our community,'' said friend Paul Kandhari. ''If there was a family problem, he'll be there. If the father and son have a problem, he'll be there.''

The Plainview father of three and grandfather was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while walking from his home to church Friday night.

Dr. Singh was crossing Old Country Road in Plainview just after 8 p.m. headed for the Sikh temple, when a red or maroon car traveling westbound ran a red light, struck him and kept going, police told Nuzzo.

Singh was airlifted to Nassau University Medical Center with multiple fractures and head trauma, but he did not survive.

''My father was a very selfless man who served his community and society with all his heart, and we'd really love any assistance in finding the individual who did this,'' said Surinder Singh, the victim's son.

Anyone with information about the mishap was asked to call Nassau County Crime Stoppers at 1–800–244–TIPS.

Once a professor at Columbia University, Singh taught political science and international studies at Marymount Manhattan College for more than three decades and continued to teach part-time, Nuzzo said.

A statement from Marymount Manhattan College said the ''community is deeply saddened by the news of Professor Singh's death. He served as a devoted teacher at the college for many years, and his loss will be felt by all of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.'' Dr. Singh's friends said they have no doubt the selfless humanitarian would have forgiven the hit-and-run driver who took his life. They said they hoped that would help whoever is responsible to come forward.

[Council of Khalistan Press Release]

DR. GURCHARAN SINGH, ADVISOR TO COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, KILLED IN HIT-AND-RUN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

LEADING SIKH SCHOLAR, TEACHER, HUMANITARIAN

WASHINGTON, DC, Apr. 4, 2007—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today expressed ''deepest sympathies'' to the family and friends of Professor Gurcharan Singh, a leading Sikh scholar and a teacher at Marymount Manhattan College. Professor Gurcharan Singh was killed by a hit-and-run driver about 8:00 p.m. on the evening of March 31 as he was heading to the Gurdwara.

''Professor Gurcharan Singh leaves a vacuum that will be hard to fill, not only within the Sikh community and Nassau County, but for his family, friends, students, and the many whose lives he touched,'' said Dr. Aulakh, ''He will be greatly missed. I am proud that he was my friend.''

''Only God gives life and takes life. As human beings, we are helpless. 'Ghale Aawe Nanka Sadhe Uthin Jai.' We can only mourn his loss but the best tribute to Dr. Gurcharan Singh will be to continue his mission which he worked for, that is serving humanity and working hard to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation. Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh religion flourish and the Sikh Nation prosper.''

Professor Gurcharan Singh was well known as a humanitarian on Long Island. ''My father was a very selfless man who served his community and society with all his heart,'' said his son Surinder Singh, He served as a counselor to the New York Sikh community and was a philanthropist.

Professor Gurcharan Singh was also a strong supporter of Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. In that effort, he served as an advisor to the President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent effort to liberate Khalistan. He accompanied Dr. Aulakh whenever he went to talk to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

His death was reported on WNBC–TV New York and on its website; on Indo-Asian News Service; on Sikh media outlets; on a variety of websites; and on other media outlets.

''Professor Gurcharan Singh's passing is a loss to the Sikh Nation, to the people of Long Island and America, to his family and friends, and to friends of freedom,'' said Dr. Aulakh. ''May God bless this departed soul.''

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, this month marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy AURA. In 1957, seven universities banded together to form a new type of consortium that would establish a national astronomical observatory available to all astronomers on a merit basis. This new consortium, AURA, sought access to the clearest skies and best observing sites available. They established their headquarters in Tucson, AZ, and over the ensuing years built the Kitt Peak National Observatory and a sister observatory in Chile known as the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory.

The establishment of AURA took place in an environment in which the National Science Foundation was only 5 years old and the establishment of a space agency was still to come. AURA saw the need for the astronomical community to organize itself, to work toward common goals, and to create scientific opportunities for all. AURA and other public observatories helped advance the field of U.S. astronomy.

From these beginnings, AURA has extended our view of the universe and ourselves with its visionary planning for what is now the Hubble Space Telescope, which AURA operates from its Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. It also paved the way for the giant ground based telescopes known as the International Gemini Observatory, in Hawaii and Chile.

AURA has helped astronomy move to a central position in national and international scientific research with increasingly strong ties to many other areas of the physical sciences and the fundamental questions that they address.

For example, on the largest scales in the field of cosmology, astrophysics and particle physics increasingly view the universe as the ultimate ''high-energy laboratory'', which may be the only way to address questions about the fundamental nature of matter and space itself. Observations made at AURA observatories both on the ground and in space have revealed the existence of both dark matter and dark energy. At the other extreme of scale, astrobiology is synthesizing research in astronomy, biology, and chemistry and is emerging as a field in itself. Again, observations at AURA's observatories are beginning a quest to search for the presence of life and ultimately understand its origins both within our solar system and in our galaxy.

Looking to the near future and the advent of the James Webb Space Telescope and a Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope, we hope to see the light from the first stars in the Universe, to catch galaxies as they are first assembling, investigate the nature of dark matter and dark energy, understand how black holes are formed, and take a census of extrasolar planets with masses extending from that of Jupiter down to masses comparable to that of the Earth. With the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, we hope to observe the Sun at the smallest scales possible and understand the fundamental workings of our closest star. These questions are not just at the forefront of astronomical research, but are ones that have captured the public's interest and imagination.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending AURA for its accomplishments over the past fifty years. From a humble idea born in Tucson, AZ, to the outer reaches of the universe, AURA has made a major contribution to U.S. science and to our cultural heritage.

HONORING THE MOST REVEREND JOHN MICHAEL D'ARCY, BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to the Most Reverend John Michael D'Arcy, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. In the past 50 years countless individuals, both Catholic and not, have experienced the wisdom and love of Bishop D'Arcy and each of them can be grateful for having known him.

Bishop D'Arcy, the son of Irish immigrants, was born on August 18, 1932. He recalls feeling called to the priesthood at a very young age, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his childhood priests. Immediately following high school he entered Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. For the next 8 years Bishop D'Arcy developed his spiritual knowledge and prepared to serve his community.

After Seminary, Bishop D'Arcy studied in Rome at the Angelicum where he received his doctorate in spiritual theology in 1968. He returned to St. John's Seminary where he served as spiritual director and professor until 1985, guiding many young men in their journey to the priesthood. As a result of his years of faith and service, John D'Arcy was ordained auxiliary bishop in his native Boston in 1975.

Bishop D'Arcy was appointed the eighth Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on the 26th of February, 1985. During his tenure, he has focused extensively on enlarging the Catholic community in faith and numbers. His focus on education has led to the expansion of Catholic education across the diocese. With the creation of the South Bend Chancery and other church offices Bishop D'Arcy gave many more people access to Catholic services.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Bishop John D'Arcy for his years of dedication to the people of Indiana. His 50 years of selfless service will always be remembered by those whose lives are better because of his kindness and compassion. May God grant Bishop D'Arcy many more years of strength and courage. His service to the people of Indiana has truly been a blessing.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1868, THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original co-sponsor of the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007. I join my colleagues from the Science and Technology Committee, Mr. WU, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HALL and Mr. EHLERS, in introducing this important bill that will ensure our Nation's technological competitiveness for decades to come.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) provides a foundation to keep our country competitive in the ever-expanding global marketplace. The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act plays an important role in fulfilling this initiative by reauthorizing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST. NIST labs serve almost every Federal agency and U.S. industry by providing reliable and dependable standards, measurements, and certification services.

As Congress looks to the future of the technology industry in this country, NIST research will prove to be indispensable in the maturation of cutting-edge basic research in becoming successful commercial products. Emerging fields such as nanotechnology and bioengineering are dependent on scientifically-based industrial measurements and standards to see that advanced laboratory research can make that leap into practical industrial applications. I recently visited some of NIST's laboratories and was amazed by the fascinating and vital work its scientists perform.

H.R. 1868 includes 3-year authorization levels for NIST's laboratories which are consistent with the ACI's goal to double the nation's investment in physical science research by 2017. The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act also authorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program-a cost-sharing program that provides technical and business assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers. This assistance has a proven track record in the manufacturing industry to help companies remain competitive in the global marketplace by improving productivity and efficiency. In addition, this legislation authorizes the Technology Innovation Program that provides grants that encourage the development of high-risk, innovative technologies that will provide widespread economic benefits to companies across the United States.

I thank Chairman WU for incorporating our priorities for NIST into this comprehensive authorization bill and I look forward to working with my Science Committee colleagues to ensure quick action on this important bill.