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.