

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SARIE TOSTE OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarie Toste, a distinguished educator in Humboldt County, California, and a recognized leader in educating young children on the importance of learning to save money. Sarie spearheads a program in elementary schools across Northern California that helps child learn the fundamentals of financial literacy.

Sarie initiated the first "Learn to Earn" program 11 years ago as the superintendent at Pacific Union Elementary School, when she realized that the children did not understand that they could save their money, watch it grow and help realize future dreams.

"Learn to Earn" is a collaborative effort with a regional financial institution, Umpqua Bank, which provides weekly on-campus banking. The children sign up, deposit \$1 and receive a passbook. Every week a bank representative visits the school and accepts student deposits. The children set savings goals, calculate interest earned and watch their account grow.

With over seventy schools throughout Northern California, the nearly 6,000 young savers have banked \$1.5 million making "Learn to Earn" the largest, most successful school savings program in California. The curriculum that has been developed helps teachers introduce the basic concepts of sound money management.

This is in sharp contrast to the savings habits of our nation's adults. Today, America's savings rate is negative, the lowest rate since the Great Depression. Even more alarming is the dramatic increase in personal debt, which has grown over the past decade by approximately 300 percent.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that today, on "National Teach Children to Save Day" we recognize the outstanding commitment of Sarie Toste for her foresight and dedication to the future of our children and teaching them how to "Learn to Earn."

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNIE LUU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Annie Luu, an accomplished Gonzaga University student from Colorado's 6th District. Ms. Luu and a team of fellow Gonzaga students were recently honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

becoming finalists in the third annual EPA student design competition.

Since 2004, the EPA has honored college students from across the country for their research efforts towards environmental sustainability through the "P3—People, Prosperity, and the Planet" contest. This year, only 41 proposed projects were chosen for development out of more than 100 submissions. The 41 student teams will exhibit their designs on the National Mall on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the National Sustainable Design Expo. The National Academy of Engineering will judge the competition and recommend the winners to the EPA.

Ms. Luu and her teammates will present their project, entitled "Decentralized Waste Treatment and Energy Recovery in Rwanda," during this event.

Ms. Luu and her peers should be commended for their commitment and contributions to environmental sustainability. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MESQUITE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and its 50th anniversary. This fine organization has entertained a wide variety of people over the years, from young children to our Nation's Presidents and foreign heads-of-state.

The Mesquite Rodeo opened its chutes in 1958 and has become an integral part of the community and the State of Texas; so much so that in 1993 the Texas legislature proclaimed the city of Mesquite the "Rodeo Capital of Texas."

Every Friday and Saturday night during the rodeo season, thousands of visitors experience the excitement of our Nation's original western sport: the rodeo. From cowboys to clowns, and fast horses to big bulls, the Mesquite Rodeo has come to exemplify championship rodeos. My family and I can attest to the entertainment value of the events and showmanship that the Mesquite Rodeo is known for throughout the United States.

As the congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, home to the Mesquite Championship Rodeo, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

DON IMUS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opinion concerning the offensive remarks of radio personality Don Imus. His insensitive comments, directed at the Rutgers University women's basketball team after the team's loss to Tennessee in the NCAA tournament, exceeded the boundaries of humor, even by Mr. Imus's standards. While I recognize Mr. Imus's right to free speech under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I vehemently condemn his remarks and support his dismissal from MSNBC and CBS broadcasting companies.

Imus's deplorable comments have overshadowed the Rutgers Scarlet Knights' record of success. Starting the season with 2 wins and 4 losses, the Scarlet Knights overcame great odds through their hard work, determination, and dedication. In the face of adversity, the team made a triumphant comeback by becoming the Eastern Division champions, which later set the stage for their first-ever appearance in a national championship competition. So what should have been the team's finest hour became its worse hour caused by the regrettable actions of Mr. Imus.

Yet amidst the Imus controversy, this remarkable group of student-athletes has responded to the situation with dignity and grace, which is emblematic of the caliber of these women. The Rutgers Scarlet Knights is comprised of five freshmen and five upperclassmen. Of the freshman class, each student has a combined grade point average of 3.0. These accomplished women are valedictorians of their class, future doctors, musical prodigies, and Girl Scouts. These women exemplify beauty, strength, and integrity—the very opposite of Imus's characterization of them.

The dismissal of Don Imus sends a powerful message to not only these young women but to the rest of Nation. The message: Enough is enough. Racism and sexism in any of its ugly forms will no longer be tolerated, not even for the sake of a good laugh or good ratings.

HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN NAPA, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Napa, California. This school, and the associated Catholic Church, has been a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

prominent fixture in the community for many years, and many students have benefited from the excellent education and outstanding guidance it has offered.

In the fall of 1911 Father Joseph Byrne took the first steps to open a Catholic school in Napa when he invited the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael to staff a new school to be founded in Napa. When the school was opened the next spring, it served 120 students from the location on Franklin Street. Today that same building is used by the Napa Community Thrifts Project. That building remained in use for 15 years until the school moved to the current location on Main and Napa Streets in January, 1927. It has remained in its current location for more than 80 years.

St. John the Baptist School currently enrolls almost 300 students, and is well served by its current pastor Father Gordon Kalil, and Principal Nancy Jordan. The school now enrolls students from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, and this has allowed the school to develop programs for children of many different ages. The school has also taken the important step of involving parents in children's education, and indeed has made this one of the core missions. By making parents into educators and encouraging children to reach out and participate in their greater community, St. John's and Father Kalil have reinforced that civic-mindedness is one of the key characteristics of a well-rounded young person.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in acknowledging the 95th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Napa, California. St. John's has been an important fixture in the education of young men and women in Napa, and has laid an important intellectual and spiritual foundation for generations of young people. In the years to come, this excellent tradition will continue to be of the greatest benefit to the Napa community and a credit to the parish of the St. John's Catholic Church.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare to people living in every corner of our globe that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide. The tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, which are well known to all of us, should be part of the history curriculum in every Turkish and American school. On that dark April day, more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the

Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 92nd anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow ice planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Last year I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Representative Anthony Weiner and I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers. The parliaments of Canada, France, and Switzerland have all passed resolutions affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The United States must do the same. I will not stop fighting until long overdue legislation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide finally passes. I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor for a vote before the full House of Representatives this Congress.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. I have joined with my colleagues in requesting military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the FY08 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

We also have requested an adequate level of economic assistance for Armenia and assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia. American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important East-West trade corridor. It is in our economic and security interests to ensure that the aggression against Armenia comes to an end.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

TRIBUTE TO ROBLEY REX

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Mr. Robley Rex of

Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Rex was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on May 2, 1901. He is the only surviving World War I veteran in Kentucky. Robley Rex has faithfully served his country since entering the United States Army in 1919. He has worked as a mail clerk with the railroad. He was ordained as a Methodist minister. He joined the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) service organization in 1924.

Rex Robley began volunteering through the VFW at the age of 86, logging over 13,000 hours of service. He has served his fellow veterans at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville. By his count, he has served veterans for 75 years. He has been honored by the VFW as a National Volunteer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Robley Rex embodies the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I extend my thanks to him for his efforts, and I am proud to bring his accomplishments to the attention of this House.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KAREN BROWN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Karen Brown, an outstanding school teacher from Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Brown, who teaches at Coronado Elementary School, was recently named a recipient of the 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. The award program is one of the most prominent in the United States.

Honoring teachers, principals and specialists from across the nation, recipients are chosen based on such criteria as effective instructional practices, student learning results and educational accomplishments as well as their potential for leadership within the field. Ms. Brown joins a network of more than 2,200 Milken Educators who have been honored by the program since 1985.

In addition to a \$25,000 individual award, Ms. Brown also attended the annual Milken National Education Conference in Los Angeles, California from the 21st to 24th of April.

Ms. Brown should be commended for her commitment to community and her contributions to education in Colorado. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN APPRECIATION OF BRUCE GOURLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the retirement of Bruce Gourley, who has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 30 years. During this time, he has served the group in a number of capacities, and has brought the voice of Local 180 to a variety of forums throughout the State.

Mr. Gourley was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, but completed high school in Denver before joining the Navy. He served until 1970,

and when he left the service he decided to remain in the Vallejo area with his family. He received his business degree from Solano Community College in 1973.

Mr. Gourley joined the IBEW Local 180 in 1978 while he was working as a construction electrician. Even as he continued to work, he pursued a teaching credential from the University of California at Berkeley. He became credentialed in 1983, and has taught classes through an apprenticeship program for many years.

In 1988, Mr. Gourley was elected to the executive board of Local 180, and has since served 3 terms while taking on a variety of other responsibilities on behalf of numerous local and State labor interests. Within Local 180, he has served 3 terms as the Business Manager Financial Secretary, helping to guide the financial activity of the group.

Mr. Gourley has also served with numerous other organizations, including the California Electricians Public Relations Committee, the Vallejo Unified School District, and beginning in 2001 he was tapped to use his teaching experience with the California Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. He has also been extensively involved with the committees of the Northern California Sound and Communication workers. In 2003 he was appointed to assist and lead the very important work of the Council on Industrial Relations.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Bruce Gourley for his many years of service to the labor community. His extensive efforts to educate future generations of electrical workers, and his determination to foster a productive negotiating environment in northern California have been extremely valuable.

HONORING WOMEN IN SERVICE
AND ENTERPRISE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, for the past six years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Dr. Linda Henrie, who is an example of strong, capable and dedicated leadership. I would also like to recognize honorees Patti Hawkins, Pat Ogles and Marjorie Seward for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Dr. Henrie is the Superintendent of the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) where she oversees more than 34,000 students and more than 4,000 professional and auxiliary staff. She has served in this position with distinction since 2001.

Dr. Henrie has served on numerous boards in the greater Mesquite community including: The Board of Directors for Mesquite Social Services, the Board of Directors for the Mesquite Symphonic Band and as President of the Mesquite Education Association. Dr. Henrie also serves as President of the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Dallas County Workforce De-

velopment Board. In addition to being active in the community and holding multiple leadership roles, Dr. Henrie has been recognized for the Association of Texas Professional Educator's Administrator of the Year Award in 2002 and was named one of the 100 Heroes of MISD.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDO-
LENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND
THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING
THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT
VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STU-
DENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRA-
TION AND STAFF AND THEIR
FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AF-
FECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the tragic deaths of the 32 victims in the shootings at Virginia Tech this past Monday.

These 32 individuals did nothing to deserve this awful fate and should never have had their lives prematurely ended by the horrific actions of one disturbed individual. One of the shooting's victims, Ryan Clark, served as a volunteer counselor at a camp for mentally impaired children. Ryan was described by the camp's administrator as "one of the kindest, most compassionate people" whom she had ever met. Another victim, Henry Lee, graduated second in his high school class, despite having immigrated from China and having had to learn English as his second language. And Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, displayed heroism all the way to the end by sacrificing his own life by barricading the door to his classroom to give many of his students enough time to escape through the classroom window.

In the lives of these 32 innocent individuals we find countless examples such as these, of kindness, compassion and determination. I would like to extend my warmest sympathies to the families and friends of these individuals, as well as to the entire Virginia Tech community.

Unfortunately, we have seen tragedies like this one numerous times in our Nation's history. In my own home state of Texas, we lost 15 of our citizens in a similar rampage four decades ago at the University of Texas at Austin.

I believe that, in this time of tragedy, we must honor the shooting's victims, offer the people of Blacksburg our utmost condolences and support, and, most of all, renew our commitment as a country to doing everything in our power to helping communities prevent similar tragedies from taking place in the future.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER for introducing this resolution.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
WITH RESPECT TO RAISING
AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING
PREVENTION OF SEXUAL AS-
SAULT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 289, which expresses the "sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I was the lead Democratic sponsor of the original legislation, introduced by former Representative Mark Green and signed into law in 2003, that designated April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

While we are taking the time today to highlight this important issue, it is important that we remember that preventing sexual assault should be a top priority during each month of the year. We must also remember that violence against women is not just a women's issue, it is a men's issue, too.

Every 2½ minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. I have long been a champion of increased efforts to prevent violence against women and in 2004, legislation that I first introduced, "The Debbie Smith Act," was signed into law. Through this landmark act, we have the ability to protect our daughters, our sisters, and our friends by putting rapists behind bars through DNA evidence. We know that DNA evidence is better than a fresh set of fingerprints. And we know that it is often better than eyewitness testimony. With "The Debbie Smith Act," the hundreds of thousands of rape kits that were gathering dust across the country are finally being processed.

It is vitally important that we support the Violence Against Women Act by fully funding the important programs that will help women escape abusive and dangerous situations and begin new lives that are free from violence and fear. The organizations, shelters, and counseling centers that are on the front lines of this problem need our steadfast commitment that they will have the resources to continue their important work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE UKIAH MAIN
STREET PROGRAM FOR 20 YEARS
OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY
SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ukiah

Main Street Program which has provided outstanding and distinguished service to the town of Ukiah, California, and its citizens for 20 years.

Since its founding by Mayor Colleen Henderson in 1987, the Ukiah Main Street Program has given merchants and residents tools to improve neighborhoods and advance redevelopment of the commercial district. Through numerous workshops and consultations with business owners the UMSP has helped make Historic Downtown Ukiah a safe and friendly business district.

Six years later, in 1993, Ukiah was named the number one place to live in California and the sixth best place to live in the United States by Norman Crampton in his book *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*. The recognition brought lots of publicity, and Ukiah was featured in publications around the country.

The UMSP Economic Restructuring Committee has facilitated the openings of dozens of new businesses in the downtown including the Ukiah Brewing Company, the first organic brewpub in California. UMSP produces a map of the historic downtown and directory of businesses that is useful to tourists as well as locals.

The UMSP Design Committee is responsible for beautification projects in the historic downtown. Landscaped planter triangles and painted crosswalks throughout the downtown corridor have helped create a safer and more clearly defined pedestrian area. Trees were planted and are maintained in the adjacent Alex Thomas Plaza, a place for many events and community gatherings. UMSP installed decorative lighting in the trees to enhance the ambiance and walkability of downtown at night.

The Ukiah Main Street Program began many popular community events including the Annual Country Pumpkin Fest, Winter Wonderland, Taste of Downtown, Thursday Night Farmers Market, Fabulous Flashback Car Show, Cinco de Mayo Festival, North Coast Express Bike Race, Home for the Holidays, Moonlight Movie Madness, Downtown Halloween, Deep Valley Brew Tasting, Comedy Alley and First Night Ukiah. These events attract locals and visitors alike who enjoy the amenities of small town life and neighborliness.

UMSP created a mini-park in the parking lot adjacent to the post office and started the Standley Street demonstration block façade improvement program that spurred refurbishment and façade improvement on 38 downtown properties with an investment of roughly \$713,441 in public and private funds. In addition nearly 2 million dollars have been raised by the UMSP, which is organized as a non-profit with a dedicated volunteer board of directors composed of the community's business leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to enter my remarks honoring the Ukiah Main Street Program for two decades of exemplary successes, making it a model of public and private partnership.

REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR
TEAM FROM THE PENNYROYAL
REGION IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky. The regional academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers.

Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities, both school related and outside school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Madam Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

William Cole Davis, Emily Faulkner, Rachel Marie Furnas, Britni Kay Holder, Stephen R. Incata, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Darian Goldin Stahl, Kelsey Leigh Willen, John David Fourqurean II, Erika Michelle Kirby, Andrew Boyd Newton, Prentice Kyle Robertson, Alexandria Frances Soyk, Jessica Lynn Stallons, Kyle Andrew Winn, Ashlee Castle, Taylor Elizabeth Cline, Kyle Raymond Cobb, Crystal Jo Fishburn, Sarah Joy Galloway, Morgan Michelle Milburn, Matthew Franklin Morse, William Thomas Noel, Philip Allen, Brittney Ann Beebe, Elizabeth Hope Chester, Hykeem M. Craft, Kelsey Elizabeth Lewis, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Clayton Alan Sanderson, Catherine Clark Smith, Millie Beth Deason, Hayla Joi Frye, Clara Elizabeth Heisterberg, Kelsie Marie Nelson, Seth Thomas Riker II, Ami Prakash Shah, Samantha Danielle Adams, Shaena Maria Godwin, Brianna Rose McGuire, Kevin M. McLendon, Joshua Lee Robinson, Paula Lynn Southall, Robert Zachary Thompson, Cameron Ross Williams, Barron Stewart Adams, Benjamin Charles Boden, Carrie Louise Burks, Adam Blake Humphries, Bonnie McCullagh, Margaret Oats, Laura Don Oliver, Robert Joseph Williams, Jr., James Tyler Chapman, Skye Lynn Darnell, Emily Paige Doss, Danbee Mishell Kim, Michael Lee Mason, Heather Nicole Moore, Rebecca Schultz, Amy Ja-Le Weatherford, Kelsey Jo Brown, Cahle Buckingham, Zach C. Gaines, Lester W. Gibbs, Jessica Hanks, Cori Hatley, Meaghan Ann Key, Ashley Matlock, Matthew Kyle Spencer, Rebecca Vargas, Cassie M. Whitt, Craig Hodge, Donovan Kates, Eunbee Grace Kim, Mary Gayle Martin, Shelby Martin, Tess Miller, Ryan Michael Russell, James Sears, Nicki Seay, Matt Treadway,

Joseph E. Williams, Jr., Taylor Bennett, Chesika J. Crump, Sarah Curasco, Meagen Dunleavy, Dean France, Daniel Joiner, Griffin Lee Joiner, Kristen Sarene Kursave, Kaitlynn Pritchett, Hayley Stewardson, Mallory Taylor, Russell V. Buzzard, Kaylin Dilbeck, Mara Lynn East, Cory Fish, Cody Grinnell, Rachel Marie Hampton, Brenden Hoffman, Sean Hurd, Russell Jones, Austin C. Norrid, Joel Ben Thomas.

Madam Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE ACT
OF 2007

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing by request the Administration's National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and implement a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

I commend Secretary Carlos Gutierrez for his leadership, and initiating the debate on aquaculture. While I do not agree with many provisions in this legislation, I think it is important for Congress to take a serious look at marine aquaculture and see if it is possible to establish a program that makes economic and environmental sense.

At the moment, there are no aquaculture projects in U.S. Federal waters, but there are successful farming operations onshore. In my state, West Virginians are successfully raising arctic char, a fish tasting similar to salmon.

The Department of Commerce believes aquaculture has the potential to meet our growing demand for seafood. The United States imports more than 80 percent of its seafood, and half of our imports are fish farmed. With a successful aquaculture program in place, the United States could reduce its \$8 billion trade deficit in seafood, according to the recent report from the Marine Aquaculture Task Force. Additionally, aquaculture could help alleviate the overfishing and exploitation of fisheries world wide.

The aquaculture industry claims the United States is technologically and economically ready to venture into offshore waters to farm fish. Done responsibly, with strict environmental standards, offshore aquaculture has the potential to address the growing demand for seafood, provide jobs, relieve pressure on some of our wild fish stocks, and perhaps even help to replenish some depleted fish stocks.

Again, I commend Secretary Gutierrez for his leadership and look forward to working with him to ensure that offshore aquaculture production occurs in a manner that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

As we have heard from both national ocean commissions, the oceans are in trouble. We must be very careful that offshore aquaculture

does not further jeopardize the health of our oceans in any way.

IN TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. JESSE WILLIAMS OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to observe the death of Staff Sergeant Jesse Williams of Santa Rosa, California. Jesse was a fine man and a fine soldier, and he leaves behind a loving family bowed but not broken by the loss of a father, husband, and son.

Sgt. Williams was serving his second tour with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at the time of his death during combat operations in Baqubah, in eastern Iraq.

Before and during his tours in Iraq, Sgt. Williams had served in the army with distinction, earning numerous accolades and awards. During his first tour in Iraq from 2003–2004 he earned a Purple Heart after being injured in an explosive attack. Then, just three weeks before his death, Sgt. Williams proved his uncommon character and valor when he jumped in to rescue two fellow soldiers who were trapped in a flaming vehicle ignited by an insurgent attack. For his heroism he is currently being considered for a Bronze Star.

Sgt. Williams was known to friends and family for his sense of humor and love of life. As a younger man, he found discipline and his calling when he joined the Boy Scouts. In less than 2 years he had completed all the requirements to become an Eagle Scout, indicating the highest level of achievement. During a leave from the Army, he returned to Santa Rosa and spoke to the City Council in favor of establishing a memorial for Sonoma County's Iraq veterans. At the time, he made a strong impression with his words; now his name will be one of those featured on the memorial.

Sgt. Williams leaves behind his wife Sonya, and an 11-month old daughter Amaya. Amaya was 5 weeks old when Sgt. Williams was deployed to Iraq for his second tour of duty. His father, Herb Williams, resides in Santa Rosa as well.

On Monday the community of Santa Rosa paused to acknowledge their fallen soldier as hundreds of policemen, firefighters and members of the community took to bridges and overpasses with signs and flags while his casket was brought back into the city. Yesterday, almost one thousand people gathered for a memorial service paying tribute to his life.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in rising to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Jesse Williams, who gave his life for his country. I know that his family is immensely proud of his service, and we are all in his debt.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. The passing of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is being felt by all who knew her, and all who were touched by her career in public service. I want to extend my condolences to her family, friends and constituents in California's 37th District for their great loss.

In fact, we all have lost something in the Chairwoman's passing. For me, I lost a colleague, but my wife Annette and I also have lost a neighbor and friend.

Much has been said in these past days about what she meant to California and to the Congress as a whole. When she won her first election to the City Council of Carson, California, she committed herself to more than two decades of public service. As the first African-American woman to chair a committee here in the House, she was a trailblazer. And as the so-called "Mayor of Capitol Hill" she was charged with ensuring the smooth operation of the people's House, while overseeing the biggest expansion of the Capitol complex as the Capitol Visitors Center nears completion.

Madam Speaker, many of us are so busy that we don't have time to really get to know one another. Seeing JUANITA every morning on my way to the office was an extraordinary way to start off my day, and in the evening we would compare notes on our way home. I will truly miss seeing her and am heart broken by her untimely passing.

Congress has lost a singularly able and warm person whose contributions to the greater good for her District, the people of California, the country as a whole, and African-American women will live on. Our prayers are with her family as we all mourn the passing of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING ROGER DENNIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Dennis who is retiring as Provost of Rutgers University. Roger has been a member of the Camden Campus community in Camden, New Jersey for almost a quarter of a century, and I consider him a dear friend.

Roger has greatly contributed to the reputation of excellence at Rutgers University. Serving as Provost since 1997, he fostered exciting developments in the City of Camden and the Southern New Jersey region. Among these initiatives are the Rutgers-Camden Technology Campus, the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, and the first doctoral program in children's studies to be of-

fered on the Camden Campus. He has also spearheaded several ongoing improvements to the existing campus.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Roger Dennis for his outstanding years of service to Rutgers University and the City of Camden. Roger has been a trusted friend and I thank him for his support and advice over the years. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization dedicated to improving volunteer service, United Way of Bucks County. The selfless work of the volunteers of United Way has made us a stronger community in countless ways.

For more than 50 years, United Way has been devoted to improving the community at large through the use of social services and volunteer projects. Upon its founding in 1952, it was known as "The Bucks County United Services Foundation." Since then, it has exceeded its own expectations, surpassing its own fundraising goals and touching more lives than was originally thought possible.

Today, United Way of Bucks County strives to spread its impact to the greatest number of people. Funding is distributed to three fundamental categories: ages and life stages, promoting self-sufficiency, and building a healthy community. The services of the organization extend to one in three Bucks County residents, and have forever changed the lives of many.

Madam Speaker, simply put, the work done by United Way of Bucks County touches the lives of thousands of families. The generosity of its members reminds us of the basic giving spirit of Americans. The inner strength and compassion of humanity is exemplified in these outstanding volunteers.

The work of United Way of Bucks County has provided scholarships for daycare and camps, dignity for the elderly, stability and friendship for those who need it most and employment and training for the developmentally disabled. Most importantly, however, they have offered hope and extended a hand to those who most need help.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate, thank and honor United Way of Bucks County for years of philanthropic contributions to society and for making our community stronger.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Today, April 24th, is the 92nd anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, 'Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan'—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the outstanding volunteers in my district who dedicate their time to serving women and their unborn children. Together, Choices Medical Clinic and the Pregnancy Crisis Center have over 80 volunteers that serve as support to women and families in the community.

It is an honor to recognize their work and dedication to offering women healthy choices for themselves and their unborn children. Dr. Scott Stringfield, Volunteer Medical Director, Dr. Cindy Nash, Volunteer Physician, and Dr. Lydia Dennis, Volunteer Physician, as well as over 40 others, provide support as volunteers at Choices Medical Clinic in Wichita, Kansas. Since its opening in December of 1999, Choices Medical Clinic has served 6,075 women and saved 1,500 babies from abortion.

Without these caring individuals, Choices would not be able to serve the number of women they do and prevent the loss of life in the same capacity.

Choices are able to offer women a snapshot of their child through their 4-D sonogram machine. They also inform women about the harmful effects of abortions. Women deserve to know the truth about abortion—the physical and mental consequences of this violent procedure, and Choices allows them this information so they can make the healthiest choice for themselves and their baby.

The Pregnancy Crisis Center has served over 40,000 mothers and families since it opened in 1985. The volunteer services they provide are of no cost to the patients and clients. In 2006 alone, 6,000 services were provided to young women aged 15–25 years of age.

The Pregnancy Crisis Center has been blessed over the years with wonderful, caring volunteers. Currently, they have 40 volunteers, including three special ladies who have been long serving volunteers, Mary Power, Kay Esau and Shirley Moler. All three serve as Client Advocates, who meet with young ladies, hear their stories, and then match them with assistance.

All of the volunteers at Choices Medical Clinic and the Pregnancy Crisis Center deserve to be recognized throughout the year for their excellence in giving back to the community. Today, during National Volunteer Week, I thank you all for caring for others and bringing hope and restoration to families in need.

May you know the impact you are having on the well-being of women and the unborn and may you never tire of this excellent work.

God Bless You.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HOGAN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Southeast Missouri State University baseball coach Mark Hogan. Coach Hogan recently eclipsed the all-time career wins record at Southeast Missouri State University. Under Coach Hogan's leadership, Southeast Missouri State University has become one of the premier teams in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Coach Hogan is no stranger to success. He has excelled as a player and a coach at Southeast Missouri State. He was a player on the 1976 team that finished third in the nation at the NCAA Division II College World Series. The squad became the first baseball team inducted into the Southeast Missouri State University Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the 2006 induction class.

Southeast Missouri State is fortunate to have a great coach and first class citizen leading their team on and off the field. As a coach, he has compiled 751 career victories while winning Coach of the Year honors on more than one occasion. Coach Hogan is a role model to players, coaches and fans. He is a reminder that accomplishing our goals requires planning, hard work and plenty of sacrifice.

Today I join with Coach Hogan's family, his friends, his colleagues at Southeast Missouri State, the young men who have played on his teams, and the proud fans of the Eighth Congressional District to congratulate Coach

Hogan on the achievement of this career milestone. We are proud of the success of Southeast Missouri State University's baseball team and most proud of Coach Hogan.

HONORING MATTIE COOPER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize a Mississippian who has been a true champion for Head Start for over 40 years. This Friday, on April 27, 2007, the Winston County Complex Mississippi Action for Progress will celebrate the "Mattie Cooper's Day." I join them in expressing my appreciation to Mattie for her love of Head Start. Her colleagues know her as a steadfast advocate with unwavering support for both the mission and the children of Head Start.

Mattie Cooper knows Head Start. She started out as a teacher's assistant and progressed through the program. Currently she serves as the County Administrator for the Winston County Complex Mississippi Action for Progress, in Louisville, Mississippi. Her work is a calling, a mission, and she strives every day to make a difference in the lives of young Mississippians.

Mattie Cooper started her career with the Wesley Education Association (WEA) in 1966. Recognizing her talents, they encouraged her to attend the Tuskegee Institute to obtain teacher certification. Following 5 years at Tuskegee, WEA asked her to participate in classes, workshops, seminars and conferences at various Mississippi universities to obtain her Social Worker's license. She earned her certification and WEA promoted her to Social Services Director. They also named her the Parent Involvement/Volunteer Coordinator. She continued her success in motivating the parents and community with phenomenal results.

When Wesley Education Association joined the Mississippi Action for Progress (MAP), this new and stronger Head Start program promoted Mattie Cooper to Center Administrator. Quickly recognizing her talents and the potential of the Winston County Complex, MAP's executive director promoted Mattie to the highest position for the county: County Administrator.

Mattie Cooper graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1992 and number one in her class with an associate's degree from Mary Holmes College. In 1962, she was valedictorian of her high school. In addition to Head Start, she serves her community and church. She maintains the integrity of elections and confidence of voters in our democratic system as a Winston County Election Commissioner. And for almost 40 years, she has served as secretary for the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

Mattie's dedication to service begins at home. For almost 45 years, she has been a supportive wife to William Cooper. Together, they have a daughter Sharon Cooper Johnson who, with her husband Robert Johnson, Jr., is rearing a new generation of this family in Robert (Tré) Johnson, III.

I have known Mattie Cooper for over a decade and she makes her dedication to Head

Start and her community evident and a priority in all her work. I hope Congress joins me in honoring this Mississippi servant-leader and commending her work at enhancing her community, supporting her church, training the children of Winston County, and nurturing her family. She is a tremendous pillar of Louisville and deserves the honor given her this Friday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, April 23, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 179, H.R. 1434, and H.R. 1402 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote. Had I been present for rollcall No. 245 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 179, expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present for rollcall No. 246 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1434, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the Rachel Carson Post Office Building, I would have voted "aye."; had I been present for rollcall No. 247 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1402, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, last Friday, I was unavoidably absent during rollcalls 236 through 244. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 236, the Sessions Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 237, the Garrett Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 238, the Campbell Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 239, the McHenry Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 240, the Price Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 241, the Putnam Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 242, the Price Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 243, the motion to recommit H.R. 1257 with instructions. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 244, final passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARJORIE
"PEGGY" KATHLEEN HELLER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the late Marjorie Kathleen Heller. Known to all as "Peggy," she was a wonderful friend, a remarkable teacher, an outstanding mother, and an extraordinary member of our community in Atwater, California. At the age of 91, Peggy Heller passed away on Friday, April 20, 2007.

This occasion is particularly personal to me because Peggy Heller was my reading teacher in the third grade. She taught me to read in a small silver trailer on the playground of Elmer Wood Elementary School in Atwater. She was an inspiring woman, a great friend, and I never knew her to have a bad day. Peggy's love for children was evident in her words, her generosity, and her entire persona. She was a pillar of the community, an amazing educator and a dear friend who will be missed by everyone in our community.

Peggy Heller was born in Oakland, California, on June 15, 1915, to Walter and Mac Gernreich. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1935 at the age of 19 and began teaching a year later at South Fork Union High School in Miranda, California. In 1938, she married Jim Heller and they moved to Atwater, California.

Peggy devoted her life to the field of education and to her community. During the early years of her sons' lives, she worked as a substitute teacher at Livingston High School. She later began her work as a full-time teacher in Atwater in 1943. While working as a third grade teacher, the superintendent, Mr. Tom Olaeta, suggested she pursue her interests in reading instruction. She became Merced County's first reading specialist in 1955 and later earned her reading teacher's credentials in 1968.

Many of the instructional approaches Peggy used as a teacher have now been implemented in schools across the Central Valley. She loved and respected children and strived to instill a positive feeling of self worth in each of them. She was also a mentor-teacher long before the idea was popular and she always assisted those who came to her for advice. She devoted countless hours to tutoring students and assisting teachers before, after school and on the weekends. She effortlessly helped diagnose and remediate students' reading troubles. She is an inspiration to many teachers, not only in Merced County, but to the State of California. Peggy believed each member of the school staff played a vital role in the education of youngsters. Not only did Peggy work hard in her classroom, she graciously hosted many special occasions for teachers such as Christmas get-togethers and retirement teas. Even though Peggy was the resident expert on reading instruction, her inquisitive nature led her to constantly read journals and books about education. She attended classes and seminars often at her own expense and she always shared her knowledge with others.

In 1981, after 45 years of teaching, Peggy retired, briefly. She was called upon to teach

English as a second language, which she did with much success. In 1987, Peggy was appointed supervisor for Chapman College.

Aside from the fact that Peggy was an outstanding professional educator, she and her husband were great humanitarians. Throughout the years she served our community in a variety of capacities. She was responsible for forming the Atwater Recreation Commission and served as its first chairwoman. During her tenure as chairwoman, the commission built Ralston Park and Heller Park. She served on the County Recreation Commission, too. Both Peggy's and Jim's interest in Atwater's youth was shown by their effort to organize fundraisers for a new public swimming pool, the Atwater Plunge. They even housed Red Cross swimming instructors for many summers. She and her friends started a club for teens and taught dancing on Friday nights. The Hellers also helped Atwater develop good relations with Castle Air Force Base and they helped find housing for and entertained military personnel. Peggy was an active participant in the Girl Scouts of America, Parent Teachers Associations, International Reading Association, American Association of University Women, Retired Teachers, Atwater Women's Club, Merced County Historical Society and Bloss Historical Society.

Peggy received many awards for her service to the community and her work as an educator. The National Education Association named Peggy "Outstanding Teacher at the Intermediate Level" in central California in March of 1966 and presented her with the Golden Apple, of which she earned several. She received Atwater's "Mother of the Year" award and was named "Woman of Distinction" in 1991 by Soroptomist. In 1995, she was given the ultimate honor of dedicating a new school in her name, the Peggy Heller Elementary School in Atwater. Later that year she received recognition from the State legislature during Women's History Month for her work with Project Cherish in Atwater. In 1999, as a member of the California State Assembly, I named Peggy "Woman of the Year" for the 26th District.

Peggy Heller was preceded in death by her grandson Brian Boru in 1983 and her husband Jim in 1985. Today, she is survived by her son Jim and his wife Barbara, and her son Brian and his wife Dee. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Jim III and his wife Kathy, Randall and his wife Diana, Christopher and his wife Amy, Tamera and her husband Mark Johnson, and Kandace and her husband Ron Osborn. Also surviving are her 12 great-grandchildren Spencer, James IV, Randall, Nicole, Joshua and Lindsay Heller, Sophia Heller, Samantha, Mason and Tyler Johnson, and Jared and Courtney Osborn. Lastly, Peggy is survived by her caregivers Jeffrey Lawton, Mary McMurry and Jackie Benner.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to join the community of Atwater in recognizing Marjorie "Peggy" Kathleen Heller. Our community benefits greatly from the example she set throughout her lifetime of service as an educator who dedicated her life to her community and her family.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, today marks a date that is familiar to most Americans: April 17th is the deadline for filing taxes. Like most Americans, I too can now breathe a sigh of relief because my tax return has been mailed to the Internal Revenue Service, IRS.

This year we were fortunate enough to have more time to file our taxes due to the normal tax day falling on the weekend and the Emancipation Day Holiday in the District of Columbia on Tuesday. While many filers will benefit from this extra time, millions of Americans will still ask for extensions to file due to their inability to understand the complicated tax regulations.

I am committed to a tax system that is fair to all Americans and to a system that is "taxpayer friendly." This is why I support efforts to simplify the tax code by closing loopholes, which will reduce the compliance burden. By simplifying our current code, we can increase compliance, and ensure our long-term fiscal stability. It is our duty to protect taxpayers and to provide a "user-friendly" government.

For this reason, I support H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007. This Act requires the IRS to notify taxpayers of incidences of identity theft; prevents the wrongful use of one's name; permits the IRS to withhold information from the companies offering refund anticipation loans that are considered predatory; and gives taxpayers more time to collect money that was wrongfully held by the IRS. This legislation would help to protect taxpayers from unlawful acts that at times can be hard to detect.

Each year millions of families expect to receive money back from the government. However, they deserve to be receiving more; America's families and workers need tax relief. It should be a priority for Congress to assist families with the cost of childcare and long-term health care, eliminate the marriage penalty, help small businesses, and help Americans save for higher education and retirement. We need to develop a refundable tax credit for workers who earn reasonably low incomes. This is very important to helping the American people.

As a member of Congress it is our duty to ensure that taxpayers are being treated fairly and equally within our tax system. As the 110th Congress moves forward, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that this goal is achieved.

That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007. I want to thank Congressman RANGEL and Congressman LEWIS for introducing this vitally important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ST. CHARLES HOS-
PITAL**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a major anniversary and an irreplaceable institution in New York's First Congressional District, St. Charles Hospital.

Established in 1907 by four sisters with a mission to provide compassionate care for those in need, St. Charles Hospital has evolved into a state of the art community hospital serving tens of thousands of patients. The hospital has established itself as a nationally recognized center for rehabilitation, providing specialized rehabilitation services for pediatric patients, stroke victims, and a variety of other debilitating diseases.

This year, St. Charles Hospital celebrates its 100th anniversary. After a century of dedicated service to the community and millions served, the hospital has remained loyal to its founding mission of compassionate care for the underserved.

Madam Speaker, there is an Arabic proverb that says: "He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything." On behalf of the residents of New York's First District, I thank St. Charles Hospital for providing health and hope to all of us. I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and I hope they continue to improve the lives of Long Island's residents for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
KEVIN J. DAVIS, UNITED STATES
NAVY**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Lieutenant Commander Kevin Davis, United States Navy. LCDR Davis passed away over the weekend in service to our Nation in Beaufort, South Carolina. He was flying Blue Angel Number 6, known as the "opposing solo" position.

A qualified F-14 and F/A-18 pilot, a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom with more than 2,500 flight hours and 200 carrier arrested landings, LCDR Davis joined the Blue Angels in 2005 and was well-liked and respected by the entire Blue Angels team. He joined a long line of distinguished Navy and Marine Corps Aviators with his selection to the elite performing squad. His dedication to the Navy during his operational tours and his time with the Blue Angels is something I hope all naval aviators look to as a fine example and a goal to pursue.

Formed in 1946, the Blue Angels have awed and inspired hundreds of millions of Americans and certainly led young men and women into the naval service. Since the creation of the team, 26 of our brave Blue Angels have given their lives. While we mourn all of

these losses, I am reminded of how selfless the service is from the members of our military and am confident Kevin was no exception.

I am privileged to serve the people of the First District of Florida and boast to my colleagues that I represent the home of the Blue Angels. This is not lip service. My constituents and I take justifiable pride in knowing we are friends and neighbors with people who represent so much of what is good with our country. I have met many of the "Blues" and unfortunately, I did not get the chance to meet Kevin. I know if I had, he would have impressed me, and I would have been better having known him.

In this time of deep sadness in Pensacola and on our beloved Naval Air Station, Vicki and I will keep LCDR Davis, his family, and our military in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present during consideration of H.R. 1275, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act. I was not present for rollcall votes 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243 and 244. Had I been present, on rollcall 236 I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall 237 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall 238 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall 239 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall 240 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall 241 I would have "nay"; on rollcall 242 I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall 243 I would have voted "yea" and on rollcall 244 I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO EARTH DAY AND
ARBOR DAY**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, earlier this week, our Nation joined together to celebrate Earth Day and this Friday people around the world will celebrate Arbor Day, which as you may know originated in my home state of Nebraska.

This is an opportunity for us to take a look at the impact we each have on our environment.

I represent Nebraska's Third Congressional District, where agriculture is a way of life. I'm proud to say that farmers and ranchers were our country's first environmentalists, maintaining and improving the soil and natural resources to pass on to future generations.

Just as businesses make every effort to improve their services and products, the stewards of the land make use of modern technology and age-old techniques to protect their land and their stock.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which we understand the world around us as never before. We have access to technology to both protect the environment and to encourage innovation. We have the opportunity to engage

in meaningful dialogue on how to confront our changing climate and other environmental concerns without hamstringing the agriculture industry.

This week, as we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, let us appreciate the beauty of nature and renew our commitment to protect the environment for generations to come.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in expressing my sorrow over the passing of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, the representative of California's 37th Congressional District. My thoughts and prayers go out to her constituents, her friends, and her family.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to get to know JUANITA during the 109th Congress when we both served as members of the Committee on House Administration. While some might view oversight of election law and the day-to-day functions of the House as relatively uninteresting, I know that I do not, and I know that JUANITA, who served as ranking member at the time, did not think them trivial either.

Whatever topic was before the committee, JUANITA was dedicated to assuring that things were done fairly, properly, and effectively. She was vigorous in guaranteeing the integrity of the Federal elections process and was committed to ensuring that every eligible voter had free and unfettered access to the voting booth. Likewise, in her oversight of managing the House, she wanted to ensure that everyone on Capitol Hill had a safe and secure place to work or visit, while preserving the grandeur of the Capitol and the surrounding buildings.

This tenacity was something she demonstrated throughout her life, not just during the decade she spent in Congress. After raising her five children, she continued her own education, earning a bachelor's degree at the age of 40. She followed that up with a master's degree in educational administration. She was no stranger to hard work, and she was not afraid to take on a challenge.

One of JUANITA's most notable accomplishments occurred earlier this year. In January, she became the first African-American woman to chair a committee in the House of Representatives. It was something that made many Members of the House very proud, and it was a tremendous accomplishment for a woman whose life was full of monumental achievements.

I think it speaks volumes of JUANITA's dedication that she was here voting in this House, representing her constituents, until less than a month before cancer took her life. In fact, almost none of her colleagues were aware of her illness and how serious it had become until the week before she passed away. And through it all, she held a warm spirit and a kind smile.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in sorrow for JUANITA's passing, and I again express my condolences to JUANITA's family, friends, and constituents.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW ALBERT ESPARZA, IRVING POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Officer Andrew Albert Esparza and in honor of his life dedicated to service and public safety.

Andrew passed away on April 13, 2007 in a fatal car accident while on his way to assist another officer. After graduating from the University of Texas in Arlington with degrees in business marketing and Spanish, Andrew followed in his brother's footsteps by joining the Irving Police Department in 2005. He was recently selected to join the SWAT team on a part-time basis and always made himself available as a Spanish translator. Though he was only with the Irving Police Department for 2 years, Andrew demonstrated great promise with expertise, maturity, and professionalism beyond his years of experience.

He is survived by his parents, Rafael and Christina of Fort Worth, TX; two brothers, Rafael Esparza, Jr. and wife, Jennifer of Irving, TX; Felix Esparza and wife, Haylee of Burleson, TX; sister, Zoe Esparza of Burleson, TX; grandparents, Lydia Garcia of Fort Worth, TX; Lazaro and Olivia Cantu of Fort Worth, TX; and nieces and nephews, Saeya, Sloan, Slade, and Rylee Esparza.

He will be remembered as a compassionate officer, a dedicated family man, and a devout Christian. May God bless all those he loved, and may I convey to them my sincerest condolences and the gratitude of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. SIMS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John (Jack) Sims on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs, after more than 35 years of dedicated service. Jack will be greatly missed, and I join his many friends, co-workers and the veterans he served in wishing him the best of luck in the next phase of his life.

Jack's service to our country began in 1963, when he joined the United States Army. He began his VA career at the Martinez, California VA Medical Center in 1971 as an accountant trainee. Jack has held many positions in the VA across the country including Chief of Fiscal Service at VA Medical Centers in Washington, Illinois and California; Associate Center Director at VA Medical Centers in Oregon and New York; and Health System Administrator with Veterans Health Services and Research Administration in Albany, New York.

For the past 17 years, Jack has served as the Director of the Togus VA Medical Center. Under his leadership, the number of Maine veterans receiving care at Togus has increased from 13,000 to 33,000. Jack has also supervised the creation, relocation and renovations of six community-based outpatient clinics and two off-site mental health clinics to care for Maine's rural veteran population.

As Director, Jack and his dedicated staff of more than 1,000 VA employees have helped transform the Togus VA Medical Center into one of the best medical centers in the VA system.

Jack will be missed for his dedication and for his compassion by the veterans of Maine. I am pleased to join his colleagues, his family, and his friends in congratulating Jack on this milestone. I wish him a rewarding and enjoyable retirement.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, April 24th, marks the 92nd anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported most Armenians from Turkish Armenia, ordering that they resettle in what is now Syria. Many deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the "killing fields" of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Kosovo, and the unspeakable horrors in Darfur, Sudan to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contribution of the

Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

Adolf Hitler, the architect of the Nazi Holocaust, once remarked "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KEVIN BOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Reverend Dr. Kevin Bond. Beginning at age 11, Dr. Bond began to gravitate toward the church. He studied the bible under Bishop Carl E. Williams, Sr. for whom he became an Associate Minister after orating his first sermon at the age of 18.

Dr. Bond enhanced his biblical knowledge by receiving a collegiate education. He earned High Honors at the Community Bible and Tabernacle Bible Institute and the New York School of the Bible. He also received a Masters of Divinity from the New York Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH.

Dr. Bond is one of 12 delegates to join a significant work with the UJA Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York for their Community Leaders' Mission in 2004.

Dr. Bond always felt a need to help others in his community. His unfettered desire to do so was demonstrated when he established his own pastorship of the Citadel of Praise and Worship Church. He founded the Citadel's first bible study class in order to help enlighten fellow members of his community by teaching them the stories of the bible. On January 5, 1997, the Citadel held its first Sunday morning worship service in Brooklyn, NY, with 35 people attendance at Dr. Bond's first-ever service.

His efforts to help others did not stop at the Citadel. Dr. Bond preached as he traveled across the country, with a focus on helping those in urban communities. To this day, Dr. Bond continues to assist those living in an urban setting with early child care learning programs, youth mentoring, and food and counseling programs for the homeless. Dr. Bond also educates young people in the secular realm, by serving as an educator with the New York State Board of Education to the academic and social development of the urban community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Kevin Bond's selfless education and community betterment efforts that have improved the lives of countless individuals.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Kevin Bond.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, each year on April 24, Armenian communities around the world gather in somber commemoration of the genocide that began in 1915. Sadly, after 92 years, their grief is only compounded by those who aggressively deny or raise doubt about this troubling chapter of history.

This should be a day reserved for honoring the memory of those who were killed and paying tribute to the strength of those who survived. It should be a time to reflect on the personal narratives of those who were exiled, the historical evidence of villages and communities that were destroyed, and diplomatic cables from U.S. officials that described the atrocities. It should be an opportunity to resolve ourselves to fight crimes against humanity in all forms and all places. Instead, year after year, April 24 unleashes a battle of semantics.

Those who acknowledge what happened in Armenia as a "tragedy," a "catastrophe," or a "massacre" are correct. But nothing other than the term "genocide" can wholly characterize the systematic deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians and the deliberate annihilation of 1.5 million men, women and children. Anything short of that is unfair to those who perished and unhelpful to our plight against future acts of genocide.

SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1230, the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2007. I would also like to thank the Governor of Puerto Rico, Anibal Acevedo Vilá, for his leadership in developing the concepts and ideals embodied by this legislation. H.R. 1230 allows for the voice of the Puerto Rican people to be heard through a democratic and unbiased political process. This bill affords the people of Puerto Rico one of the most fundamental human rights, self-determination.

Affording the people the opportunity to decide their own future and government is fundamental to the history of the United States. As representatives of American Government, we are responsible to uphold the ideals and vir-

tues of democracy, freedom, and choice. As such, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are entitled to a democratic process of self-determination defined by the well considered decision of the Puerto Rican people.

The process outlined by H.R. 1230 respects the right of the people of Puerto Rico to elect delegates to a constitutional convention that will draft and submit a proposal outlining the desired self-determination option. This proposal would then be approved by the people and then sent on for congressional approval. H.R. 1230 does not bias the decision of the people by imposing unsupported definitions and skewing the debate in the direction of any option; nor does it attempt to exclude others. This bill recognizes the right of the people of Puerto Rico to hold open and democratic debate on the topic of political status and affiliation with the United States. Congress should offer their input and response only after the Puerto Rican people have reached their own consensus on a self-determination proposal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in this House not support any process that is imposed on Puerto Rico and its people by the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1230 and provide the Puerto Rican people the path to decide their future. The Commonwealth deserves, and is entitled to, true self-determination.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNUAL KEEP SEAGOVILLE BEAUTIFUL CITY CLEAN UP DAY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the many students, civic organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, service organizations, families and individuals who recently volunteered to "Keep Seagoville Beautiful." On April 14, 2007, the City of Seagoville and the Keep Seagoville Beautiful Commission sponsored the first annual Keep Seagoville Beautiful city-wide clean up. On that Saturday morning, over 150 dedicated citizens of Seagoville met at City Park to clean up their community. By the end of the day, those hard working volunteers had persevered through wind, rain, and cold to collect over 12 truckloads full of trash.

This annual event strives to "create an environment that continuously encourages the citizens to improve their quality of life and sense of pride in their community." It is the hard work of citizens like these, who take pride in their city, that will preserve our communities for future generations.

It is for these reasons that I have the distinct pleasure to honor the City of Seagoville, the Keep Seagoville Beautiful Commission, and the many dedicated volunteers who participated in this event. I am honored to represent them in the United States House of Representatives.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember a pioneering woman, a fearless advocate for justice and equality, and a remarkable trailblazer who was dedicated to improving the lives of others. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD embodied all that members of Congress strive to be: she was a masterful navigator of Washington politics; she was a tireless champion for her constituents in Southern California; she was a focused and determined activist for the less fortunate all over the world. She was also a dear friend and valued colleague to those of us in Congress, and to so many others who were fortunate enough to know her on both a personal and professional level.

As the first African-American woman ever to wield the gavel of a full Congressional committee, JUANITA was proof of the milestones that can be achieved through dedication, intelligence, and political acumen. Her steady rise through the hierarchy of California politics—from a seat on the Carson City Council to a position in the California State Assembly, and finally to the Halls of Congress—instilled in her an unshakeable allegiance to the people who repeatedly elected her.

JUANITA's intense loyalty to her constituents was reflected in their own well-placed faith that she would represent them in a principled and thoughtful manner. She never let them down; indeed, her record as a public figure was characterized by an attention to the needs of her constituents, by a single-minded focus on achieving equality, and by adherence to the principle that democratic government should help those most in need.

Everything JUANITA did was colored by her passionate quest for equality. She used this intensity to her advantage, emerging as an effective and authoritative advocate for women's rights at home and abroad. Never afraid to tackle controversial issues or to use her position as a bullhorn for reform, JUANITA's energy and enthusiasm for advancing the cause of women's rights propelled her into a leadership role from her earliest days in Washington.

Innovative ideas on this score seemed to emanate from JUANITA. She convened a first-of-its-kind meeting between women members of Congress and female Supreme Court justices to discuss women's issues. She carried the Families First Agenda to more than thirty states for the first time. She served as the first Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Through it all, JUANITA was masterful at marshaling well-known and influential individuals to her cause without ever losing sight of her goal, which was to help create a society committed to justice, fairness, and equality.

It is fitting that JUANITA was such an outspoken and effective advocate for women's rights, for perhaps her greatest strength lay in

her identity as a woman. She demonstrated for all of us—men and women alike—that being a member of Congress, a mother, and a grandmother at the same time was not merely a challenge. For JUANITA, it was a blessing to be embraced and cherished. As a grandmother myself, I looked to her as a role model for how to integrate the unique challenges of having a family with the equally exciting responsibilities that come from serving in Congress. Two of the most rewarding pleasures in life are raising a family and working for the public, and JUANITA's life is solid proof that a dedicated and forthright individual can accomplish both with poise, grace, and dignity.

I extend my deepest condolences to Congresswoman MILLENDER-McDONALD's family. While this week my fellow Members and I lost a trusted colleague, confidant, and friend, their loss resonates more deeply than we can know. Nonetheless, I know that I speak for all of the Congress when I say that JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD was someone we admired on a personal and professional level, someone whose absence will leave a void within us, and someone whose legacy of principled and determined leadership will not be forgotten.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Today marks the anniversary of the deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. On April 24th, the Ottoman government arrested an estimated 250 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders, which were taken to the interior of Turkey and murdered. From 1915–1923, 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 500,000 were forced from their homeland into exile.

In spite of overwhelming evidence, particularly American diplomatic records from the time, some continue to deny the occurrence of this brutal tragedy in human history. As a member of Congress, I represent a significant population of Armenian survivors who have proudly preserved their culture, traditions, and religion and have told the horrors of the genocide to an often indifferent world.

We must continue to ensure future generations know and understand the history of the Armenian Genocide in order to learn from the mistakes of the past and prevent future atrocities. For that reason, I have again cosponsored a resolution, H. Res. 106, that calls upon the president to make recognition of the Armenian Genocide an official position of United States foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to fully recognize the Armenian Genocide in order to right the historical record. By doing so we pay tribute to the memory of all the individuals who suffered, their family members that remain, and vow to never forget their sacrifices.

PEPFAR: AN ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing in anticipation of the reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. I concur on the importance of examining the extraordinary successes of this program, as well as the means by which we can ensure that it continues to meet the needs of those impacted by the pandemic.

In my travels abroad, particularly in Africa and Vietnam, I have seen for myself how the intervention has transformed lives and infused hope in individuals, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS. One experience that struck me, in particular, was in Uganda when I visited there last year. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. John Robert Ongole, who is 29 years old and the first person to benefit from the first treatment program funded by PEPFAR. I was told that when he first started receiving the anti-retroviral therapy, he looked like a walking skeleton. When I met him, he was healthy and energetic, leading an active life and caring for his family. I have recently learned that he has almost completed his bachelor's degree in teaching. He and countless others have expressed their profound gratitude to President Bush and the American people for giving them a new lease on life in the face of this devastating disease.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of PEPFAR here in Congress is the requirement that one-third of prevention funding be expended on abstinence and fidelity programs, known as the A and B aspects of the ABC (abstinence, be faithful and condoms) prevention model. Some have called for the removal of this requirement in favor of an evidence-based approach, free from legislative constraints, that takes into account the particular situation of the individual country. What these people fail to take into account is that the ABC model is evidence-based, and those countries with generalized epidemics that have experienced declines in prevalence have emphasized behaviors of abstinence, and fidelity in relationships between uninfected partners.

In a statement published in 2004 in the prestigious scientific journal, *The Lancet*, over 160 scientists and the President of Uganda noted that "when targeting young people, for those who have not started sexual activity, the first priority should be to encourage abstinence or delay of sexual onset, hence emphasizing risk avoidance as the best way to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections as well as unwanted pregnancies. After sexual debut, returning to abstinence or being mutually faithful with an uninfected partner are the most effective ways of avoiding infection."

In the past, even those considered "experts" on the ground have resisted implementing the ABC strategy with the proper emphasis on A and B, and so the spending requirement was necessary. I have met representatives of USAID who acknowledged that they were initially skeptical of the possibility of changing people's behavior as a key element

of HIV/AIDS prevention, but due to their experience of implementing the PEPFAR abstinence and fidelity programs they had become convinced of their efficacy.

I would strongly encourage my fellow Members to examine the growing evidence regarding the success of the ABC model in HIV/AIDS prevention. It is, fundamentally, a matter of life and death.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th century. More than 90 years ago, the Ottoman Empire organized a campaign to exterminate 1.5 million Armenians. The world watched as this horror unfolded before them, and did nothing.

As the first genocide of the 21st century—this time in Darfur—began to take shape, the world again hesitated, this time to debate for months the definition of genocide, as thousands died and thousands more were displaced. Today, 200,000 people have been killed in Darfur and 2.5 million driven from their homes. And so, I rise Mr. Speaker not only to acknowledge and remember the horrific events that befell the Armenian people at the dawn of the last century, but also to highlight the horrific events occurring one hundred years later in Darfur at the dawn of this century.

For the past few years, as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approached, I hoped that year would be the year a solution to the crisis would come. But, this year, instead of speaking of how the lessons of the Armenian Genocide helped unite the world around a solution for Darfur, I can only report of ongoing suffering and continued killings.

As the world pauses today to remember those who suffered and died during the Armenian Genocide, we need to ask ourselves if we have really absorbed the lessons of that tragedy—and, if we are really doing all that can be done to bring this century's genocide to an end.

ISLAND OF CYPRUS AND THE
ANNAN PLAN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring renewed attention to the continued situation on the island of Cyprus. On this date three years ago, the inhabitants of the island participated in a referendum put forward by

the United Nations under Secretary General Kofi Annan. The Annan Plan, as it is often referred to, foresaw a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation based on political equality. We recall that the Turkish Cypriots in the north of the island voted by an impressive majority in favor of the Annan Plan. Unfortunately, this support was not reciprocated by the Greek Cypriots and a comprehensive settlement was not, nor has been since, agreed to.

The Annan Plan was the product of intense negotiations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General between the Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots, Turkey and Greece. It was the first plan to date to be submitted for public approval. In addition, it struck a fair compromise between the two sides on the island and was supported by both the United States and the European Union. Had it passed, it would have brought about a resolution to the longstanding separation of the island and contributed to political stability in this region of the world. Following the referendum, the Greek Cypriot side, which rejected the Annan Plan, was granted entrance into the EU. However, the Turkish Cypriot side, which accepted the settlement plan, remained outside the EU.

Soon after the referendum, the former U.N. Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council, pointed out this injustice and stressed that the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots should be lifted given that they had voted for a settlement. In the same report, he called upon all states to eliminate the unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the people of Northern Cyprus and impeding development.

The Council of the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference all concurred in declaring the need to put right this injustice.

Although it has been three years since the international community made commitments towards this end, and despite the conviction that reducing the inequalities between the economies of the two sides would facilitate the reunification of the island, the necessary steps have not been taken regarding the removal or relaxation of the isolation. Admirably, the Turkish Cypriots have not wavered in their determination to engage in further efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem and they welcome the initiatives carried out under the mission of good offices of the U.N. Secretary General.

More than ever before, as supporters of a comprehensive settlement on the island, I strongly believe that the removal of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots—economic, social, and political—would be the most positive step in the quest for the resumption of political negotiations on the path to a settlement. The Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and political maturity. They rose to the occasion when the critical moment came three years ago in mutually deciding the future of Cyprus. Acknowledging and properly responding to their constructive behavior is not only the right message to all concerned, but is also a requisite of fairness and justice.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF HE
HONORABLE JUANITA
MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEM-
BER OF CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my close and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, whom I have worked with and known for many, many years. I am deeply saddened by the news of her untimely passing, and I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and constituents of this distinguished Member of Congress.

She came to Congress in 1996 and quickly moved up the ranks among her peers. Her commitment to excellence led her to achieve a series of political firsts, including, becoming the first African American woman to chair the Committee on House Administration, the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to hold the position of Chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees in her first term, and the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address. She spoke her mind and was not easily intimidated by political pressure, regardless of from where it came.

Furthermore, in the 110th Congress, in addition to her Chairmanship, she served on eight full and sub-committees. One issue that the Congresswoman and I worked on closely together was the protection of one's fundamental and Constitutional right to vote. Our combined efforts on voting irregularities in Ohio ultimately led to the introduction of HR 4141 in 2005, which would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

She believed that there are no more important responsibilities in the People's House of Representatives than ensuring that the ability to vote in free and fair elections is not compromised in any manner, which has not always been the case. She was a visionary, an advocate for justice for all Americans, and the embodiment of determination.

MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a role model and incredibly dedicated to the empowerment of woman and youth as the Founder and Executive Director of the League of African-American Women, and the Founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African-Americans between the ages of 18 and 35.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with a distinguished woman of strength, integrity, and dynamism. Not only will I miss her dearly, but she will also be missed by the many people that she has touched throughout her service in Congress.