

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FREDERICK COUNTY  
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY  
LAWRENCE AMBROGI

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorney Lawrence R. Ambrogi on the occasion of his retirement after nearly four decades of public service.

It has come to my attention that Larry will not be seeking re-election in November and I want to take this opportunity to recognize his decorated career. A graduate of American University Law and Randolph Macon College, Larry was appointed as the county commonwealth attorney in 1969 and elected in 1971. As the third longest serving attorney in the history of the Commonwealth, Larry is highly respected member of the law enforcement community and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work. Larry has dedicated his professional life to public service and will be sorely missed by Frederick County and the Shenandoah Valley community as a whole.

Larry is a man of high moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, family man, and loyal friend. I would be remiss today in didn't also recognize Larry's dedication to his wife, Carole, and how proud he is of their children, Lawrence and Elaine, and their many grandchildren. I suspect that as Larry prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. I ask that my colleagues in the House rise today and join with me in recognizing the outstanding career of Lawrence Ambrogi.

RECOGNIZING MATT PIERCE FOR  
HIS SELFLESS DECISION TO  
FOREGO HIS LAST FOOTBALL  
SEASON AT OLE MISS TO ENTER  
THE ARMY

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Matt Pierce, a young man from Mobile, Alabama, who has made the selfless decision to forego his final football season at Ole Miss in order to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

A former UMS-Wright football star, Matt was the MVP of the 2001 4A state championship game. As a child, he dreamed of playing football in the Southeastern Conference and, after walking on at Ole Miss and being redshirted his freshman year, Matt's dream came true. In just his sophomore year, he started in the game against the University of Alabama.

With his final football season just months away, Matt chose to forego his fifth season in order to join the Army and do "something important."

Madam Speaker, it is this type of story that should make us pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Matt Pierce. His actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his former teammates at UMS-Wright and Ole Miss, share the pride of a grateful Nation.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Matt Pierce and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy. We need more people like Matt Pierce in this world—a true inspiration to all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF ROBERT F. HORAN, JR.

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the retirement of Fairfax County chief prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. Having served 10 terms, he is the longest serving prosecutor in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia and one of the very best in America. His dedicated service to law enforcement in northern Virginia is without equal. I am sure the decision to step down after 40 years was extremely difficult given his dedication to public service and to the people of Fairfax County.

I have had the pleasure to call Bob my friend for many, many years. When Bob was first elected as the county's Commonwealth's attorney in 1967, he and his wife Monica made the decision to raise their family right here in northern Virginia, they have watched Fairfax County grow from a rural farm county into a bustling suburb and the most populous county in Virginia. Bob and Monica's three boys, Robert F. Horan III, Kevin, and Timothy all reside locally and are a testament to their father's fondness for the northern Virginia area.

Bob's accomplishments as chief prosecutor are legendary. He has tried and won several high profile cases including the 1993 sniper shooting at CIA headquarters as well as the Washington sniper case against Lee Boyd Malvo. Bob has received numerous awards and recognitions, and rightfully so. I have inserted for the RECORD a recent Washington Post article which details his unparalleled career.

Perhaps more important than all of his courtroom successes is the way that Bob conducts himself both inside and outside of the courtroom. Bob is a man of the highest moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, a family man, and loyal friend. Bob is a legend in the law enforcement and with Bob's retirement, an

era is truly coming to an end in Fairfax County. I suspect that as Bob prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, 3 children, and grandchildren, T.J., Maggie, and Jennifer. We wish him the best and thank him for his dedicated service to the people. I ask that my colleagues in the House join with me in recognizing the outstanding career of Robert F. Horan, Jr.

[From Washington Post, Apr. 15, 2007]

AFTER 40 YEARS PROSECUTING CRIMES,  
RETIREMENT IS SCARY PROSPECT

(By Tom Jackman)

It's hard to picture Robert F. Horan Jr. as a defense attorney. But there was a time, in the mid-1960s, when the man who would become Fairfax County's chief prosecutor for 40 years worked on the other side of the courtroom.

Then, in 1966, while he was representing a man charged with sexual assault, the Supreme Court ruled that suspects must be advised of their rights, a precursor to the Miranda case. Horan argued that his client's confession was illegal, a judge threw it out and the man ultimately was acquitted.

"Which kind of soured me on the system," Horan said. "For the police to have taken an honest statement from the guy, and it gets thrown out, that didn't sit well."

A year later, the chief judge of Fairfax asked him to be the commonwealth's attorney. And he has been ever since.

Last week, Horan (D) announced that he will not seek an 11th term. Horan said he will resign in late summer or early fall rather than serve out his term, clearing the way for his chief deputy, Raymond F. Morrogh (D), to run as the acting commonwealth's attorney in the November general election.

Horan agonized over his decision to step down when he would have been unopposed. He said his declining hearing has troubled him, particularly in whispered bench conferences, and he noted that he would be 75 at election time.

But still, even after he decided to retire, he was ambivalent about leaving a job he clearly loves. "I'm not totally happy with it, I concede that," he said. "My wife is happy with it."

His wife, Monica, also played a role in keeping the New Jersey native in Northern Virginia in the early 1960s, paving the way for him to become the longest-serving prosecutor in the state and an institution among prosecutors nationwide.

After Horan graduated from Georgetown's law school in 1961, he was faced with the decision of staying in the area or returning to New Jersey. But to obtain a law license in New Jersey, a six-month clerkship was required.

Horan and his wife had one child and a second on the way. "I couldn't afford to be a clerk for six months," he said. "So we stayed in Virginia and never regretted it."

Horan spent two years as a Fairfax assistant prosecutor and two years in private practice. He was appointed the county's top prosecutor in March 1967, when Ralph G. Louk stepped down. He faced opposition in 1967, 1971 and 1975 but not again until 1995. And not since.

In 1967, the county was still partly rural, with vast undeveloped stretches and some large cattle farms. "There were no stoplights

• 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.

in Seven Corners," he recalled of the now complicated intersection near Falls Church. Horan had five assistant prosecutors that year. Today, he has 22, still a low number compared with surrounding counties.

But remarkably, "the assistants' caseloads are roughly what they were when I had five," Horan said. As the county's population exploded from about 450,000 in the late 1960s to more than a million today, the crime rate has steadily fallen. Homicides now number between 12 and 20 annually, the same as in the 1970s. Burglaries and larcenies, which totaled 24,000 in 1980, are down to about 15,000 annually.

Horan has a couple of theories. One is that older, more marginal neighborhoods such as Blevinstown, just outside Fairfax City, where local feuds tended to erupt into violence, have been bulldozed and replaced by communities of higher incomes and education. Another is that ambulance service is faster and better equipped, as are the teams in local emergency rooms. "Many more people survive gunshots now," Horan said.

One thing that hasn't changed in Horan's four decades is how he runs his office. He keeps the number of prosecutors to a minimum. He doesn't share police reports, witness statements or witness lists with defense attorneys. And he's not afraid to make tough decisions.

"His office could use many more assistant prosecutors," said Robert C. Whitestone, an experienced Fairfax defense attorney. He said the low number of prosecutors sometimes keeps them too busy and pushes them into courtrooms unprepared. Loudoun County, with a population about one-fourth of Fairfax's, has 16 assistant prosecutors.

Horan said the state Compensation Board determines how many are allocated across the state and sets a starting salary of about \$43,000, which Fairfax supplements to about \$50,000. "Virginia does criminal prosecution on the cheap," Horan said.

He said that when he first took office, "it had become trendy to have your own investigators. I said I don't believe that's the way to do it," and he hasn't. Instead, he relies on Fairfax police.

The officers closely follow Horan's lead, guarding their information more tightly than virtually any other police department in the region, because Horan has insisted they not provide defense attorneys with any ammunition. Those who violate his instructions are prone to severe tongue-lashings.

Horan said the county police force has maintained high standards and excellent performance throughout his tenure. "The Washington Post always wants to criticize me because I've never charged an officer with murder," Horan said. "I'm proud of the fact they haven't been charged. It means they're doing their jobs."

In recent years, pickets stood outside the Fairfax courthouse to protest Horan's decision not to charge a Prince George's County officer with a fatal shooting, and the family of a slain Fairfax man denounced Horan's refusal to charge a Fairfax officer with his death. But it's nothing new to Horan.

He cited controversial cases dating to the early 1970s, when an officer fatally shot a man in a 7-Eleven in Herndon, sparking riots, and another when an officer killed a teenage burglar. In both, there were no charges, to loud complaints by some. "It's part of the job," he said with a shrug.

Another part of the job is successfully taking on a case when the county, or the world, is watching. No one has questioned his skill there, even defense attorneys.

"He's a brilliant prosecutor," Whitestone said. Said defense attorney Peter D. Greenspun: "My clients will be glad he's not around to prosecute them."

U.S. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft chose Horan to prosecute one of the first sniper cases, against Lee Boyd Malvo, and Horan brought home a capital murder conviction without any witnesses identifying the shooter, although the jury did not impose the death sentence. In 1997, he obtained a death sentence against Mir Aimal Kasi, who killed two people outside the CIA in 1993.

Horan said his most satisfying case was the prosecution of Caleb D. Hughes for abducting 5-year-old Melissa Brannen in 1989. Hughes was convicted of abduction with intent to defile; Melissa has not been found.

"That was a really tough case to try," Horan said. "It stayed with me for a lot of years."

Of those that have not been solved, the one that bothers him the most is the death of Gwen Ames, 17, who was found strangled near Lake Anne Plaza in Reston in 1972.

Horan noted some interesting changes in the courts over 40 years. The arrival of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court ruling requiring police to inform suspects of their rights, changed the tenor of pretrial complaints from police beatings to police failure to "Mirandize."

And the introduction of sentencing guidelines, giving defendants a better idea of how much jail time they might face, has reduced the amount of cases that go to trial to perhaps 10 percent, Horan said.

Horan reduced his own caseload from about 20 a year, mostly homicides that he often began working on the day they occurred, to three or four annually. In recent years, with the increase in guilty pleas, he had no trials.

But he clearly still loves the courtroom. He will handle the double-murder death penalty trial of Alfredo R. Prieto, set for late May.

He's leaving reluctantly. "My only fear is I've known guys who loved what they were doing," Horan said. "They hung it up and they were dead in a year."

He loves playing golf; he drives a Mercedes-Benz 240 sedan he won in a charity event in 2002 when he nailed a hole-in-one. But he doesn't think golf can fill his time, and "there's not a job in the world as interesting as this one."

"I haven't even given any thought to what's next," Horan said. "I'm sure I'll find something to do."

#### HONORING LINDA R. HALL

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Linda R. Hall, in celebration of her 20th anniversary with the Baltimore City College High School Choir.

Linda Hall, a native of Baltimore, MD, has taught music education in the Baltimore Public School System since 1976. She assumed the position of choral director at the Baltimore City College High School in Baltimore in 1987. She is the artistic director for the school's four choirs: the Mixed Chorus, the Concert Choir, the Singing/Swingin' Knights, and the Knights and Daze Show Choir.

Under Ms. Hall's direction, the City College choirs have delighted audiences throughout Europe: in Verona, Italy at the International Choral Music Days Festival, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Milan, Italy, as well as other performances in Rome,

Spain, and France. The choirs perform extensively along the eastern seaboard of the United States, competing and performing in numerous festivals. The choirs have consistently won superior ratings, awards and trophies for their performances. Early in 2007, the choirs were used in the promotional package and on the Web site for the Disney Honors Program.

Among the many awards Ms. Hall has received are the Shenandoah University Alumnae of Excellence Award, the Excellence Merit Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Award, the Baltimore City Council's Teacher of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Teacher Award from Baltimore City College. Her greatest reward she says, "comes from working with students who have a passion for singing and a talent waiting to be developed."

Linda Hall has served as minister of music and guest conductor for many churches and choirs including the Baltimore County Honors Choir, the Prince Georges County Honors Choir, and in the summer of 2005, the American Choral Directors Association Voices United Summer Conference Festival Chorus.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Linda R. Hall. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the faculty at Baltimore City College High School. She has shown a unique and committed work ethic in teaching young people in choral arts education for over 30 years. It is with great pride that I congratulate Linda Hall on her 20th Anniversary as Choral Director at Baltimore City College High School.

#### RECOGNIZING HARLEM UPTOWN RENAISSANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW HARLEM RENAISSANCE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article, "Harlem's Uptown Renaissance Experience," published April 3, 2007, by the *CaribNews*. The article, written by Robert Rodney, celebrates the Uptown Restaurant's contribution to the new Harlem Renaissance.

During the Harlem Renaissance, also known as the New Negro Movement, African American art, literature, music, and culture came to the fore. Beginning sometime around 1919, depending on which historian you reference, and ending in the mid 1930s, the Harlem Renaissance was a time for celebrating all things black. Harlem, the community, provided all those who visited, with pulsating excitement and unparalleled liveliness while cultural productions by African Americans gained world wide attention while redefining blackness.

In addition to the contributions of literary heroes like Zora Neale Hurston, Countee Cullen, and Langston Hughes; artistic achievements of masters like Romare Bearden, Aaron Douglas, and William H. Johnson; intellectuals and visionaries like James Weldon Johnson, Marcus Garvey, and Jessie Fauset, the cultural production of food, typically associated with African people throughout the Diaspora, was also celebrated during the Harlem Renaissance.

The Uptown Renaissance Restaurant, which opened its doors in 2004, is quickly gaining recognition for its blend of authentic soul food, savory steaks, and hearty salads. Serving food that one would easily find at popular House-Rent Parties—where hosts would welcome guests into their homes in exchange for financial contributions that would be used to pay rent—the Uptown Renaissance Restaurant is contributing to the revitalization of Harlem in what most people are calling the New Harlem Renaissance.

It is important to remember the past, especially as we continue to shape our future. I encourage everyone to visit the Uptown Renaissance Restaurant. Tell them I sent you.

[From the CaribNews, Apr. 3, 2007]

HARLEM'S UPTOWN RENAISSANCE EXPERIENCE

(By Robert Rodney)

The Uptown Renaissance restaurant opened its door in April of 2004, as "the Ultimate Blend of Steaks, Soul Food and Salads". The restaurant boasts a delectably comprehensive menu from breakfast through dinner, where hearty and tasty servings are the order of the days and nights with customers coming back for more. Owners and operators of the Uptown Renaissance restaurant, the husband and wife team of Rene and Claudia Calliste pride themselves on an all-Halal meat service, a pork free environment complimented by healthful whole wheat breads as stable or accompaniments to respective dishes. From Monday through Thursday, the doors of Uptown Renaissance are open from 7 a.m. to Midnight, on Friday and Saturday, they are open around the clock. The establishment astutely recognized the importance of their community, and therefore remained sensitive to its needs by ensuring that the clientele from the surrounding community continue to feel welcome while simultaneously catering to consumers from all areas.

The other day I had the pleasure of visiting the Uptown Renaissance restaurant to dine and experience one of their specialties, the Barbecue Fish. Now, let me tell you this, I am a Jamaican and a lover of fish and I have consumed fish that have been prepared in many different ways; escovitched, fried, roasted, jerked, you name it I have had it, but never barbecued.

So I'll admit that I was a little skeptical about having barbecue fish but I was pleasantly surprised by the presentation, the generous servings and most of all the taste. This meal was comprised of well seasoned fried breaded whiting covered with a nice, not too heavy barbecue sauce served with generous portions of collard greens, sweet yams, macaroni and cheese with corn bread on the side. I totally enjoyed this meal and now had discovered a new way of having my favorite fish thanks to Uptown Renaissance. I would definitely recommend this dish to all fish lovers.

I also enjoyed the ambiance of the place, I found it to be very relaxing with an intimate tone. The service I must say was very pleasant and professional and the prices for the portions that you are served cannot be beat.

I would encourage every one to go to the Uptown Renaissance and experience a new trend in dining. Rene, Claudia, Eleanor and crew are always ready to welcome and give you the royal treatment.

The Uptown Renaissance Restaurant is located at 108 West 116th Street, in Harlem, New York.

HONORING DR. CHARLES DARLAND

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Charles Darland, an exemplary individual and friend from my congressional district, on the occasion of his 20-year anniversary as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, Dr. Darland first came to Kentucky in the mid 1970's to complete a Masters Degree of Divinity at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He later earned a Doctorate in Philosophy from the same institution. Dr. Darland's Christian mission first brought him to Grace Baptist Church in Independence, Kentucky. In 1987, he was called to the Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Dr. Darland's wife, Suzanne, continues to play an important role in his ministry, sharing his passion for the Lord and dedication to his congregation. The couple has also been blessed with three fine sons: Jesse, Daniel, and Joel.

It is my great privilege to honor Dr. Charles Darland today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

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. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, on Sunday April 22, 2007, my dear friend and colleague Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD was called home.

JUANITA was a great woman who worked passionately for justice and cared deeply for mankind. She was a phenomenal Congresswoman, a loving wife, mother and grandmother and a dutiful friend.

She made time for her constituents—and didn't just listen, but heard them, and spoke for them.

Madam Speaker, JUANITA began her tenure in Congress in 1996. She represented California's 37th Congressional District and was a proud leader in the Congressional Black Cau-

cus where she championed the caucus' disparities agenda to advance economic development, expand access and affordability for health care, truly "leave no child behind" in our education policy and the list goes on.

She was a true legislator. For example, she authored several pieces of legislation focusing on health care, specifically woman's heart health. Legislation such as H.R. 51, a bill to support National Wear Red Day, and H.R. 52 the American Heart Month which called on women to take action and prevent heart disease were just a few examples of her legislative priorities.

JUANITA was a trailblazer, becoming the first African American woman to chair the House Administration Committee for the 110th Congress. She was known as the Mayor of Capitol Hill; overseeing the operational and safety needs of the Capitol compound.

She was truly a jewel and a joy to have known. In closing, I'm reminded of a passage from Proverbs 31:10-31 KJV, verse 10 which reads:

"Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . for her price is far above rubies."

Congresswoman MILLENDER-McDONALD was a great woman, epitomizing humanity, humility and virtue. She will truly be missed.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1332) to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration and for other purposes:

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007. I strongly support the changes made in this legislation to the Certified Development Company Economic Development or 504 loan program. However, I have grave concerns regarding many of the changes made in this legislation to the other mainstay of the SBA's access to credit programs: the 7(a) guaranteed lending program.

Specifically, Section 101 sets the stage to eventually reinstate the federal loan subsidy for the 7(a) program later this year. This provision requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to recalculate the subsidy rate each fiscal quarter so that if an appropriation is provided for sometime during the fiscal year, fees can be reduced for small business borrowers and lenders. While I believe this provision violates the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 because it requires the re-opening of the assumptions that comprise the credit subsidy model just for the SBA's 7(a) program as contained in the President's annual budget request, I am more concerned about its potential detrimental effects upon our Nation's small businesses. While I am all for lowering fees, it has to be done in a fiscally-responsible manner, particularly during these tight budgetary times. In short, Section 101 is unnecessary and will set the 7(a) program back on an unstable course, thus reducing its availability and

attractiveness to potential small business borrowers and lenders. The primary association with the expertise on the 7(a) program the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL)—is neutral on H.R. 1332 and has declined to take a position on the legislation.

First, Section 101 is simply unnecessary. As the former chairman of the Small Business Committee, I never heard one complaint from any small business owner about the 7(a) fee structure. However, I heard dozens of complaints from small businesses when the 7(a) program was shut down or operated with severe constraints in 2002, 2003, and 2004 because the appropriations bill that contained the funding for the SBA did not pass in time. I frequently challenged the supporters of reinstating a loan subsidy for the 7(a) program to find me one small business that was not able to get a 7(a) loan because of the higher fees imposed after 2004. They were never able to produce me one example. Why is that? Because the so-called higher fees that went into effect in 2004 were at the same level as they were prior to 2002. What happened when the 7(a) fees went back to the 2002 level? Despite many dire predictions at the time, the 7(a) program grew and thrived because lenders and borrowers knew that it would be around for the long-haul. The 7(a) program no longer had to rely on the timeliness of passing an annual appropriation bill. The 7(a) program now operates on automatic pilot similar to how the other main access to credit programs at the SBA—the 504 and the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) programs—that also receive no annual subsidy and operates totally on user fees. October 1st—the beginning of the new federal fiscal year—is no longer is a day of anxiety and worry for small business borrowers and lenders.

Second, Section 101 will set the 7(a) program back on a path of instability. Unfortunately, this is a very technical and arcane debate where numbers and statistics are thrown around very casually. Some argue that H.R. 1332 will reduce fees up to \$50,000 to small business borrowers. But then in the next breath, they argue that this bill will not modify the subsidy rate. Both cannot be true. It's important to remember that the main goal of the Democratic proponents of this legislation is to reinstate the loan subsidy for the 7(a) program. That's why the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that Section 101 will increase spending by \$305 million in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2.265 billion over the next five years. Keep in mind, Mr. Chairman, that the President requested only \$464 million in spending on the entire SBA in FY '08. If fully implemented, this bill would almost double the spending on the SBA in one year!

The Democratic supporters of this legislation also wish to duplicate the 7(a) fee structure as it was in place between 2002 and 2004 in which there was a federal loan subsidy of approximately \$100 million each year for a 7(a) program level of under \$9.5 billion. However, there were only three fees temporarily reduced during this time period as part of an economic stimulus package in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Just like other economic stimulus measures, such as the 50 percent bonus tax depreciation, these 7(a) fee reductions were intended to only remain in place a short while until the economy got back on track. They were never intended to become part of permanent law.

The upfront 7(a) borrower fee was temporarily reduced from 2 percent to 1 percent for small businesses seeking smaller 7(a) loans of under \$150,000. For 7(a) loans between \$150,000 and \$700,000, the upfront fee was temporarily reduced from 3 percent to 2.5 percent. The 3.5 percent upfront fee on 7(a) loans from \$700,000 to \$1 million, which was the maximum loan guarantee limit at the time, was not reduced at all during the 2002 to 2004 time period. However, the annual on-going fee changed to lenders on the remaining outstanding balance on a 7(a) loan was also temporarily cut in half from 0.50 percent to 0.25 percent. Thus, at most, a fee structure that temporarily existed between 2002 and 2004 produced a maximum savings of \$3,500 to a small business seeking to borrow \$700,000. For a small business borrower seeking a loan of \$150,000, the maximum savings was \$1,500. Both figures are a far cry from \$50,000.

It is also important to remember that the upfront fee is rolled into the overall loan and amortized over the life-time of the loan. In other words, a borrower is not forced to come up with the entire upfront fee at closing. For the average small business 7(a) borrower, the fee change in 2004 only amounted to an increased payment of \$10 per month. Thus, in return for an extra \$10 per month, small business borrowers and lenders no longer have to worry about the 7(a) program ending or operating with various restrictions. However, if the 7(a) program is put back in the appropriations process, then there will be uncertainty if the program will be around for the long-term. Section 101 also allows 7(a) fees to fluctuate every few months depending upon whether or not Congress adds or subtracts money for a loan subsidy; thus harming long-term planning. This policy change also sets the precedent to reinstate the loan subsidies for the 504 and SBIC programs, which is the long-term goal of the Democratic proponents of this legislation.

I'm also concerned that at a time when we should be streamlining government, H.R. 1332 creates three new lending programs at the SBA and makes one pilot program permanent. While I am sympathetic to the need to increase lending to rural areas, help health care professionals to open up shop in medically underserved areas, and assist veterans and reservists, the initiatives contained in Sections 102 through 105 of H.R. 1332 fundamentally undermine the "zero" loan subsidy policy in the 7(a) program. To fully implement these provisions, Congress will be forced to choose between higher fees for all other small business borrowers or an even higher appropriation to subsidize these new programs. Knowing the perspective of the Democratic proponents of this legislation who fundamentally disagree with "zero subsidy," these initiatives will put further pressure on Congress to reinstate an appropriation for the 7(a) loan subsidy. CBO estimated that these three specific proposals will cost the taxpayer \$11 million in 2008 and \$77 million over the next five years. These provisions also set the precedent for other well-deserving groups to request Congress at a later date to eliminate 7(a) fees for them and provide their group with a much higher 90 percent guarantee rate on 7(a) loans, further exposing precious taxpayer money to higher risk of default and loss. It will be very hard for a future Congress to say no to these groups once these precedents have

been set in this bill. I enclose for the RECORD a copy of the Administration's position on H.R. 1332, which reflects many of my same concerns listed above.

I am proud over what Republicans on the Small Business Committee were able to accomplish over the last 12 years to promote fiscal responsibility at the SBA while at the same time helping a record number of small businesses. When Republicans were given stewardship of Congress in 1995, Congress spent \$213 million of the taxpayer's hard-earned money on the SBA to support a 7(a) and 504 loan program volume of \$8.3 billion to reach 55,800 small business borrowers. In 2006, the SBA doubled that level of assistance to reach over 100,000 small business borrowers with a 7(a) and 504 loan program usage level of \$19.1 billion—all at no direct cost to the taxpayer. We should not return to the pre-1995 days just to satisfy a philosophical desire to restore loan subsidy, particularly for a program that doesn't need it. The old adage applies here—if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Again, NAGGL has not taken a position on this bill. In short, Mr. Chairman, the 7(a) program ain't broke and the "cure" in Title I of H.R. 1332 is worse than the "disease." I urge my colleagues on both sides of Capitol Hill to oppose this well-meaning but misguided legislation.

*April 24, 2007.*

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY  
H.R. 1332—SMALL BUSINESS LENDING  
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

The Administration has achieved significant results in expanding the availability of credit to small businesses. Between fiscal years 2001 and 2006, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has more than doubled the total number of guaranteed loans to small businesses under the Section 7(a) and Section 504 loan programs. SBA has achieved this growth while reducing program costs and taxpayer-provided subsidies. H.R. 1332 could potentially reverse this success by reintroducing or increasing taxpayer-funded subsidies for small business loan programs. The Administration therefore cannot support House passage of H.R. 1332 unless it is amended to delete provisions that would increase these subsidies and the need for appropriations and/or increased fees on other loan applicants.

The Administration also opposes provisions in the bill that would: (1) duplicate rural lending activities currently performed by the Department of Agriculture; (2) have SBA refinance private debt, as Federally-backed credit should not supplant private loans; and (3) raise constitutional questions by establishing race or gender-based preferences without presenting a strong basis in evidence that these preferences meet constitutional standards. The Administration urges Congress to strike these provisions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM  
TO BANK ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation repealing two unconstitutional and paternalistic Federal financial regulations. First, this legislation repeals a Federal regulation that limits the number of withdrawals someone can make from a savings

account in a month's time without being assessed financial penalties. As hard as it is to believe, the Federal Government actually forces banks to punish people for accessing their own savings too many times in a month. This bill also repeals a regulation that requires bank customers to receive a written monthly financial statement from their banks, regardless of whether the customer wants such a communication.

These regulations exceed Congress's constitutional powers and violate individual property and contract rights. Furthermore, these regulations insult Americans by treating them as children who are unable to manage their own affairs without Federal control. I urge my colleagues to show their respect for the Constitution and the American people by cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO VETERAN CONGRESSIONAL AIDE JUDITH BREWER

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my Legislative Director, Judith Brewer, for her 34 years of excellent service as a Congressional staff member and to wish her well upon her retirement. I also wish to thank her for the 26 years she served the citizens of northern New York, 14 of which were as a member of my staff.

After graduating from the University of Maine cum laude with a B.A. in political science, Judi began her career in 1973 when she joined Congressman Fred B. Rooney's staff as a Staff Assistant. Five years later, she joined the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Retirement Income and Employment, where she served as a liaison between the subcommittee chairman, older Americans, and Federal agencies. Judi next served as Projects Assistant in Congressman Harold T. Johnson's office.

Judi began serving the people of northern New York in 1981 when she became a Legislative Assistant in my predecessor, Congressman David O'B. Martin's office. In that capacity, Judi developed significant expertise in policy areas of great importance to northern New York, including dairy, education, health care, and labor.

When I came to Congress in 1993, I was fortunate that Judi decided to continue her excellent service to the people of northern New York as a member of my staff. For the past 14 years, they, as well as I, have been the beneficiary of Judi's compassion, dedication, expertise, kindness, humor, and professionalism. Accordingly, I profoundly thank Judi and wish her the very best as she enters retirement.

HONORING KATHERINE CARNEY

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Katherine Carney upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy's Recognition for Educators, CARE, Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators from across the United States for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of their students. Kathe, a teacher at Neabsco Elementary School, is honored for her work in promoting diverse learners in the spirit of the "No Child Left Behind Act."

Although she began her career teaching English literature, Mrs. Carney's passion and gift lay with teaching the neediest students. In 1994, at PACE West, a self-contained special education school, she taught students with serious emotional and behavioral needs. In addition to the 8–13 subjects she taught a day, she took on roles as a mentor, advisory committee member, and the school's administrator of various special education testing regimens. Devoted to reading, Mrs. Carney noted a void of books at her school, and was shocked to find no library at PACE West. She took it upon herself to initiate, organize, and develop the PACE West library, which housed 2,000 volumes upon her departure.

After 7 years at PACE, Mrs. Carney joined the staff at Swans Creek Elementary School. She taught a self-contained class for students in the 2nd–5th grade with learning disabilities, speech, language and vision impairments, and other health challenges. Again, Mrs. Carney mentored her fellow teachers and established the school's Learning Disabilities Program.

In 2003, Mrs. Carney joined the faculty at Neabsco Elementary School, teaching 4th and 5th graders who are emotionally disturbed. The administration at Neabsco quickly realized her abilities and tasked her to be the case manager of the Instructional Consultant Team and a member of the Child Study Team. Mrs. Carney has received numerous commendations at Neabsco, including being named 2007 Neabsco Teacher of the Year and was nominated to be 2007 Dale City Teacher of the Year.

Over her distinguished career, Mrs. Carney has demonstrated great resolve, patience, and a unique ability to make a positive difference in the lives of her students. Working with students with these needs is trying; however, every day is a new opportunity for Mrs. Carney and her students. No incident or past history is ever carried back into the classroom; this includes the time where an inadvertent swing of a baseball bat left her in a full leg cast for months.

It is dark when Mrs. Carney arrives at school and dark when she leaves. Her devotion to her students is immeasurable. Whether it is tutoring for the science fair on a Saturday, meeting with a concerned parent late at night, or counseling former students on life altering decisions, Mrs. Carney always makes herself available to those in need. Through her tender approach and no-nonsense outlook, Mrs. Carney has made a difference in the lives of countless youths in Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mrs. Carney for being recognized as one of the 2007 CARE awardees. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Kathe on all her accomplishments and in wishing her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Ghana. On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first country in Africa south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. The theme for the anniversary is: Championing African Excellence. There are three main objectives for the jubilee celebrations, which are: celebrate and commemorate Ghana's landmark achievement as the first country in Black Africa to attain independence from colonial rule; reflect on the evolution, development, achievements and drawbacks of the country over the past 50 years; and to look forward to the future vision of excellence in all fields of endeavor in the next 50 years towards the centennial anniversary of the nation.

Year-long activities marking the Golden Jubilee have been scheduled, beginning in January 2007 and ending in December 2007, with monthly themes including: Reflection, African Unity, and Heroes of Ghana. April's theme is "Our Nation, Our People," and I would like to enter into the RECORD this article, regarding another "first" for Ghana, reported by BBC News International on April 24, 2007, entitled "La Scala Brings Beethoven to Ghana." It details the recent visit to Ghana by Milan's La Scala orchestra and chorus and speaks about the hopes of expanding the appreciation of classical music to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Republic of Ghana continues to experience economic growth and the government continues to work on improving the energy generating capacity of the country. Recently an Educational Reform Program has been implemented, which primary vision is to align education to national aspirations to develop disciplined, socially conscious and well-rounded Ghanaians who can hold their own as global citizens anywhere. All these efforts promise that Ghana will reach its goal of excellence in all fields as they look towards the centennial anniversary. I urge fellow members to continue to support Ghana's independence by working towards victory over poverty, disease, gender in equality, and lack of education.

LA SCALA BRINGS BEETHOVEN TO GHANA

(By David Willey)

Italy's famous La Scala orchestra has played in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time.

The venue: Accra's 1,400 seat ultra-modern National Theatre.

The occasion: celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence.

The cast: Daniel Barenboim and 160 members of the orchestra and chorus of Milan's La Scala.

The programme: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Choral, whose Ode to Joy has become the official anthem of the European Union.

ELECTRIC

The evening began in an unusual way, with the beating of a traditional tribal drum, a traditional Ghanaian welcome.

It ended with a standing ovation for the prestigious orchestra and their equally famous conductor.

A member of the Ghanaian organising committee told me he remembered having music appreciation lessons at school 50 years ago, when Ghana was still a British colony, but he could not remember any similar event in his lifetime.

Most of the audience were invited to attend, with the few hundred tickets actually put on sale costing between US \$30-50, well beyond the reach of the pockets of the average Ghanaian.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 60 per cent of people live on less than two US dollars per day. So, unsurprisingly, the auditorium was packed with local officials and diplomats.

A quick trawl around Accra's teeming markets confirmed earlier suspicions—that the Ghanaian capital completely lacks CD shops selling classical music.

While African faces on the crowded stage were limited to two, one the African-American bass-baritone Kevin Deas, and the other, the soprano Measha Brueggergosman, a Canadian national.

The impact of the music on those lucky enough to be present was, however, electric.

Daniel Barenboim, the musicians and the four soloists (who included La Scala newcomer and rising British star, tenor Ian Storey) gave their all. They had time for only a single rehearsal, but their performance was impeccable.

Barenboim told me during rehearsal: "The problem is, you cannot articulate the content of music in words. This can only be expressed through sound. This is what I hope we are bringing to them."

This extraordinary event was the result of a casual invitation to Daniel Barenboim in New York last December by Ghana's highest-profile international figure, Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and a friend of La Scala's new "maestro" conductor.

The president of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, and the Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, also helped to make Kofi Annan's dream come true.

#### SPIRITED RENDITION

Annan was beaming afterwards at the Ghanaian President's post-concert party in Accra's State Banqueting Hall.

"In international affairs, you have to learn how to create pillars and foundations in order to realise dreams," he said.

At the post-concert party some of La Scala's violin players playfully took over from a local Accra orchestra, giving a spirited rendition of Guantanamara.

But was it really worth the vast expense (\$500,000) to charter an Airbus and fly this huge and talented company 6,000 miles across the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert to Ghana, and back, for a single Beethoven performance?

Barenboim says emphatically "yes". He would like to return to Africa, either with La Scala or to give a series of solo piano recitals in various African countries.

The former child prodigy, who has replaced Riccardo Muti as conductor at La Scala, and who built up the now famous West-East Divan orchestra of Israeli and Palestinian musicians, believes music may hold the key to bridging the North-South cultural, and even economic, divide.

"You have to listen to the other players if you want to play in an orchestra," he said.

But as one of the first violins in the orchestra whispered to me as we were flying back high over the Sahara desert, while she had enjoyed this unique experience, she was not so sure that a charity concert in Milan to raise money for Ghana might not have been preferable.

The audience shouted for more after the Accra concert, but a performance of this quality of Beethoven's Ninth hardly lends itself to an encore.

Now we shall have to see whether Daniel Barenboim's ambitious dream of stimulating a demand for classical music in Africa is going to be fulfilled.

It will require a lot of money, and a lot of politics. The encore is not yet assured.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD CALERY

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. Ronald Calery, who has spent a lifetime fighting poverty, serving as a voice for those least fortunate and defending the powerless in our society. This week, Mr. Calery will be recognized for his efforts with the prestigious Terence DuVernay Award, which recognizes career excellence in the field of affordable housing.

Mr. Calery has served for 35 years as Executive Director with the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority (CAHRA) Inc. Before his appointment to the position of Executive Director, he served the agency as a founding member of the board of directors. The Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac CAHRA administers a number of critical programs that attack poverty head on. Among its vital services, the organization provides quality housing that is affordable to low income and moderate income persons.

Ron Calery's leadership of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority has strengthened this organization, making it one of the most effective community action agencies in the state. Under his leadership, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency has assisted local entities to improve existing housing and develop new housing units.

Perhaps one of Mr. Calery's most notable contributions was the construction of Avery Square Complex, a project that served to help revitalize downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The project has been widely recognized as a housing model throughout the State of Michigan. Mr. Calery has also worked closely with county and local governments, helping to spur the construction of moderate cost housing in several rural communities. He planned a housing development in Sault Ste. Marie, and is currently planning moderate cost housing in St. Ignace.

While the DuVernay award which Mr. Calery will receive focuses upon efforts to provide affordable housing, Mr. Calery's service to the public, the Eastern Upper Peninsula (V.P.) and the State of Michigan extends well beyond affordable housing issues. His service to the state and his community has been extensive.

At one time or another, he has been a driving force in just about every organization that plays a positive role in the Eastern U.P. He served on the Tri-County Small Business Loan Committee, helping to spur small business in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties. As President of the John F. Kennedy Chippewa County Retarded Children's Association, he helped to expand activities and programs for handicapped children. He served on the State board of directors for the Michigan Association for Retarded Children. He spent 4 years in a

non-partisan position as an elected City Commissioner for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. As the Chairman of the Tri-County Recreation Commission and the Sault Ste. Marie Parks and Recreation Commission, he helped ensure that positive recreation opportunities abound in the Sault Ste. Marie region. He also coached Soo PeeWee Hockey.

No matter what project Mr. Calery takes on, he never takes "no" for an answer. He never retreats from a challenge. Instead, Ron Calery is known for pausing, examining the various obstacles, assembling a new coalition, seeking different funding arrangements, and ultimately finding a solution to achieve the goal. Regardless of what it takes, once he decides that a project or program can have a positive impact on his fellow citizens, he is relentless in seeing the project brought to fruition. The affordable housing projects, programs to eliminate poverty, and efforts to improve the living conditions for residents of Michigan have all been challenging, but never once has Ron Calery shirked from the challenge.

When a project he has worked upon is complete or a program is successful, this humble man does not leap forward to take credit. Instead, Mr. Calery always steps aside to commend the work of others and compliment the fine leadership they have provided.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, Mr. Calery will be recognized by his colleagues for a career spent helping others. His many friends will gather to say thank you for all that Ron Calery has accomplished. Across Michigan, many other citizens will be unable to attend, but they, too, will be thanking this warm man for his many kindnesses. Madam Speaker, as Ron Calery receives this well-deserved award, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting, congratulating, and thanking him for his selfless service to others.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AMENDING STATUTE ESTABLISHING EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, joined by Representatives JERRY MORAN, THORBERRY, BOSWELL, TIAHRT and BOYDA, I am today introducing legislation which would make a variety of technical changes to the statute establishing the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by the U.S. Congress in 1999 as a bipartisan commission for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for the location, design and construction of a permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the United States. Since being fully appointed in 2001, the Commission considered 26 different sites in the District of Columbia. In 2005, it selected a site between the Department of Education and the National Air and Space Museum, two institutions resulting from and greatly influenced by President Eisenhower's leadership. In 2006, Congress approved the memorial's location within Area I, in compliance with the

Commemorative Works Act. The Commission secured full approval for the selected site following extensive review by the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Since its inception, the Commission has also taken great care to study and analyze the Eisenhower legacy. It produced a report by leading scholars and experts on Eisenhower that provides a definitive statement on the transcending elements of Eisenhower's enduring legacy. He ranks as one of the preeminent figures in the global history of the 20th century. Dwight Eisenhower spent his entire life in public service. His most well-known contributions include serving as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in World War II and as 34th President of the United States, but Eisenhower also served as the first commander of NATO and as President of Columbia University. Dramatic changes occurred in America during his lifetime, many of which he participated in and influenced through his extraordinary leadership as President. Although Ike grew up before automobiles existed, he created the Interstate Highway System and took America into space. He created NASA, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Federal Aviation Administration. He added Hawaii and Alaska to the United States and ended the Korean War. President Eisenhower desegregated the District of Columbia and sent federal troops into Little Rock, AR to enforce school integration. He diffused international crises and inaugurated the national security policies that guided the nation for the next three decades, leading to the peaceful end of the Cold War. A career soldier, Eisenhower championed peace, freedom, justice and security, and as President he stressed the interdependence of those goals. He spent a lifetime fulfilling his duty to his country, always remembering to ask what's best for America.

Eisenhower's legacy provides hope to all of us—like him, through education and public service, we as a Nation and individually can rise to meet any challenge. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission now needs to move into the design phase. As design begins, the Commission's organization, specifically with regard to contracting and staffing, needs to be updated and revised to enable efficient management and responsible stewardship. This legislation provides for the necessary reorganization. The legislation enables the Commission to retain the services of full, part-time, and volunteer staff as government employees, without the restrictions of the competitive service requirements. It also provides the authority for the Commission's Executive Architect to manage technical and administrative aspects of design and construction. It provides for staff to be released on the completion of the memorial and enables the Commission to work in collaboration with federal agencies. In addition, the legislation will allow the Commission to receive direct appropriations, easing the burden on both the Commission and federal agencies that previously served as conduits for Commission funding. I have also enclosed a detailed justification of the proposed legislation for your review.

Very similar legislation, S. 890, has been introduced by Senator DANIEL INOUE of Hawaii, who serves with me and Senator TED STE-

VENS on the Executive Committee of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. I am joined today in introducing this measure by Representatives JERRY MORAN, THORNBERRY and BOSWELL, who serve as members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and by our fellow Kansans serving in the U.S. House, Representatives TIAHRT and BOYDA.

A TRIBUTE TO TAIWANESE  
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian recently announced that his country plans to pursue full membership in the World Health Organization. I wish President Chen and the 23 million people of Taiwan the best of luck in this endeavor, and I hope that all Americans will support their effort.

Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talents and resources in the field to people around the world. Taiwan's expertise and contributions to world health are particularly important at this time when people, products, and threats to health and safety can travel great distances in relatively short periods of time.

The WHO's mission is “. . . the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.” Providing accurate information about the spread of health threats is a critical part of that mission.

Last year, however, the WHO disseminated an inaccurate map which classified Taiwan as an area affected with human cases of the bird flu—even though no cases had been documented on the island. Unfortunately, because the WHO—like many organizations pretends that Taiwan is a part of China, the WHO depicted Taiwan as an “infected area” because there had been an avian flu outbreak on the Chinese mainland. This is not only unfair, it is dangerous.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the intent of the WHO is not to knowingly disseminate false information about such a dangerous health threat—yet because of Chinese pressure to exclude Taiwan from this body, that is exactly what happened. And unfortunately, unless the problem of Taiwan's exclusion from this body is remedied, this could easily happen again.

When China and the WHO play politics with people's health, it isn't just dangerous for Taiwan, it is “bad medicine” for the whole world. I hope that the Administration recognizes this fact, and I hope they will actively support Taiwan's bid for full membership in this world body.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK NEMETH

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Nick Nemeth of Chapparral High School in Parker, Colorado. As a sophomore, Mr. Nemeth received an invi-

tation to attend a 10-day National Young Leaders Conference this summer in Washington, DC.

Mr. Nemeth has demonstrated outstanding academic and leadership qualities as a young man, and is an archetype of his school and community. Completing the academic school year first in his class, he was chosen as a National Scholar, an honor presented to less than one percent of all qualified high-school students.

Students chosen to attend the National Young Leaders Conference are hand selected based on both their academic achievement and recommendations by educators, mentors, and community leaders.

The National Young Leaders Conference is a forum for promising youth designed to inspire and foster their full leadership potential. Supported by over 400 members from the U.S. Congress, this program provides young men and women a rare opportunity to gain an insider's perspective into the legislative and political process of Washington D.C. This unique interaction and exposure enables them to formulate valuable perspectives which will help them guide their communities into the future.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own as one of America's young leaders. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nemeth and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VAUGHAN INGE MORRISSETTE FOR HER SIGNIFICANT PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MOBILE AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, in life, there are givers and there are takers, and it is with personal pride and pleasure that I recognize someone who is always giving and always doing for others, Mobile's own, Vaughan Inge Morrisette. In this vein, I rise today to salute Vaughan and offer her our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of south Alabama for a lifetime of exemplary philanthropic service to both the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama.

For some 40 years, Vaughan has dedicated a considerable amount of her time toward the advancement of education, the arts, and history by serving as trustee, board member, and even as chairman of numerous organizations in the state and throughout the nation.

Shortly after graduating from Sweet Briar College in Virginia in 1954, Vaughan began to make a name for herself in the all-important area of volunteerism. Ironically, it was some forty years later than Vaughan would be named to the board of directors of her alma mater. She served Sweet Briar in this capacity from 1996–2002.

In 1973, Vaughan became a member of the Colonial Dames, serving on the Conde Charlotte Museum House Committee, trustee for the friends of Sulgrave Manor, center head, state president, and national board member. She currently serves on the Dumbarton House

Fund for the Future and is actively involved in the Colonial Dames' Vision Committee, a national committee designed to help state societies emulate the success of Alabama's. From 1987 until 1996, she served as trustee for Washington and Lee University in Virginia, and has also served on the board of directors for Spring Hill College in Mobile.

With an obvious desire to help others, Vaughan has served in similar capacities as chairman of Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, president of the Junior League of Mobile, and as a vestry member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

While her family obviously comes first, Vaughan has a genuine love for Mobile where she currently serves as board chairman of both the Mobile Museum of Art and the Alabama School of Math and Science Foundation. She also serves on the board of directors for the Alabama Archives and History Foundation, American Village and Citizenship Trust, Alabama Department of Archives and History, and as trustee of the Carnival Museum in Mobile. She is also trustee for the Alabama Institute of the Deaf and Blind Foundation and director of the Alabama Arts Council.

Madam Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, Vaughan's involvement is not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well.

For years she has represented the state of Alabama on the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, a prestigious group which bears the responsibility for maintaining and preserving President George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. Through their network of contacts throughout the country, as well as their considerable efforts, funds are raised privately so that Mount Vernon continues to be completely maintained without the help of taxpayer dollars. Vaughan served as regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union from 1994–1997.

She has also included a stint on the board of directors for AmSouth Bank.

Madam Speaker, Vaughan Morrisette has dedicated practically her entire life to the service of others in south Alabama, all-the-while being a devoted wife, mother to four children, and grandmother to 11 wonderful grandchildren.

When her husband, the late H. Taylor Morrisette, passed away in 1990, Vaughan picked up the mantle and has, more times than one can count, made her beautiful home available to entertain visiting dignitaries and others who were looking to make Mobile and south Alabama home. In many ways, she has been a one-person chamber of commerce, always promoting Mobile, always speaking positively about where our community is going. It is very safe to say that Vaughan is always looking forward with confidence that Mobile's best days are ahead.

Madam Speaker, as I said at the beginning of this tribute, some people in life are givers; others are takers. Make no mistake, Vaughan Inge Morrisette has spent practically her entire life giving, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Vaughan for her commitment to so many wonderful philanthropic missions.

I know her family and her many friends join with me in praising her many accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts

over the past four decades in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place to live and work.

HONORING CHERYL A. WUENSCH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Cheryl A. Wuensch, in celebration of her ordination as a Methodist Minister in the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church on May 26, 2007.

Nearly 20 years ago, she wrote on a scholarship application: "the first time my heart heard the Gospel was in her classroom." To some degree, that statement was true. While she was very active in high school youth group, she did not begin the process of owning a mature faith in Christ until she attended an undergraduate university. Cheryl double majored in political science and religion, with a vague interest in attending law school and a burning desire to immerse herself in the life, teachings, and world of Jesus. Ultimately, she felt the Spirit's call to pursue a vocation of teaching, seeking advanced degrees in the New Testament at Yale and Princeton. Cheryl taught various courses in the New Testament and related areas at Princeton Theological Seminary and at Lancaster Theological Seminary for several years.

Cheryl has spent the past 9 years at Timonium United Methodist Church, 2 years as program director and 7 years as Associate Pastor. Her primary areas of spiritual giftedness are in teaching and preaching, leading worship, shepherding, and outreach/evangelism. One of her fundamental philosophies is to equip others for ministry based upon their own giftedness.

Cheryl fervently believes that the Gospel can be embodied in new and lifechanging ways through outreach oriented mission activities. She led several trips to Appalachia with approximately 40 youth and adult volunteers. She participated in a trip to Costa Rica with a group from the Baltimore North District. Timonium United Methodist Church continues to be active in two soup kitchens in Baltimore City and sponsored a Habitat House for 11 consecutive years. Over the years, Cheryl focused a great deal on pastoral care and visitation, including ministering to the sick and dying, working with young couples, performing many weddings and baptisms. She has the ability to adapt to a variety of worship settings, enjoying both a traditional liturgy as well as preaching and leading worship in a contemporary setting.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Cheryl A. Wuensch. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Through her tireless efforts in over 9 years of service to the community of the Timonium Methodist Church, she has shown a unique and committed work ethic that few can emulate. It is with great pride that I congratulate her on her ordination as a Minister in the Methodist Church.

. . . AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record an article titled ". . . And How Are The Children?" published in *Witness for Justice* on April 9, 2007.

The article highlights a monumental gathering of over 50 organizations that came together to sponsor the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference was ". . . And How Are The Children?" The answer, offered by executive minister M. Linda Jaramillo is "the children are not doing so well."

Included in the article are abominable facts that speak to the crisis facing our nation's children. For example, 9 million children are without health care. That is more than the total population of large states like Georgia, Minnesota, and Virginia. Almost 90 percent of these children live in working households, most in two-parent families; a fact which destroys the myth that only those from broken homes are without access to essential resources like health care.

We owe it to our children, to ourselves, and to our country to stop the senseless neglect experienced by far too many of our most precious resource—the future of our nation. The article endorses the call to conscience and action sponsored by the children's defense fund. I too am in support of their efforts and will do all I can to advance this critical issue.

[From *Witness for Justice* #315, Apr. 9, 2007]

". . . AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?"

(By M. Linda Jaramillo)

How are the children? This is an African proverb, but it is not an uncommon question for us in our culture. We often greet one another with hello, followed by asking the question, "How are you and how are the kids?" This question can be directed to a parent, a teacher, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, or anyone who spends time around children. It doesn't matter if we are actual birth parents because "the children" are really part of all our lives, so it seems that we should be asking that question to everyone we greet. However, I wonder if we listen long enough to find out how the children really are?

A few weeks ago, over 50 organizations jointly sponsored the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference in Washington, DC. This year's theme was ". . . And How Are the Children?" Over 800 persons attended, sharing information and stories about critical justice issues that have serious impact on children all around the world. As I went through the days of workshops and discussions asking the question, I have to answer that ". . . the children are not doing so well."

Distinguished theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said it best when he wrote, "the test of the morality of a society is how it treats its children." I would have to confess that our nation, the richest nation in the world, has failed this moral test. We have failed by directing billions of dollars to engage in war rather than investing in the future of all children. We can make excuse after excuse about how we spend our public dollars, but we cannot excuse our disregard for children. We cannot respond and say that the children are doing fine.

For example, there is no excuse for 9 million children to be without health insurance in this country. Almost 90 percent of these children live in working households, most in two parent-families. Parents are working hard, sometimes taking on two jobs to provide shelter and food for their children. These parents often have to make the choice between feeding their families and taking them to the doctor or to the dentist. These 9 million children belong to all of us. How they are is everyone's responsibility.

Nine million children. That is more than the entire population of states like Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, Minnesota, or New Jersey. That is more than the total population of almost any single city in this nation. These 9 million children come from rural, urban, and suburban communities. These 9 million children represent all races and are of every age under 18.

“. . . And How are the Children?” We can do something to help make them better by joining the Healthy Child Campaign to cover all children with health insurance this year. Get involved.

Sign the Call to Conscience and Action at <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.

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#### HONORING GIL COLYER

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### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Gil Colyer, a resident of my district, who is retiring from the Hardin County Sheriffs Office this month after a remarkable 52-year career.

Gil Colyer first joined law enforcement in 1953, serving as a military policeman during his service in the Army. In 1955, he was assigned to the Louisville Police Department, where he would spend the next 21 years. Upon retirement from the Louisville PD in 1976, Gil moved back to Elizabethtown, his home town, and took a job as an officer in the Elizabethtown Police Department, where he remained for an additional 20 years before taking his current position as bailiff for the Hardin County Sheriff's Department.

Gil's dedication to the Hardin County community over the years has been a true inspiration to all who know him. Attorneys, police, and even prisoners maintain an abiding respect for Mr. Colyer. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail exemplify true professionalism, a standard appreciated by his fellow officers and members of the public.

I would also like to congratulate Gil and his wife, Alma, as they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary next week. I join countless other neighbors in Hardin County in wishing them a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Gil Colyer today, before the entire House of Representatives, for his lifetime of service to Hardin County. He is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

#### APPRECIATION OF FAIR HOUSING/ FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

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### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, April is both National Fair Housing Month and National Financial Literacy Month, and I rise today to acknowledge both of these important goals and to highlight a serious issue that both of these areas address—home foreclosure.

Many of us have seen the recent reports of a skyrocketing increase in the number of foreclosures and of people losing their homes. Across the country thousands of families have had the American dream of homeownership snatched away.

In the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, which I am privileged to represent, many of my constituents have fallen victim to increases in adjustable rate mortgages, high-cost home equity lines of credit, and predatory loans which have made their dreams of home ownership turn into nightmares.

Homes in Chicago have entered into foreclosure at an alarming rate: currently, Chicago homeowners are in foreclosure at more than twice the national average. One in every 471 homeowners is in foreclosure: that compares with 1 in 1,030 for the Nation.

In 2006, Cook County, Illinois had 19,522 foreclosures, up 35 percent from 14,506 in 2005 and above its peak of 18,612 in 2002.

These are staggering statistics and they have a devastating effect on our neighborhoods. As foreclosures rise our communities diminish, local property values drop, people move out and vacant homes become magnets for crime.

Madam Speaker, we must find solutions to the problem of home foreclosures that are in the best interests of lenders and financial institutions, local and state governments, and most critically, our families and communities.

Homeownership is one of the principal tools by which families build generational wealth. If done wisely, a person may use their home to leverage financial dreams of entrepreneurship, property acquisition, and paying for higher education. But, in order to achieve these goals, consumers must have the tools of financial literacy.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, Congress must put the tools of financial literacy into the hands of all people and create fair housing policies, that protect consumers from the pitfalls of financial ruin and foreclosure.

I encourage my colleagues to use Financial Literacy and Fair Housing Month as a catalyst for immediate passage of federal predatory lending measures that put people before profit.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO MS. PATSY SPIER

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### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents,

Ms. Patsy Spier of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Spier, a former Peace Corps volunteer, was recognized by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance with the "Strength of the Human Spirit Award," as well as by the U.S. Department of Justice with the "Special Courage Award."

Ms. Spier was among a group of school-teachers who were attacked while based in Indonesia in 2002. Patsy and several others were severely wounded in the attack, while three were killed, including her husband Rick. When investigators concluded that there was a strong possibility that the Indonesian military had been involved, Ms. Spier began to lobby Members of Congress and the Departments of State and Defense to gain attention to her fight for justice. Working with several legislators, including myself, she was twice able to successfully block U.S. funding toward a military training program for the Indonesian military. Having gained the support of the Indonesian president, she was also successful in her pursuit of a life sentence for the leader of the attack.

Patsy should be commended for her bravery, determination and commitment to justice. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE AND NICK VITORI

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### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituents Grace and Nick Vitori. Nick and Grace are a testament to the innate goodness of human nature, the overwhelming positive effect individuals may have on the community and the can-do spirit of America.

For sixty-one years Nick and Grace have been the owners of Vitori's Marketplace in Middletown, Ohio and in less than a month, after some seventy-eight years in business, this landmark grocery, this priceless slice of Americana will close its doors. Nick and Grace are as much a Middletown landmark as the grocery they own. After serving in World War II Nick left college to take over Vitori's from his ailing father, Pasquale, also known as Patsy, who opened Vitori's in 1929. Nick and Grace have been watching over Vitori's ever since. Undoubtedly Middletonians will miss Nick's famous ham salad, Grace's smiling and kind face behind the cash register, and their trademark red jackets.

Through good and bad, Nick and Grace and Vitori's Marketplace has loyally, thoughtfully and generously served their neighbors. Few in Middletown can say their lives haven't been touched by Nick and Grace, and their retirement is certainly well earned.

Grace and Nick Vitori are a testament to the American ethos, to the spirit of community and a devotion to others. I consider it an honor to represent Grace and Nick in Congress, and I wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING ADRIENNE HALL

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise with my fellow Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS ROGERS, to join with the members of the Kennedy School Women's Leadership Board in their salute to our friend, Adrienne Hall. As we applaud the heights to which women have ascended, whether that is Speaker of the House or President of Harvard, we would like to highlight the many advocates who labored for our benefit. As our generation tallies its contribution to the advancement of women and girls in America and around the world, we proudly recognize the role played by Adrienne Hall. Adrienne has been tireless in her devotion to advancing the status of women.

Adrienne is also a trailblazer of entrepreneurship. Not only in her professional career, but also in her service to the community has she been a fountain of creativity. She currently chairs the board of the Women Presidents' Organization, but her fingerprints are found on many of the most respected and effective women's organizations in the world, including the role she played as a founding member of the Committee of 200 and her involvement and leadership in the International Women's Forum and the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World.

Adrienne has also been a seminal part of the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. This organization supports Harvard's efforts to attract, train and nurture women to become effective leaders around the world. It is fitting that Harvard has established the Adrienne Hall Women's Mentorship Fund to honor Adrienne in perpetuity and to continue the mentorship and leadership she has embodied. The Mentorship Fund will ensure that her tenacity in pursuit of equal opportunity and justice continues for women in generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAW  
ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and heartfelt gratitude that I take this time to honor the brave men and women of our law enforcement services. It is with the deepest admiration that I pay tribute to the men and women throughout Northwest Indiana and the entire country who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Each year, the Highland, Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, Donald R. Sheppard Lodge Number 122, and the Highland Police Department honor these individuals for their courage and their commitment to protecting their communities at all costs. Annually, two fallen officers of the Highland Police Department, Officer Donald R. Sheppard, killed in the line of duty in November 1971, and Officer Robert J. Markley, killed in the line of duty in March 1978, are remembered for their service to the Highland community and for their sacrifice.

This year, the Highland Fraternal Order of Police and the Highland Police Department will recognize these fallen heroes, as well as all of the law enforcement officers across the United States, who have given their lives for the protection of our great country. These fine men and women will be honored at a memorial service during Law Enforcement Memorial Week, on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at the Highland Town Hall/Police Department.

As a nation, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women of the law enforcement community. Currently, there are over 870,000 law enforcement officers in the United States. Each day, these selfless individuals start their shifts with one goal in mind: to serve and to protect the citizens of their communities. The one constant they face is the uncertainty of what each day will bring, knowing all too well that in any situation, there is the potential for danger. Still, these everyday heroes honor the commitment they have made to the people they serve.

Law enforcement officers throughout the nation have always exemplified dedication and loyalty, not only to those they serve, but to each other as well. Throughout the United States, many law enforcement organizations will hold memorials to honor their fallen brothers and sisters. In Indiana alone, more than 345 officers have been killed in the line of duty, while the total number of fallen officers in the United States is over 17,900.

These real life heroes are remembered for their courage and bravery as they gave their lives to protect their communities and our way of life. These men and women exemplify the valor and strength of our country and its citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending and acknowledging the men and women of the law enforcement community, both in Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States. I also ask that you join me in honoring the memory of all fallen law enforcement officers throughout the United States, especially Officer Donald R. Sheppard and Officer Robert J. Markley, for making the ultimate sacrifice for their communities. These selfless individuals are worthy of the highest honor and respect.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEE ROBerson

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a special life that ended this week after 97 years of service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Lee Roberson, longtime pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church and founder and Chancellor Emeritus of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee, persevered in faith for years to reach the world, teach and preach the Gospel and inspire generations to be bold in their work for the Lord here on earth. Dr. Roberson made significant contributions to all aspects of our society and leaves a great legacy of service to others for all in our nation to follow.

In his presence, you felt as though you were with Moses himself. Steadfast and deliberate, Dr. Lee Roberson made a mark on this world

and lifted up the Kingdom of God. Rarely will you meet a man who made a greater impact on the world around him than Dr. Roberson. We stand on his shoulders at the foot of his Savior's cross thanking God for his life and knowing that heaven will be even more glorious when we meet him there. We celebrate his 97 years of life.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to H.R. 1591, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act."

For far too long this administration, with no oversight from the previous Republican-led Congresses, has committed our precious resources to this war without a sufficient plan to win the peace. It sent our soldiers to war without adequate armor and equipment. It wasted billions of taxpayers' dollars in sole-source contracts and lost suitcases of cash.

This war also has severely hampered our readiness should a military operation become necessary somewhere else in the world. Top Army officials have acknowledged that the demands placed on the military mostly because of the war in Iraq have caused critical shortages in the number of available ground troops and equipment. With the President's surge of troops in Iraq, we are at a crisis point.

The mismanagement of this war must not continue. The false promises must end. The administration's free pass must be revoked.

H.R. 1591 provides critical funding for American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan while establishing a necessary timeline for the redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq. It also directs the president to certify that the Iraqi government is making progress in meeting certain benchmarks. While the timeline is not as strong as the one previously passed by this body, I believe that we are moving in the right direction.

The bill includes \$2.1 billion more in funding than the president requested for military health care and \$1.8 billion more than the President's request for veterans' health care. The Walter Reed scandal showed the potential for far more widespread problems across the military health care system if we do not act now to take better care of our war veterans. More troops are returning home injured than our government predicted or was prepared for, and the system runs the risk of being stretched thin. Taking care of the men and women who have battled with the stars and stripes on their shoulders is more than a feel-good issue, it is a moral issue.

When Americans enlist in the Armed Forces, they are assuming the responsibility of defending our country. They do so with the belief that their country will assume the responsibility of taking care of their injuries as attentively and humanely as possible. Today, we are taking steps to ensure that what happened at Walter Reed will not happen anywhere else.

I also want to commend the conferees for including \$50 million for Ground Zero workers

and responders who risked their lives and are now suffering devastating health effects because of their brave service following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

JOINING THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON INDIA AND INDIAN AFFAIRS

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, Indian Americans have contributed greatly to the vibrancy, creative thought, and diversity of our Nation. The large and growing population of Indian Americans in Minnesota has enriched our neighborhoods and communities and continues to play an important role in improving the lives of all Americans. It is with these advances in mind that we celebrate the growth of relations between the United States and India and look forward to promoting a closer friendship amongst our two countries.

I'm proud to join the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Affairs and look forward to working with my fellow Members of Congress through the promotion of our shared values and concerns. I stand with India and Indian Americans in promoting peace, prosperity, and happiness for all the world's people.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL R. SCHERRY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory and honor of Lance Corporal Daniel R. Scherry. He served our country courageously until his death on April 16, 2007. His brief but passionate career is an inspiration to the community and the brave Marines who continue to fight.

Daniel, born in Cleveland, was a graduate of Rocky River High School. He was an invaluable member of the varsity football team, where his determination and leadership helped the Pirates transform into a dominant football team. Daniel's presence extended off the playing field as he continued to mentor the students of his alma mater before he was deployed to Iraq.

After his graduation in 2005, Daniel continued to be an active member of the community and enrolled himself as a student at the Tri-C Fire Academy. He received hands-on training and underwent intensive classes that fueled his desire to serve our country. In April 2006, Daniel fulfilled his dream and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

In September, Daniel was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2 of the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, NC. Daniel served as an infantry mortar man and his diligence and hard work did not go unnoticed. Within his first year of duty, Daniel was quickly promoted twice to the level of Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Daniel Scherry is survived, but greatly missed by his parents, siblings, and extended family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring serviceman Lance Corporal Daniel Scherry. He is an American hero and his sacrifice will always be remembered by the lives he touched.

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. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, my presence on this floor today is marked by a sad and heavy melancholy over the loss of a friend and dearest colleague. We have lost a good friend, indeed a great friend, in Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I wish to extend with deepest sincerity my sympathy and condolences to her family and to her constituents of Long Beach, Compton, and Los Angeles.

It is a common tradition in our society to look past the loss of the physical being in order to best preserve and cherish the personal being. However, the difficulty in this emerges when we constantly find ourselves reveling in the presence of that person as an everyday part of our lives. Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be so sorely missed. She was and is still a part of our everyday lives. It is hard to fathom the idea that we will never hear her voice again—for her eloquence and passion in speaking, and her unforgettable laughter, will ring in our ears. The strength and tenacity that propelled her through her life's work will continue to inspire us. As we continue our work in her memory, I encourage all of us to remember her as we walk through the hallowed Halls of Congress. If we stop and listen, we will hear her footsteps echo in these great marble corridors.

JUANITA's accomplishments and achievements in life were many. But as we mourn the loss of her physical-self, we would do well to remember her compassionate-self, her temperate-self, which encompassed an unflinching dedication to public service. I most humbly thank Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD for her being an exemplary public servant. I praise her for her stalwart fight against cancer. At last, I am comforted by the fact that her truly unconquerable soul is yet unvanquished.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 25, 2007, AS DENIM DAY IN LOS ANGELES

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Peace Over Violence, the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign in Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council in recog-

nizing April 25, 2007, as Denim Day in Los Angeles.

Denim Day was established to show solidarity with rape victims everywhere. In an outrageous court decision in 1997, an Italian judge argued that because a woman was wearing tight jeans that her attacker forced her to remove herself, then the crime was not rape. Appalled by the verdict women in the Italian Parliament protested, by wearing denim to work. Their willingness to stand up for the rights of victims of sexual assault and rape empowered communities around the world to do the same.

For 9 consecutive years, sexual assault awareness advocates throughout Los Angeles have come together through Denim Day activities to call attention to the terrible crimes of rape and other sexual assaults and to say to the world that there is never an excuse. Domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault affect women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. While one person, organization, agency or community cannot eliminate sexual assault alone, together we can educate our communities to prevent these attacks.

I will continue to fight for the rights of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and express my strong support for all programs aimed at the elimination of all violence against women. I am honored to recognize April 25, 2007, as Denim Day in Los Angeles and encourage everyone to wear jeans in support of the victims and the fight against domestic violence and sexual assault.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM RESERVOIR ACT

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, along with my colleagues Representatives ROBERT ADERHOLT, JO BONNER, MIKE ROGERS, and JIM MARSHALL, to assist American farmers in dealing with drought conditions and enable them to increase their farm productivity. The need for on-the-farm drought management has become increasingly evident as farmers and the government struggle to keep ahead of the effects of Mother Nature. The drought conditions for the 2005 and 2006 crop years underscored the devastating toll natural disasters have on our Nation's farmers and ranchers. The current approach of providing ad hoc disaster assistance is inadequate and does not give farmers the certainty they need. The Farm Reservoir Act would provide cost-share assistance to agricultural producers for the construction of small reservoirs on their farms.

By combining sound planning with the right resources, agricultural producers can reduce the impact droughts have on their operations. Small on-farm storage reservoirs are an economical way to save water for summer use. The collection and storage of surface water during the off-season, when rainfall and stream levels are typically high, can make irrigation possible in areas where direct pumping from streams, lakes, or wells during the growing season is not feasible. Because these reservoirs are small, the engineering and construction cost per acre-foot are less than big

on-stream reservoirs. Additionally, they are more acceptable from an environmental perspective, because they are off-stream and do not block streams or disturb riverine habitats.

In addition to protecting our Nation's farmers from the costly effects of drought, enhancing their irrigation capacity will allow our farmers to expand production to more acres and increase the productivity of existing acres. Cost-share assistance to construct small, environmentally-friendly, reservoirs located on the farm will provide us with the tools necessary to grow additional bio-fuel crops; which will allow us to wean ourselves from foreign oil. This will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the availability of the cleaner burning fuels these crops produce.

GENETIC INFORMATION  
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee in making certain improvements to H.R. 493. In particular, I note the inclusion of information on embryos, fetuses, and adopted children. I further note a clear statement that nothing affects claims processing and quality improvement activities and related items. Finally, I am happy that there is a provision for covered entities already subject to regulations governing personally identifiable health information.

The primary author of the House bill, Ms. SLAUGHTER, has stated:

"GINA prohibits group health plans and health insurers from denying coverage to a healthy individual or charging that person higher premiums based solely on a genetic predisposition to develop a disease in the future. Furthermore, it bars employers from using an individual's genetic information when making hiring, firing, job placement or promotion decisions."

That is the focus of this legislation. I expect the relevant Federal agencies will interpret this bill in light of the primary focus. GINA is a very complicated bill with a number of definitions capable of counterproductive readings. We have tried to improve the bill to reduce these problems. In the spirit of these efforts to improve the legislation I support its passage from the House and look forward to work in Conference.

SPOKANE NAMED 2006 ABILENE  
TROPHY WINNER

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Spokane community for their work in supporting Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington State. On April 12, 2007, Spokane was selected as the 2006 Abilene Trophy winner during the Phoenix Rally at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

The Abilene Trophy, sponsored by the Abilene, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, recognizes the community that provides the most outstanding support to an Air Mobility Command unit. The 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild is one of 11 Air Mobility Command bases eligible to compete for the Abilene Trophy in the United States.

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce noted Spokane's standout support for our troops at Fairchild, particularly through programs such as Operation Spokane Heroes and the Honorary Commanders program.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am committed to keeping our Nation and communities safe by ensuring we have a trained and equipped military. Since taking office, one of my top priorities has been to protect and expand the mission of Fairchild Air Force Base. The people of Spokane share that priority and recognize the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform and their families.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spokane and the members of this community for their outstanding support of Fairchild Air Force Base. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Spokane community on this great achievement.

ACCEPT TAIWAN INTO THE WHO

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Taiwan's efforts to participate in the World Health Organization. Taiwan's participation in the WHO is a health issue rather than a political issue. Taiwan has been directly impacted by many of the new, global health threats that have swept Asia since 2002. During the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, Taiwan saw one of the highest incident rates of infection. More recently, Taiwan has reported incidences of avian flu outbreak, a disease which presents a global threat.

For many years, in my district, Idaho State University hosted a unique program providing a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they taught me a great deal about Taiwan's political system and the challenges it faces. As Taiwan deals with new arising health threats, the lessons that I learned from the young diplomats reminded me of the importance of ensuring that all people throughout the world can access resources to fight potential pandemics.

Madam Speaker, global health pandemics recognize no borders. Taiwan has been seeking observer status at the WHO since 1997. Other non-sovereign entities, such as the Holy See, maintain observer status. Protecting people's health is not a political issue, and gaining access to global health organizations should not be a political issue either. Safeguarding world health requires the participation of everyone in the international community. Madam Speaker, I urge the international community to accept Taiwan into the WHO community this year.

HONORING MICHAEL D. THOMAS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Thomas, who was killed on April 27, 2007 in Hirat Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Michael was a sniper, a weapons sergeant and a combat medic assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was killed when his unit came under rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Staff Sergeant Thomas personally but by all accounts he was a dedicated family man who was devoted to serving his country. He grew up in Seffner, Florida and joined the military police in 1991, serving in Somalia and in Korea. After already having served in the military police for 13 years and with only 3½ years until he could retire, he volunteered to be a Green Beret. At 34, Michael was one of the oldest in his unit which earned him the nickname "Gramps."

Michael was a highly decorated soldier. His awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Michael was an avid Tampa Bay Buccaneer fan who visited the team's training camp whenever he could. I've been told that he decorated his Fort Bragg room with Buccaneer memorabilia, including signed footballs and helmets. He was also an accomplished guitarist who liked watching movies and going for long walks with his wife, Teresa.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Michael's family. He leaves behind his wife, Teresa, his children, Diana and Craig, his sisters, Krista and Cassie, and his parents, Debbie and Robert Kirpatrick. May God bless the Thomas family and continue to watch over the country that Staff Sgt. Thomas so loved. We shall never forget him.

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. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently-passed colleague and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD's life epitomized one of a true leader. Her deep commitment to those she served led her to be the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD's vision and leadership since 1996 will have a lasting impact on the House of Representatives. Her

fight for full voting participation for all Americans and her tireless efforts for fair elections in the United States have helped millions of Americans and made our democracy stronger.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and in honoring her career in service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PAIGE E.  
McMANUS

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Paige E. McManus, former staff director for the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who recently concluded 13 years of honorable service in this body.

During my tenure as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits in the 107th Congress, my colleagues and I were direct beneficiaries of Ms. McManus's counsel on legislative, policy, budgetary, and oversight matters.

Ms. McManus's considerable expertise served the subcommittee in many thematic areas. She oversaw the \$24 billion per year Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation and pension entitlement program, including herbicide-related disabilities, cold weather-related disabilities, Persian Gulf undiagnosed illnesses, disabilities common to ex-POWs, adapted housing and automobile benefits for seriously disabled veterans, Medal of Honor special pension benefits, and Merchant Mariner benefits; the surviving spouse programs, including dependency and indemnity compensation, Survivor Benefit Plan, and CHAMPVA; burial benefits and services under VA's National Cemetery Administration and the State Cemetery Grants Program, as well as policy matters associated with Arlington National Cemetery and the American Battle Monuments Commission; and national insurance programs, such as Veterans' Group life Insurance and Servicemembers' Group life Insurance.

Ms. McManus's longstanding work at the direction of Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership on the creation of the World War II Memorial and VA's National Shrines initiative, enactment of special combat pay, or concurrent receipt, and dependency and indemnity compensation for remarried spouses proved especially meritorious. The legislative road traveled by each of these measures was long and exceptionally arduous. Ms. McManus's advice and perseverance added great value. The depth and breadth of her policy expertise and advice indeed proved hard to match.

Madam Speaker, Paige McManus has exemplified the highest ideals of public service serving the Committee with honor, integrity, and energy. Thank you, Paige, for your many years of dedicated service to the United States Congress and to our Nation.

A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN  
BURMA

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, a humanitarian crisis is occurring in Burma where political dissidents and ethnic groups are being suppressed. The existence of over 1,000 political prisoners, the practice of land confiscation and forced migration, demonstrates the totalitarianism with which this military government rules over its people. Citizens are being imprisoned for peaceful opposition while state members continue to violate fundamental rights to property and security. The house arrest of non-violent, prodemocracy activist Aung Sang Suu Kyi demonstrates this oppressive state of affairs.

Practices like forced evictions and internal displacement cements military control, especially in ethnic areas, at the expense of basic freedoms. I am here today to ask the government of Burma to address these numerous concerns. The government must draft a constitution with the input of all political actors, including members of the National League for Democracy. Land use, property rights, and political rights are issues that must be addressed. Human rights abusers must be punished and civilians brought to justice under a government that defends their freedoms.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SER-  
GEANT ROBERT SPEED, JR. OF  
MOBILE, ALABAMA, A WWII  
HERO RECENTLY AWARDED THE  
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Staff Sgt. Robert Speed, Jr., who was recently honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service and sacrifice in defense of our great country during World War II.

Sgt. Speed and the entire B-24 crew: 1st Lt. James E. Jatho, 1st Lt. Edward L. McNally, 2nd Lt. George N. Croft, 2nd Lt. Theodore D. Bell, Technical Sgt. Jay T. Fish, Technical Sgt. William A. Magill, Staff Sgt. Frank G. Celuck, Staff Sgt. William F. Maxson, Jr., and Staff Sgt. Daniel P. Toomey distinguished themselves by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial combat on July 15, 1944. The B-24 crew in the 779th Bomb Squadron, 464th Bomber Group, 15th Air Force took off from Pantanella, Italy, to take part in what was to become the heaviest day of bombing the oil refineries near Ploesti, Romania.

The crew encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire—severely damaging the plane—and causing the loss of one engine. Sgt. Speed, a gunner on the B-24 Liberator, courageously manned his gun position and remained at his station throughout the remainder of the flight, which went deep into enemy territory. The mission was successful—the Uniera Sperantza oil refinery and enemy refining capacity were heavily damaged.

The day following this mission, the crew continued to demonstrate courage and devotion to duty when it took part in a raid on Weiner Neusdorf, Austria. During this mission, their plane was shot down, and Sgt. Magill was killed in action. The surviving crew members were captured and taken as prisoners of war and held for the remainder of the war.

Almost 63 years later, the nine surviving members of the crew were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Madam Speaker, the life and actions of Sgt. Speed personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, are taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Sgt. Robert Speed and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

Make no mistake; Robert Speed is a true American hero.

HONORING JESSICA LONG

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Jessica Long, in celebration other selection as 2006 U.S. Paralympian of the Year by the United States Olympic Committee.

Jessica Long was born in Siberia and was adopted from a Russian orphanage at the age of 13 months along with her brother Joshua by Steven and Beth Long of Middle River, Maryland. Because of lower leg anomalies, her legs were amputated when she was 18 months old. She learned to walk with prostheses and has been unstoppable ever since. Long has been involved in many sports including gymnastics, cheerleading, ice skating, biking, trampoline, and, of course, she loves to swim. She began swimming in her grandparent's pool before joining her first competitive team in 2002. The next year, Jessica was selected as Maryland Swimming's 2003 Female Swimmer with a Disability of the Year. Jessica made the international swimming world take notice at the 2004 Paralympic Games, winning three gold medals. Only 12 years old at the time, Jessica was the youngest athlete on the U.S. Paralympic Team.

Jessica had a phenomenal year in 2006 with a long list of impressive accomplishments. She set five world records and earned nine gold medals at the 2006 International Paralympic Committee Swimming World Championships in Durban, South Africa in December. Her gold medal performances were in free style relay (world record), 100-meter backstroke, 100-meter freestyle (world record), 100-meter fly (world record), IM relay, 100-meter breast stroke, 200-meter IM (world record), 400-meter freestyle (world record), and 50-meter freestyle. She also set three world records at the 2006 U.S. Paralympic National championships in August; two world records at the GTAC Open in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in May; two world records at the Belgian Open in Antwerp, Belgium in May; and four world records at the Spring Can-Am in London, Ontario, in April. She currently holds world records in 12 events, one as part of a

relay. She is Swimming World's 2006 Disabled Swimmer of the Year and was named a finalist for the Women's Sports Foundation's Sportswoman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Jessica Long. She is an outstanding and dedicated member of the United States Paralympic Team. In spite of her disability, she has shown a unique and committed work ethic in sports training and competition. Jessica has shown the world that no limitation can prevent an individual from achieving great success. It is with great pride that I congratulate her on her selection as the 2006 United States Paralympian of the Year.

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TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, the loss of Jack Valenti is a blow not only to his family and friends; it is also a tragedy for the motion picture industry and for the entire country. Jack embodied the American values we hold most dear: he was thoughtful, he was loyal, he was forthright, and he was exceptionally committed to his family.

Jack was also a brave and decorated soldier, and his service during the Second World War instilled in him an unshakeable devotion to our country and to the principles for which it stands. Returning from the European theater, he continued to defend and promote these values as a public servant, and helped to guide our Nation through one of its darkest hours. While serving as a special assistant to President Lyndon Johnson directly after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Jack's steadying influence played a central role in helping the country grieve, understand, and heal.

However, perhaps his greatest contributions came later in life, once he became the motion picture industry's consummate Washington, DC representative. Jack's name will forever be associated with the movies, not only because his personality reflected the way that films can inspire and cheer us, but because so much of what we enjoy in today's movie theaters we can attribute to his years of tireless and effective advocacy.

As a Californian, I am particularly aware of the debt of gratitude that we owe to Jack. The enduring importance of Hollywood in our culture, the rating system which protects our children from inappropriate content, the very majesty of film itself, all of these are parts of Jack's legacy. His life is a prime example of the good that can come from combining the idealism and fantasy of film with the determination and focus of the American work ethic.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mary Margaret and to the rest of the Valenti family. Though there is little solace that can be offered during a time of mourning such as this, I hope it comforts them to know that Jack's contributions will forever be a part of the fabric of American culture. While his presence will be sorely missed, Jack's legacy will always be relevant and vibrant so long as movies continue to entertain, motivate, and inspire.

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HONORING THE CANYON HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, before the school term ends this year in the Santa Clarita Valley, I wish to recognize the coaches and athletes of Canyon High School's football program for their outstanding performance during the 2006 high school football season. Canyon High School's varsity football team completed their season by defeating the De la Salle Spartans of Concord, the No. 1-ranked high school team in the Nation, with a score of 27-13 to clinch the first California State Division I championship in 79 years.

MaxPreps, a California-based national high school sports information web site, lauded Canyon High School's football program and ranked Canyon High School's football program as the 10th best in the Nation. This ranking was achieved amongst a field of over 15,000 schools nation-wide. The ethos of this tightly knit team should serve as an example to all those aspiring to greatness.

The level of devotion and resolve displayed by coaches and players of Canyon High School's football program is exemplary. I

would like to commend the coaching staff, including Harry Welch, Dave Ends, Chris Rzewuski, Monterio Witherspoon, Bryan Wilson, Tim Hollinger, Ken Wheeler, Mike Civita, Rod Baltau, Robert Hendricks, Billy Omahen, and John DiLuigi, for their energy, enthusiasm and expertise. Congratulations are also due to Coach Harry Welch for winning the California Coaches Association's 2007 State of California Football Coach of the Year award.

I would like to recognize the individual members of Canyon High School's champion football team. Chad Adams, Britt Briscoe, Joshua Carvalho, Brandon Chandler, Sean Crane, Chris Duncan, Eric Ernenputsch, Jordan Ferguson, Sean Gavin, Jonathan Hammock, Garrett Hernandez, Joshua Hickman, Michael Hollinger, Eric James, Jesse Kelley, Mario Mestizo, Ryan Nichols, Brandon Reeves, Brice Reiner, Danny Robinson, Kenny Shanahan, Mike Spagnola, Danny Valdez, Justin Wallace, Adam Woodard, and Trevor Yslas.

In addition, congratulations are due to returning players for their second year of championship play. They are: Fares Albichara, Ben Armbruster, Anthony Arriaga, Michael Blanco, Christopher Chapman, Michael Cooper, John DiLuigi, Mike Harker, Nic Jurado, Anthony King, Christopher Kingsbury, Randy Lemus, Ben Longshore, Michael Loucks, Nick Madia, Cipriano Maldonado, Andrew Martinez, Blake McMartin, Julian Murillo, Nick Peterson, Michael Pyne, Dillon Schelske, Kenny Suber, Mark Urbina, Marc Valdez, AJ Wallerstein, Sean Ward, and Stephen Wirthlin. Their hard work and perseverance has taught them to balance academics and athletics and I applaud their efforts.

Coach Joe Paterno, current Head Coach of Pennsylvania State University, once said, "When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality." Exemplifying all that is right with team spirit, the Canyon High School Football team is a stellar example of fortitude, courage, and tenacity. They have proven that by doing what is necessary, then going on to what is possible, they were able to accomplish what many thought would be impossible. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Canyon High School football team for their triumphant season and to wish them best of luck in all their future endeavors.