

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN LANGSTON D. SMITH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Captain Langston D. Smith, who has completed 30 years of active duty in the Dental Corps of the United States Navy.

Captain Langston Delano Smith was born in the Richland Community of Pickens in Holmes County, Mississippi. He is the eldest of six children born to the late Mr. James A. Smith, Sr. and Mrs. Elma Maxine Howard Smith. He attended Humphreys County McNair Elementary School and William Sullivan High School, formerly Durant Attendance Center.

Captain Smith received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Jackson State University in 1967. After obtaining his B.S. degree, he taught science for a year in the Jackson Public School District in Jackson, Mississippi. He, then, went on to Morehead State University, in Morehead, Kentucky, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Biology in 1969 and a Master of Higher Education in Administration in 1973. While attending Morehead State, he was an Assistant Professor of Biology and the Assistant Director of Housing at the university.

In September 1973, Captain Smith entered dental school at the University of Kentucky and graduated in 1977 with his DMD degree. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, he entered active duty and received orders to the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California. From 1982 to 1987, Capt. Smith was an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at Chapman College. In 1987, he received orders to the National Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland, where he completed his residency.

Captain Langston Smith, in 2002, reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as Director of Clinical Operations Division for Navy Dentistry, later becoming Director of Health care Support, with the responsibility for coordinating planning and policy for Naval dental care. Captain Smith is currently assigned as Director of Clinical Services in the Office of Integration, National Capitol Area in Bethesda, Maryland.

Captain Langston Smith is a very accomplished man. He is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, American Association of Endodontists, American Board of Endodontics; and, social and civic organizations, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and Colesville United Methodist Church. He has received a number of military and non-military awards, which includes the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation

Medal, Navy Humanitarian Medal, Alpha Phi Alpha Man of the Year in 1976, 1982 and 1996, Nominated for the NAACP Springard Award in 2002, and Outstanding African American Alumni (Torch of Excellence Award), College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky in 2005.

Captain Langston Delano Smith has garnered the personal and professional respect of his community, patients, and colleagues. I would like to commend Captain Langston Delano Smith for his 30 years of service in the Dental Corps of the United States Navy, and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

### CONGRATULATING THE INDIANOLA GENTRY HIGH SCHOOL "LADY RAMS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team and Head Coach Charles Williams for their perfect 2006–2007 Season, 4A State Championship and Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Championship.

The Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team had a stellar basketball season this year. They began the season ranked No. 2 in The Clarion-Ledger Super 10, and finished 40–0 to become the first Mississippi High School Activities Association team (boys or girls) to go unbeaten since the Yazoo County Lady Panthers did it in the 1999–2000 season. In the process, the Class 4A State Champion Lady Rams staked their claim as the undisputed best team in Mississippi by knocking off the 5A Champions, Murrah High School "Lady Mustangs" Girls Basketball Team of Jackson, ranked No. 1 in the Super 10 and No. 14 nationally by USA Today, in a 63–58 victory.

On the journey to be the Mississippi State Championship, the Lady Rams won the Coahoma County Tournament, the Ram Holiday Classic Tournament, the NCAC Tournament, the Division 3–4A Tournament, the North State Tournament, and of course the 4A State Tournament and the Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Championship.

The Lady Rams had a phenomenal group of people that lead them to the championship. The basketball team consisted of Sarita Cooper, Veronica Walker, Laneisha Jennie, Jerrica Crawford, Brittney Crawford, Jasmine Walker, Ashney Simpson, Jessica Huggins, Chrysanthemum Hawthorne, Cecily Hutchenson, Brizanna Washington, and Taconka Johnson.

They were lead by Head Coach Charles Williams, two Assistant Coaches, Ella Hamilton and Mary Elmore. The managers, Felecia Jones, Paula Galloway, Ambrosia Hope, Kenyon Butler, and Bryan Hargrove, assisted the team in their endeavors.

In addition to the team's accomplishments, there were some players who received individual recognition: Sarita Cooper and Veronica Walker received All-District, All-Conference, and All-State; and Laneisha Jennie received All-Conference and All-State.

I would like to take this time to commend and congratulate the Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team for being the Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Champions. They have brought pride to their school, city, and State.

### HONORING SOLDIERS FROM THE SENTINEL PLATOON OF THE 2- 174TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, May 3, 2007, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome home 13 members of the Ohio Army National Guard's Sentinel Platoon of the 2–174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

These brave men deserve the thanks and admiration of our nation for the sacrifices they have made as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I know I speak for many when I say that we are forever indebted to the heroism exhibited by: SGT Adam D. Binckley, SGT Clinton O. Bozenske, SGT Eric M. Coffman, SPC Christopher S. Dearth, SPC Adam C. Dick, SGT Daniel S. Holdren, SPC Bryan D. Lee, SPC Todd W. McCutcheon, SGT Kyle W. McDaniels, SFC Kevin L. Mettler, SSG Nathan A. Stewart, SGT Christopher J. Weeks, and SGT Shawn E. Wiseman.

I commend these Guardsmen for heeding the call to serve our nation, and I applaud their families for simultaneously sacrificing alongside of their loved ones. So often the parents, spouses, and children of deployed soldiers and reservists are the support systems our men and women need to accomplish the difficult tasks that they are asked to undertake.

The 13 men I've named should be forever proud of the commitment, courage, and strength of character that they possess. Their selflessness should serve as an example to us all.

Again, I offer my most sincere gratitude to the 13 members of the Ohio Army National Guard's Sentinel Platoon of the 2–174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

• 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.

HONORING ROB RATNER

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rob Ratner on the occasion of his retirement from teaching. For 35 years Mr. Ratner has been a teacher, serving the last 22 years with the Mineola Public School District with passion and commitment. Mr. Ratner began his teaching career in 1974 with the William Floyd School District, eventually serving as Music Chairperson. In 1987, Mr. Ratner was appointed Mineola's Director of Performing and Fine Arts.

Mr. Ratner has been a brilliant asset to his colleagues, the Long Island music community, and particularly to the students he has influenced and taught. The Mineola Arts Department has not only grown under his leadership, it has flourished. Mr. Ratner's goal has always been the intellectual and emotional development of his students through the arts; a goal which he has certainly achieved. Even in retirement, he will continue to educate through teaching college courses in school administration and the arts as well as educational consulting. Currently, he is preparing to record a jazz CD with his two sons.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our nation are enhanced by the contributions of talented, passionate and committed teachers like Rob Ratner.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to personal health reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 273: "Yes". Rollcall No. 274: "Yes". Rollcall No. 275: "Yes". Rollcall No. 276: "Yes". Rollcall No. 277: "No". Rollcall No. 278: "Yes". Rollcall No. 279: "Yes". Rollcall No. 280: "No". Rollcall No. 281: "No". Rollcall No. 282: "Yes". Rollcall No. 283: "Yes". Rollcall No. 284: "No". Rollcall No. 285: "Yes". Rollcall No. 286: "Yes". Rollcall No. 287: "No". Rollcall No. 288: "Yes". Rollcall No. 289: "No". Rollcall No. 290: "No". Rollcall No. 291: "No". Rollcall No. 292: "No". Rollcall No. 293: "Yes". Rollcall No. 294: "No". Rollcall No. 295: "Yes". Rollcall No. 296: "Yes". Rollcall No. 297: "Yes". Rollcall No. 298: "No". Rollcall No. 299: "Yes".

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN WIRSZ

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jordan Wirsz for being honored by

the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Jordan began demonstrating his entrepreneurial talents at a very young age. When Jordan was 14 years old, he started his own aircraft brokerage firm. He began brokering helicopters and as a result of his business endeavors, Jordan started to fly helicopters when he was 15 years old. At the age of 16, Jordan conducted and completed his first solo flight. He earned his pilot's license at 17 years old and he also earned his multi-engine instrument license. The following year, he received his commercial pilot's license. After obtaining his commercial pilot's license, Jordan decided to pursue another business endeavor. Jordan subsequently became involved with residential private money lending. Presently, Jordan at the age of 24 years old is the CEO of Diamond Bay Investments.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Jordan also supports several philanthropic organizations and charities in Southern Nevada. He is very active with the Big Brothers, Big Sister's Program as well as the Candle Lighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. Furthermore, Jordan's first book about his professional experiences, *The Maverick Millionaire*, is due out in June.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jordan Wirsz. His professional success and philanthropic pursuits are truly commendable. I applaud his efforts, congratulate him for his extraordinary success and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. ALEC ORNSTEIN

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alec Ornstein, who will be recognized tomorrow on Long Island by the Long Island Builders Institute.

Mr. Ornstein is a leader on Long Island. As the co-founder of Ornstein Leyton Company, he has been involved in the real estate development community for over 15 years. He is dedicated to offering a wide range of housing alternatives to hundreds of satisfied home owners on Long Island and neighboring counties. Mr. Ornstein is committed to responsible economic development of Long Island and has worked towards this goal as the President of the Long Island Builders Institute. As the President of the LIBI, Mr. Ornstein has supported the philosophy of protecting Long Island's valuable resources and making our community accessible to everyone. He has also taken on a new role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Island Housing Partnership.

Mr. Ornstein has also taken on significant charitable and philanthropic causes. He and his family established the Ornstein Scholarship Fund at his alma mater, Syracuse University. For the past nineteen years, he has bestowed the American Jewish Committee's Franklin H. Ornstein Humanitarian of the Year Award to those that have battled racism and inequality in our communities. Mr. Ornstein has held executive positions and served on many philanthropic boards in the past, including Long

Beach Memorial Hospital, the Science Museum of Long Island, Temple Emanuel of Great Neck and Temple Beth-El of Huntington.

I am proud to honor Mr. Alec Ornstein for his service to the Long Island Builders Institute, and his dedication to the betterment of our community.

## WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG OF SINGAPORE

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chairman of the Singapore Caucus to welcome Prime Minister LEE Hsien Loong of Singapore on the occasion of his visit to the United States. Our friends in Singapore have always been great allies. Our two countries share a common vision of promoting peace, stability, security, and prosperity—not only in the Asia Pacific Region—but also throughout the world.

During Prime Minister Lee's previous visit, he affirmed his countries continued commitment to peace and security by signing with President Bush the "Strategic Framework Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore for a Closer Cooperation Partnership in Defense and Security." This agreement formalized the growing bilateral security and defense relationship in counterterrorism, counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, joint military exercises, policy dialogues, and shared defense technology.

Home to the world's busiest port, Singapore has consistently demonstrated its commitment to maritime security. It was a founding member of Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a program that aims to interdict shipments of weapons of mass destruction-related materials and was the first Asian country to join the Container Security Initiative (CSI), a series of bilateral, reciprocal agreements that allow U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials to pre-screen U.S.-bound containers.

The relationship between the United States and Singapore extends beyond the current campaign against terrorism and is reinforced by strong ties of commerce. Since entering into a Free Trade Agreement on January 1st, 2004, commerce between the United States and Singapore has strengthened. We are Singapore's second largest trading partner with more than 1,300 United States companies currently operating in Singapore and many more seeking opportunities.

I would also like to commend Singapore for working with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to organize the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Since its inception forty years ago, the Association has accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region, and it has promoted regional peace and stability among countries in the region. As the organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary, I applaud them for their leadership and wish them many more years of success.

I wish Prime Minister Lee and the Singapore delegation a prosperous visit. I know this Congress will continue to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEED FOR A FOURTH PERMANENT JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman ABERCROMBIE a companion measure to legislation that will soon be introduced by Senators INOUE and AKAKA that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101-650. Although, the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has recommended that Hawaii's fourth temporary judgeship be converted to permanent status. The conversion is included in the 2007 Judicial Conference Judgeship Biennial Recommendation. In its 2003 recommendation, the Judicial Conference stated that the District of Hawaii weighted caseloads per judgeship will be over 600 should that district lose a judgeship. As the caseload for the district has since increased, it is imperative that Congress act on this matter as quickly as possible.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

TRIBUE TO VERA DeANGELIS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera DeAngelis on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I have had the honor of knowing Vera for many years and am proud to call her a friend.

Together with her husband Albert, Vera raised seven children in Somerville. During her many years in the community, she worked to improve it in so many ways. Most notably, Vera volunteered in elementary school classrooms for more than twenty years, first at the Winter Hill School and later at the Little Flower School. She devoted countless hours after her own children were grown to making a difference in the lives of the young students she helped. Many of those young people have stories of their own about how Vera took the time to help them whenever they were in need.

Vera has always been concerned about the quality of life in her community and was very involved in Somerville Citizens for Adequate Transportation. In this capacity, she worked to lessen the impact of the highway on local streets and fought against its expansion into Somerville's Inner Belt.

Vera is also very active in local politics, closely following all of the local contests. Vera always makes the time to do more than just cast a ballot. She volunteers for her candidates of choice, holding signs, stuffing envelopes and spreading the word about her candidate's positions.

Vera possesses extraordinary organizational skills, and made the challenges of raising seven children seem effortless, regardless of the circumstances. She kept seven needles threaded with different colors in her pin cushion at all times, ready to fix a loose button or a torn sleeve at a moment's notice—an anecdote that her friends and family say best illustrates her superior ability to multi-task.

It is my privilege to have known Vera for many years and I wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin with a quote from Coretta Scott King: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

I rise today to talk about one of America's priorities in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. And that is to fulfill the promise to help rebuild Louisiana and Mississippi from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In August of 2005, the American people saw something that was hard to believe. They saw a U.S. Government that was incompetent, a government that was inept and a government that didn't care about its own people. Unfortunately, 2 days ago, President Bush vetoed the emergency supplemental bill and showed the American people that things haven't changed.

After the President vetoed the bill, he had the audacity to make the following statement: ". . . the bill is loaded with billions of dollars in non-emergency spending that has nothing to do with fighting the war on terror. Congress should debate these spending measures on their own merits—and not as part of an emergency funding bill for our troops."

Only two people in the country believe that we are winning the war in Iraq—they are

President Bush and Vice-President DICK CHENEY. The cheese stands alone.

The \$1.3 billion for east and west bank levee protection and coastal protections isn't pork.

The \$30 million for K-12 education assistance has been debated and has been deemed essential. The \$25 million for Small Business Administration disaster loans will help rebuild. The \$80 million for HUD rental assistance will bring people home. The \$4.3 billion for FEMA disaster recovery grants is an emergency for our fellow Americans in Louisiana and Mississippi who have been waiting 18 months for you to keep your promise to rebuild Louisiana and Mississippi.

Mr. President, you were wrong to veto this bill. I have been to New Orleans seven times and I am going back in June. Sadly, every time I have been back it looks the same—like a war zone.

It's unbelievable that 18 months have passed and the most basic human needs are not yet met; 18 months later and residents are not able to move back, there is still debris everywhere and people go without electricity; 18 months later and there are impassable roads, no clean running water, and not enough schools and teachers; 18 months later and no street signs, toxic fumes in the air and not enough police officers; 18 months later this is unacceptable.

The President has been wrong about every major claim he has made, why should we believe anything he has to say now? The President said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and he was wrong. The President said al Qaeda was tied to Iraq, and he was wrong. The President said a liberated Iraq would bring stability to the region, and he was wrong. The President said we would be treated as liberators, and he was wrong. The President said oil revenues would pay for the war, and he was wrong. The President said "Mission Accomplished," and he was wrong. The President was wrong to veto this bill.

My colleagues on the other side made statements over and over again about how we should pass a "clean" supplemental bill. I would like to ask them what is wrong with giving the residents of Louisiana and Mississippi the money they deserve? I've been an elected official for 25 years and I've never seen a clean bill. It is clear to me from watching the Republicans that he who holds the gold holds the power.

If the President or my Republican colleagues would have done their job 18 months ago, we wouldn't need to have these extra funds in the supplemental bill. It is shameful that the very people who write the checks and pay taxes in our cities are not getting the money they deserve. I remember the President's press conference in Jefferson Square in New Orleans and his promise to rebuild. His veto showed the America people, once again, that he has no intention of living up to that promise. The Democratic majority has done our job by passing this bill. Sadly, the residents of Louisiana and Mississippi will have to keep on waiting on you to remember your promise.

The good citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi demand good government that is responsible and caring and walks the walk and not just talks to the talk.

TRIBUTE TO "EL CONGRESO DE  
LIDERES DE PUERTO RICO"

**HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young leaders, "El Congreso de Lideres de Puerto Rico," whose work should serve as an example to us all. Throughout their years of hard work and dedication this group of students has forged an exemplary path towards the future. We all know the importance of strong leadership and the benefit it can bestow our society, and as we move towards the future, it is reassuring to know that admirable leadership is alive and well in the lives of our younger citizens. It is of great importance to recognize the work of those young leaders who continuously demonstrate their worth to the community by helping others achieve their potential, as they strive to fulfill their dreams, and enrich our society.

In 2006, the Puerto Rico State Legislature recognized their outstanding service and contributions as part of the "Week of Business and Professionals." In 2006, "El Congreso de Lideres de Puerto Rico" expanded their efforts globally and across our Nation by helping to establish a sister organization, "The Congress of Leaders of Florida." The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce has awarded this group with the Zenit Award, declaring them the Best Education and Leadership program of Service to the Community.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing this group of young leaders and encouraging them to continue their work for a better tomorrow. May we all learn from their example, hard work and dedication to our future.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS J. PAPAN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to share with my colleagues in the House news of the death of a California public servant from my home district. Lou Papan, known as the "Dean" of the California State Assembly, died unexpectedly on Saturday, April 28, 2007. He was 78 years old.

Lou Papan was practically a force of nature in state and local politics. His distinguished life's work included service to his country as a member of the Armed Forces, his professional career with the FBI, a successful banking and business experience and ultimately, serving two decades as a State Assemblyman from California's 19th District.

Madam Speaker, this big, burly bear of a man was also known for his enormous heart and his devotion to his family. The father of a seriously disabled son, Lou Papan was well known along Highway 80 as he commuted between Sacramento and Millbrae, making a point of being home every night to help his wife Irene with the added complexities of life parents of seriously ill children often face. John died in 1981 at the age of 21 and it is

doubtful that Lou Papan ever regretted a single highly publicized speeding ticket he received. Those tickets earned him the nickname "Leadfoot Lou."

This personal dedication translated into public and private activities geared to helping other families facing similar challenges. The creation of "John's Closet," a unique organization that collected clothing for disabled and poor children, was but one example of how Lou Papan shouldered his community's concerns in order to help make everyone's life just a little better.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, as Elias Papandricoupolos. His parents were Greek immigrants and his own name was accidentally changed to "Louis" by a doctor who did not recognize the original name on a form. Lou Papan spoke only Greek when he began elementary school.

As a young man, Lou Papan served in the U.S. Army. Family lore has it that fellow soldiers kidded the young man about the length of his last name, saying that the 16 letters nearly wrapped all the way around his helmet. He later earned a degree in economics from Syracuse University and during the Korean War, was an officer in the Air Force. He then went to Georgetown Law School. His government service continued with the FBI, which sent him to San Francisco where he met his wife and where he settled.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan left the FBI to embark on a business career that was highly successful in banking, insurance and real estate. He was a co-founder of the Peninsula Bank of Commerce. His first elected office was as a member of the Daly City Council. In 1972, he took the leap to the California State Assembly.

Lou Papan's political career is full of dynamic successes as well as controversial emotions. His legacy is one of "hardball politics" in which legislators were strongly encouraged to support the political policies of their party. Known as "The Enforcer" for his ability to shepherd votes, Lou Papan's shadow was cast large in Sacramento, over both opponents and supporters.

His political goal to become a State Senator was never realized, although he tried on two occasions. Madam Speaker, this gregarious, sometimes garrulous politician left the State Assembly in 1986 to run for State Senate. He failed in that effort, but in 1996, he easily recaptured his former Assembly seat. As a footnote to his legislative legacy, Lou Papan became one of the longest-serving politicians in recent California history, having served time both before and after voters approved term limits. As the Chairman of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, Lou Papan wielded considerable power over the day-to-day activities of the California Legislature. His position and political style often resulted in decidedly mixed reviews, but almost everyone agreed that he was an effective leader.

It was during his Assembly tenure that the California Capitol Building was renovated and upgraded through a six-year, \$67 million effort. A plaque bearing his name testifies to his successful oversight of that project.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to capture a life of public service in these few short words, but let me say that during his 20-year career in the California Assembly, Lou Papan championed the causes of children, including legis-

lation to improve public instruction for disabled students, require reporting of child and elder abuse and establishment of childcare centers for families with business before the courts. He also authored legislation to help firefighters suffering from life-threatening illnesses as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals on the job. Lou Papan played a key role in establishing and expanding California's public transportation agencies, carried legislation to ensure reliability of regional water delivery systems, and submitted bills aimed at encouraging conservation and recycling, among many other contributions. Lou Papan also served as the Chairman of the Banking and Finance Committee, where he spearheaded efforts to support independent banking institutions.

In 1996 he was granted the Ellis Island Medal of Honor given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations to ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to this country.

In another effort to recognize his public service, the California Legislature renamed a section of Highway 1, from the Daly City border south through the City of Pacifica along the scenic coast, as the "Louis J. Papan Highway." He is given credit for successfully securing funding to purchase beachfront property in Pacifica for the State Parks system.

Madam Speaker, Lou Papan lived a big, at times boisterous life. His dedication to public service speaks for itself and his impact on the people and politics of California are now part of history. He is survived by his daughters Virginia "Gina" Papan and Diane Papan, son-in-law Dan Latini and granddaughter Alexa Papan Latini.

His daughter Gina says her dad "was the real deal." Madam Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with that assessment. Lou Papan was a unique and dynamic personality who made his mark on his home, his county, his state and his country. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the contributions of this fellow politician and servant of the public.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL  
WORKMAN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Paul Workman who was named the Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion of the Year for the State of Nevada.

Paul, who serves as Executive Vice President and Director of Sales for Business Bank Nevada, has worked in the banking industry for more than 30 years. Paul's experiential understanding of the banking world has led him to become an integral component of the Business Bank of Nevada leadership team. Business Bank of Nevada, considered one of the best performing independent banks in Nevada and throughout the country, operates through 7 branch offices in the state, Loan Production Offices in Arizona, and is in its 12th year of operation.

In addition to his professional work, Paul has remained active in civic endeavors for the

past 3 decades. He was the president of Business Watch Network and the Paradise Valley Lions Club. Paul also serves on the Board of Directors for SafeNest, the Boulder Dam Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Police Athletic League of Southern Nevada. Paul has also served on the Governor's Commission on Nuclear Projects and the City of Las Vegas Audit Oversight Committee.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Paul Workman. His contributions to both the Nevada business and civic communities are commendable and I wish him continued success.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAURY DOBBIE

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the entrepreneurial spirit of Mrs. Maury Dobbie and congratulate her on receiving the Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion Award.

At the age of 19 Mrs. Dobbie started her first business and began a life of entrepreneurship that would eventually lead to the establishment of five different companies. Mrs. Dobbie currently owns MediaTech Productions, a multimedia production company in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Over the years, Mrs. Dobbie has served as President of the Women's Economic Development Council and has garnered recognition from a number of prestigious organizations. In 2005, Mrs. Dobbie was recognized as the Businesswoman of the Year by Office Depot in its annual recognition of the nine top businesswomen in the nation. She has also been honored as the first female recipient of the Emerging Entrepreneur Award in northern Colorado and was named the Woman Leader of Excellence in 1995. I am particularly impressed by Mrs. Dobbie's establishment of the Young Women of the West program. This program fosters entrepreneurship among female high school students and encourages these young women to begin their own businesses.

Mrs. Dobbie currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation. In her role as CEO, Mrs. Dobbie dedicates her time to strengthening existing employers, supporting expansion projects and marketing northern Colorado to new employers. Prior to her appointment as CEO, she served as both a board member and chairperson of this organization.

In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Mrs. Dobbie has selflessly dedicated her time and talents by serving on the boards of a number of civic organizations including the United Way, Rotary and Hope Lives Cancer Center. She has also served on the advisory board of Front Range Community College. As a second degree black belt, Mrs. Dobbie has even earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Taekwondo team. Mrs. Dobbie is married to Steve Dobbie and has two grown children.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mrs. Dobbie in Congress. Her entrepreneurship and commitment to strengthening the

economy of northern Colorado are a demonstration of the American spirit and a testament to the American dream. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the varied accomplishments of Mrs. Maury Dobbie.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, lately it seems as if science itself has been under attack. This Administration seems determined to choose policies that fly in the face of scientific consensus. They have ignored science on the issue of stem cell research, abstinence-only education, and mercury pollution. On climate change, the White House went one step further. The Bush Administration hired a Big Oil lobbyist to edit documents produced by climate scientists in an effort make climate change science seem less certain. These acts have caused some in the scientific community to lose faith in our government.

I believe H.R. 1867, the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007, will help restore that trust. The bill will provide \$21 billion for the National Science Foundation over the next three years to fund critical scientific research.

Mr. Chairman, I have seen how crucial this funding can be right in my own district. The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, a key unit of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, has worked in partnership with the National Science Foundation to facilitate new discoveries and fundamental breakthroughs in Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences that are critical for advancing the understanding of the Earth's dynamic systems.

This work has allowed for a better understanding of volcanoes, earthquakes, and geologic faults. Lamont Doherty has also furthered our understanding of the effects of global warming by mapping massive sub-glacial lakes in Antarctica and studying their role in the loss of ice sheets. The Observatory has also developed new geochemical techniques to allow the mapping of past ice sheets which will help us better understand how the ice sheets on Greenland and Western Antarctica will react to increased global temperatures.

Now, more than ever, it is essential we increase our understanding of how our planetary systems interact and function as a whole. By providing the funds the NSF needs, we are investing in research vital to our national interests. Hopefully, we are also sending a signal to the scientific community that their work is essential to us as policy makers and to us as Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

LEE HOOD, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006-2007 SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARDS

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lee Hood for the many accomplishments he has made in his work with science and biotechnology. In April, Mr. Hood was awarded the 2006-2007 Washington State LASER Science Education Advocate Award for an individual.

The Science Education Advocate Award is given to individuals and organizations who exhibit outstanding advocacy for science education among the general public, or in the education system. Mr. Hood has repeatedly shown that he is an advocate for science education and has put into action his belief that academics have four major responsibilities: scholarship, education, transfer of knowledge to society, and community leadership.

Mr. Hood is the director of The Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. In 1992, he helped establish the University of Washington's Department of Molecular Biotechnology. In addition, he helped to establish several other programs at the University including the Partnership for Inquiry-based Science, and The Family Science program.

Providing quality education is key to increasing America's competitiveness and creating a skilled, 21st century workforce. Today, Mr. Hood is helping to give our students the opportunity to excel in scientific studies by encouraging the scientific community to support quality science education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lee Hood for his outstanding work as an advocate for science education. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hood on this great achievement.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the McNerney-Giffords amendment. This amendment establishes a new competitive grants program specifically for Hispanic-serving Institutions at the National Science Foundation.

I would like to thank Representative MCNERNEY and Representative GIFFORDS for their leadership in offering this amendment, which will increase opportunities for so many undergraduate students. This amendment will focus attention on the need to involve more Hispanic students in the science field by creating a specific program for Hispanic-serving Institutions to receive infrastructure development funding.

I would also like to thank Chairman GORDON, Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD, and the staff at the Science and Technology Committee for their assistance in drafting this amendment, and for their commitment to increasing participation of minorities in the science and technology fields.

Hispanic-serving Institutions serve the majority of the nearly two million Hispanic students enrolled in college today, and many of these institutions offer associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs and degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program created by this amendment will allow these colleges and universities to access the funding they need to enhance their educational programs.

In my district alone, about 10,000 students attend Hispanic-Serving Institutions offering degrees in these science fields. Students at institutions throughout Queens and the Bronx, including Lehman College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, and the College of Mount Saint Vincent, like those all across the country, will benefit from increased access to funding to improve these degree programs.

This amendment corrects a long-standing inequality at the National Science Foundation. Unlike their counterparts of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions have not benefited from a specific program to provide them with grants for research, curriculum, and infrastructure development.

Without access to targeted capacity-building grants, Hispanic-Serving Institutions have difficulty increasing the ranks of Hispanics in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, where they have been historically underrepresented. Studies show that Hispanics earn less than 3 percent of doctorates in these areas, compared to more than 50 percent by non-Hispanic whites.

This amendment also goes to the heart of the Innovation Agenda spearheaded by Speaker PELOSI and the new Democratic Coalition in the House to increase our nation's competitiveness and create more math and science graduates.

To maintain our global competitiveness, we need to increase our pool of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. We can do this by ensuring that Hispanics, the youngest and fastest-growing ethnic population group in the nation, are prepared with the knowledge and skills that will contribute to our nation's future economic strength, security and global leadership.

This grants program will educate and train a new generation of experts in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas. By engaging Hispanic-Serving Institutions in this process, we can reach out to and involve more of the Hispanic educational community.

The National Science Foundation, through its undergraduate and graduate programs, can assist Hispanic-Serving Institutions in developing programs to prepare current and future generations of Hispanics and other minority professionals in the sciences.

In the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002, Congress authorized the Foundation to establish a Minority Serving In-

stitutions Undergraduate Program, which was envisioned as being parallel to the existing Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program and the Tribal Colleges Program, and would include Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Native Hawaiian institutions, Native Alaskan institutions, and all other institutions serving "a substantial number of minority students". Unfortunately, the National Science Foundation did not implement the provision.

This amendment explicitly establishes a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program. The language would capture the components of the successful HBCU-Undergraduate Program, allowing Hispanic-Serving Institutions to achieve this same level of success. The result of the amendment is that now the National Science Foundation will be able to offer three similar programs for three different types of minority-serving institutions, allowing Hispanic Serving Institutions to respond to a proposal solicitation tailored for them alone.

I applaud the establishment of a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program to achieve the goal of increased minority participation in the sciences, and I urge passage of this excellent amendment by Representatives MCNERNEY and GIFFORDS.

GENETIC INFORMATION  
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 493, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007."

This bill will protect people from discrimination in securing health insurance or employment based on their genetic make-up. Such discrimination is wrong and should not be tolerated. I am proud to support a bill that would outlaw it. I applaud Representative SLAUGHTER and Representative BIGGERT for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today.

During consideration of H.R. 493 by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which I am a member, a concern was raised by Representative STUPAK. The concern related to genetic discrimination dealing with embryos or fetuses, as well as adopted children and those in the process of being adopted. Like Representative STUPAK, I do not want to allow insurance companies to use genetic information to discriminate. Period.

I worked out language with Representative STUPAK to amend H.R. 493, which addressed his concerns in a mutually acceptable way. This language says that individuals cannot be discriminated against as a result of genetic information gleaned prior to birth. It further says that women cannot be discriminated against as a result of the genetic information of a fetus, embryo, adopted child, or child they are in the process of adopting. At the same time, it does not create a new legal status or convey new legal rights to fetuses or embryos. Thus, I feel it provides the proper balance between providing protections from genetic discrimination while not addressing other non-germane issues.

The compromise language was adopted by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce without objection during its consideration of H.R. 493. I am pleased that this language is included in the bill we are considering on the floor today.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 493 and I look forward to its soon becoming law.

WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND  
BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER  
PROHIBITION

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the sale and slaughter of wild and free-roaming horses and burros:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 249.

This legislation is critical to preserving a part of America's roots, and it is an important symbol of the rugged, wild, and freedom that is the American West. As old as the red rock on the canyon walls, and as reliable as the sun rising in the clear western sky, America's wild and free-roaming horses and burros on our public lands are part of our nation's fabric and history.

H.R. 249, a bill to protect wild free-roaming horses and burros, will expressly prohibit the sale, transfer, or slaughter for commercial product processing of any freeroaming horse or burro on U.S. public lands.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 249.

BING SUM WONG

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a loving husband and father, successful businessman, and dedicated community activist, Mr. Bing Sum Wong.

Bing passed away on April 24, 2007, in San Bernardino, California. He was 95 years old.

Bing spent his early childhood years in Kwangtung, China, and at the age of 13, moved with his father to San Bernardino.

From this humble beginning, Bing went on to become one of the most successful businessmen in San Bernardino, as well as a great friend to the community.

Bing opened his first restaurant in 1933, in Calexico. In 1956, after more than 20 years in the restaurant business, Bing and his wife Ting opened Bing's famous Cathay Inn, located on Highland Avenue. The restaurant was a huge success, and gave Bing the opportunity to focus on one of his true passions, education.

In 1963, the Bing Wong scholarship foundation was formed. Since then, more than \$600,000 has been distributed to students pursuing education. Today, the scholarships are

given annually to three separate age groups: kindergarten students, seventh-grade students, and high school students.

Bing was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino-North, and a founding board member of both the American Security Bank and the Gom-Benn Village Society.

He has received numerous awards for his contributions to the San Bernardino community, including an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Cal State San Bernardino. The Norman F. Feldheim Library board of directors named a lecture hall after Bing in 1985, and an elementary school under construction in San Bernardino was named after him this year.

Bing is survived by his wife of 76 years, Ting Wong; his three daughters Nanci Wong, Janice Lee, and Josephine Wong; nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBRA SILLIK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Debra Sillik, President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada, for giving a voice to minority small businesses.

Debra Sillik began her journey as President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada just 7 months ago. Over this time, she has made a major impact. Debra has helped give the 9,556 American Indians and Alaska Natives a voice in Nevada. She has provided them with employment and educational opportunities. American Indian businesses have grown 56 percent in the Nevada area. In 1997 when this organization started, they only had 1,231 businesses where as of 2002, they have 1,915 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses. She also began offering education workshops as well as scholarship opportunities. Debra holds monthly networking meetings, educational luncheons, job fairs, and awards banquet, and a Native American trade show. Debra has worked hard to put together a board and has increased the number of members participating. Debra's most recent achievement includes being honored as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. Through her dedication and service, she has helped create business opportunities for the Native American population in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Debra Sillik for her dedication to helping American Indians thrive in Nevada. I congratulate her for her recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish her the continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE IMMIGRATION RELIEF LEGISLATION OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a private immigration relief bill for several Chicagoans who remain in daily jeopardy because they seek a path to citizenship in the United States.

Over the past few years, I have met with several residents in my community and heard detailed accounts of abuse by the Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

I was told stories of children being ripped from the arms of their parents by immigration enforcement officers toting machine guns and aiming their weapons at family members.

I was told stories of mothers who had lived in the United States for years, bore children, paid taxes and owned homes—but still faced deportation because they hadn't met all the standards required for citizenship in our country.

There were numerous stories of immigrants who were being sponsored by their sick and ailing family members—mothers, husbands, children and babies; who were thrown off the path towards citizenship because of tragic illnesses resulting in death.

Madam Speaker, we all understand the debate on illegal immigration strikes considerable emotion and debate; however, my legislation today is in support of average people who were trying to do the right thing.

Every name on this private bill: Elvira Arellano, Juan Carlos Arreguin, Martin Guerrero Barrios, Maria I. Benitez, Francisco J. Castro, Jaime Cruz, Martha Dávalos, Herminio Dávalos, Adan Disifredo Delvalle, Angel Espinosa, Verónica Lopez, Francisca Lino, Maria A. Martin, Juan Jose Mesa, Maria Natividad Loza, Blanca E. Nolte, Domenico Papaiani, Romina Perea, Juan Jose Rangel, Sr., Dayron S. Rios Arenas, Araceli Zepeda, Doris Oneida Ulloa and Bladimir I. Caballero, Arnulfo Alfaro, Consuelo and Juan Manuel Castellanos, Eliseo Pulido, Gilberto Romero, Maria Liliana Rua-Saenz, Tomas F. Martinez-Garcia, Flor Crisostomo; Fatuma Karuma, Stanislaw Rychtarczyk, Slobodan Radanovich, Agustin Sanchez-Dominguez, are victims of circumstance.

They all want a chance to stay with their families in the United States, make an honest living and pursue the American dream. I call on my colleagues to support this legislation and the immediate consideration of immigrant visas, adjustments of status for permanent residence, and practical paths towards citizenship for the above immigrants.

INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC IRA BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer bipartisan legislation to create

additional savings opportunities for workers who do not have access to qualified retirement plans through their employers. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. PHIL ENGLISH in offering "The Automatic IRA Act of 2007," along with several other cosponsors, which will increase retirement savings for millions of workers.

Over the years, Congress has improved incentives for employer-based retirement and pension plans by providing more flexibility, increasing the limits, and lessening the administrative burdens. Still, about one in four employees who have access to these successful retirement vehicles do not take advantage of them.

What is a much more difficult group to reach, though, are the estimated 75 million workers who do not have access to these employer-based plans. That is why today we are filing legislation to create automatic payroll deposit Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRA's, for workers who do not have access to employer-provided qualified pension plans. Our bill would require employers to automatically enroll employees in an "auto IRA" unless the employee opts out. These are "set it and forget it" payroll deposit accounts. The non-partisan Retirement Security Project has estimated that this proposal could raise net national savings by nearly \$8 billion annually.

We are, of course, sensitive to any increased burden on small businesses, so the bill provides for a temporary tax credit for employers with less than 100 employees in order to offset the upfront administrative cost of establishing this program. Only employers with at least 10 employees, which have been in business for at least two years, would be covered by the bill. Further, the bill does not mandate any matching contributions by employers or any fiduciary responsibility for the management of the accounts. It is our sincere hope that once employers start participating, they will decide to convert these arrangements to the broader 401(k) plans. The IRA contribution limits are much lower than the 401(k) limits, so business owners may see incentives to switch to the bigger plans.

Employers have the option of choosing a private sector manager for the auto IRA's, but allowing each employee the right to transfer, or simply allowing the employee to designate the provider at the outset. As a default, an option similar to the successful and popular Thrift Savings Program would be established.

The automatic enrollment feature is not new. It builds upon the success of 401(k) auto enrollment, promoted by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Many of the workers who will benefit from our bill will likely be moderate to lower-income workers. The proposal, which was jointly developed by Brookings Institution and Heritage Foundation scholars, has garnered widespread support, including AARP and the Minority Business Roundtable, and has been endorsed in New York Times editorials and by the Washington Times' lead political correspondent.

Of the 75 million American workers who have no access to an employer plan, over 40 million work for employers of at least 10 employees. And, only 10% of these workers actually seek out their own IRA's or other retirement savings vehicles. The auto IRA bill that we are proposing will reach this critical group of workers and hopefully help them start on the road to retirement security. We urge our

colleagues to join us in supporting "The Automatic IRA Act of 2007."

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKET-  
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2007  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BAS-  
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join our colleagues in congratulating the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers for their 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. This team, under the leadership of head coach Pat Summitt, made Tennesseans proud with their victory over the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

Coach Summitt, the winningest coach either men's or women's basketball, continues to lead some of the finest student athletes in the country. The 2006–2007 Lady Vols team included Nicky Anosike, Alberta Auguste, Shannon Bobbitt, Elizabeth Curry, Alex Fuller, Alex Hornbuckle, Cait McMahan, Candace Parker, Dominique Redding and Sidney Spencer, led by Summitt, assistant head coach Holly Warlick and assistants Nikki Caldwell and Dean Lockwood. This group of dedicated players and coaches played magnificently throughout this entire basketball season and certainly earned their championship title. These young women are shining examples of loyalty, dedication and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, I am an alumnus of the University of Tennessee and the UT basketball program, and am proud to be an avid fan of Tennessee Lady Vol basketball. I joined many orange-and-white-clad Tennesseans April 3 watching as the Lady Volunteers captured their seventh NCAA championship in the last 20 years. These successful student athletes bring honor to themselves and the University of Tennessee. I am proud to support this resolution and thank you and our colleagues for taking the time to recognize our Lady Vols.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY J. WELDON

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. William H. Weldon of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mrs. Weldon was born in Eagle Grove, Iowa, on February 22, 1922, daughter of Robert C. and Lenore Rhino Goshorn. She graduated from high school from the Mount Vernon Seminary, Washington, DC, in 1940 and went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Mount Holyoke College in 1943. After her college graduation, she returned to Jefferson City, Missouri, to work for the newspaper company which her father had purchased in 1927.

In July 1956, she was united in marriage to William H. Weldon. William and Betty were the proud parents of 1 son, Frank Gifford Weldon, and 2 daughters, Lenore "Tony" Weldon and Sally Proctor.

Mrs. Weldon was owner and publisher of the Jefferson City News Tribune, The Fulton Sun, and California Democrat. She was owner of Callaway Hills Stables, near New Bloomfield, and also the founder of KRCG-TV. In 1955, Mrs. Weldon became the first woman in the United States to launch a television station.

Mrs. Weldon donated the first building space in Jefferson City to be used for the education of handicapped children; first known as the Goshorn Handicapped Center, it later merged with other schools to become the Special Learning Center. She was also active in many other community and national associations and groups, including service as a board member of the Jefferson City Family Y.M.C.A., the United Way of Central Missouri, the former Memorial Community Hospital Board of Governors, the St. Mary's Health Center Advisory Board, the Lincoln University Advisory Council, the Jefferson City Housing Authority, the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce, the Missouri Welfare Association, and was responsible for the first cancer fund-raising drive in Missouri. At the national level, Mrs. Weldon was a member of the American Security Council, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, and was involved with the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Madam Speaker, she was a valuable leader in the community who was respected by everyone who knew her. She was a dear friend of mine and will be greatly missed. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to her family.

RECOGNIZING VANDEN HIGH  
SCHOOL'S STATE CHAMPION  
ACADEMIC DECATHALON TEAM

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride today to recognize Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team for winning the Division II State Academic Decathlon Title.

Over 500 schools from 42 counties in the State participate in the California Academic Decathlon, which promotes education and teamwork.

The championship team from the Travis Unified School District in Solano County was led by Head Coach David Kenyon and included Team Members Erin Campos, Aleena Syed, Abdul Hassan, Nicolai McCrary, Elise Campos, Julieanne Cunningham, David Crowell, Adrian Bullock, and Tanya Campos.

Not only did the Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team win the State Title, becoming the first Solano County School to achieve such a feat; they broke the Division II scoring record by amassing a grand total of 45,372 points. The Team also won the State Super Quiz Title.

Prior to competing statewide, Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team won the first ever North Bay Regional Competition and also won the regional Super Quiz Title.

The theme for the statewide competition was climatology and China. The students were required to answer questions relating to math, art, music, and history.

The Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team and coach put in numerous hours, including their lunch periods, to prepare for the regional and statewide competitions. This speaks volumes of their dedication to learn and work as a team.

While several of the members will be graduating and moving on to college, they should take pride in the solid foundation they help build and the standard they set.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team for their monumental achievements and for bringing the State Academic Decathlon Title to Solano County. They represented their school and community extremely well. Go Vikings!

WHY CHENEY SHOULD BE  
IMPEACHED

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 333, the resolution to Impeach Vice President DICK CHENEY. Four years after the start of this war, it is obvious that Mr. CHENEY deliberately manipulated the intelligence process to deceive Congress and the American people. At the urging of my constituents in Missouri's 1st Congressional District, and from Americans across the country, I cosponsored Congressman KUCINICH's resolution because there is ample evidence that Mr. CHENEY systematically evaded the truth and used scare tactics to build support for this unjust war. Mr. CHENEY's betrayal has resulted in a tragic, unnecessary war that has already cost the lives of over 3,300 brave Americans and has cost the taxpayers over \$400 billion. The Vice President has taken the integrity out of his office and breeched the trust of the American people.

Madam Speaker, below is Richard Cohen's column from yesterday's Washington Post, headlined, "A Case Against CHENEY." I agree with Mr. Cohen's conclusion, "the harping on weapons of mass destruction was an attempt to scare the American people into supporting a war that need not have been fought." I encourage my colleagues to read this column and make a conscious decision to hold Vice President CHENEY accountable by cosponsoring H. Res. 333.

[From the Washington Post, May 2, 2007]

A CASE AGAINST CHENEY

(By Richard Cohen)

The resolution offered by the gentleman from Ohio reads sensibly. It alleges crimes high and low, misdemeanors galore—all of them representing an effort to mislead the American people and take them into war. It is Dennis Kucinich's articles of impeachment directed at Dick Cheney. The vice president will, of course, deny being a liar. As long as Kucinich is at it, add that to the articles.

The congressman's case is persuasive, although his remedy may be too radical. He calls for Cheney to be impeached by the House and tried by the Senate, just as Bill Clinton was for what turned out to be neither a high crime nor much of a misdemeanor. What was it, anyway, compared with more than 3,300 American dead?

In his articles of impeachment, Kucinich details the many statements Cheney made that turned out to be factually wrong. For instance, he quotes Cheney as saying, "We know they [the Iraqis] have biological and chemical weapons," which of course, they didn't. Still, that was excusable, since it was early in the game and little contradictory evidence was being presented. As Condi Rice said Sunday, "When George [Tenet] said 'slam dunk,' everybody understood that he believed that the intelligence was strong. We all believed the intelligence was strong."

But in Cheney's case, the slam-dunking went on and on—way past the point where it was possible anymore to believe him. He continued to insist that Saddam Hussein had high-level contacts with al-Qaeda—"the evidence is overwhelming," he once said—while others in the government not only knew that the evidence was not overwhelming but that it hardly existed. It was the same with Cheney's insistence—not just wrong, but irrefutably so—that Hussein "has weapons of mass destruction," and "[t]here is no doubt he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies and against us." The percussive march of these statements is so forceful, one after another after another, that it suggests Cheney wanted war no matter what. If he was lying to himself as well as to the rest of us, that is only a mitigating circumstance—sort of an insanity defense.

Kucinich also alleges that Cheney "purposefully manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress." That, as the expression goes, is the gravamen of the charge. Kucinich doesn't stand a ghost of a chance of making it stick because Congress is not about to vote impeachment. But no one who reads Kucinich's case against Cheney can fail to conclude that this is a rational, serious accusation. It's possible that each individual charge can be rebutted, but the essence of it is shockingly apparent: We were being manipulated.

It is something of a joke that Washington is now transfixed by l'affaire Wolfowitz. This is the contretemps at the World Bank in which an architect of this misbegotten war stands accused of favoring his girlfriend. Do not be concerned with the details—this is a parody of a Washington scandal—but concentrate instead on what else Wolfowitz has done in government and how, now, it is a salary increase awarded to a companion that might do him in. This is tantamount to getting Al Capone for tax evasion.

In the same vein, we tend to focus on single events or statements regarding Iraq (to slam dunk or not to slam dunk, that is the question) and how poor George Tenet, a self-deceived careerist, is misunderstood—as if he had uttered a statement of principle dramatically resigning over the manipulation of intelligence and it is suspiciously missing from the record. In all this back-and-forth, what gets lost is the immensity of the outrage, the enormity of the breach of trust, the naive faith some of us had that when it came to the making of war, we'd be told the truth. This was not the case. The harping on weapons of mass destruction was an attempt to scare the American people into supporting a war that need not have been fought.

Kucinich is an odd guy for whom the killer appellation "perennial presidential candidate" is lethally applied. But he is on to something here. It is easy enough to ad hominize him to the margins—ya know, the skinny guy among the "real" presidential candidates—but at a given moment, and this is one, he's the only one on that stage who articulates a genuine sense of betrayal. He is not out merely to win the nomination but to hold the Bush administration—particularly Cheney—accountable. In this he will fail.

What Cheney has done is not impeachable. It is merely unforgivable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY BETH  
HARTLEB

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Mary Beth Hartleb who was awarded the Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of the Year Award.

Mary Beth received this award in recognition of the "Women Mean Business Expo," an event she created and organized to showcase women business owners. Mary Beth is the founder, owner, and President of PRISM Human Resource Consulting Services, LLC, a consulting firm that offers a wide-range of human resources services to a variety of businesses. PRISM offers its clients, among other services, benefit program analysis and design, training program development, translation services, and OSHA/Safety program development.

Mary Beth, who earned her JD from the William S. Boyd School of Law, a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management, and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Business Administration from Upsala College, has spent more than fifteen years in the human resources field working for both Fortune 500 companies and smaller companies. While working with smaller, entrepreneurial ventures, she has been instrumental in developing human resource departments, strategies, and measures. Mary Beth was President of the Southern Nevada Human Resource Association and currently serves as chairperson for the Business Development committee of the National Association of Business Women, is a member of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, and volunteers with Big Brother/Big Sisters of Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mary Beth Hartleb. Her dedication to the business and civic community are commendable and I wish her every continued success.

HONORING THE WEST CENTRAL  
MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE AND  
THE WEST COOK COUNTY SOLID  
WASTE AGENCY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two innovative organizations that positively impact over 30 Chicagoland communities—the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) and the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency (WCCSWA). Through dedicated and distinguished leadership, these associations continue to foster the improvement of local government, provide quality service to citizens, and enhance the overall quality of life for area residents. Today, I would especially like to recognize and thank WCMC and WCCSWA Executive Director Richard

Pellegrino, 2007 WCMC Executive Committee President Harold J. Wiaduck, and 2007 WCCSWA Executive Committee President Michael J. Garvey.

Since 1980, the West Central Municipal Conference has served as the regional council of governments (COG) in west suburban Cook County. Currently, WCMC has eight standing committees that focus on areas such as buildings and codes, finance, legislative advocacy, intergovernmental affairs, public works, transportation, and public safety. The committees strive to achieve municipal cooperation, communication, community outreach, and fiscal responsibility.

I am privileged today to acknowledge the incoming 2008 WCMC Executive Committee members: President Daniel Pritchett of Franklin Park; Vice President Paul Gattuso of Westchester; Treasurer Roy F. McCampbell of Bellwood; Director Frank A. Pasquale of Bellwood; Director Peter N. Silvestri of Elmwood Park; Director Anthony T. Calderone of Forest Park; Director James L. Discipio of LaGrange Park; Director Jeffrey T. Sherwin of Northlake; Director Patrick T. Rogers of Lyons Township; Director John D. Dalicandro of Elmwood Park; Director Patrick R. Higgins of Western Springs; and Ex-Officio Member Harold J. Wiaduck of Riverside.

The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, established in 1989, facilitates the efficient and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery, and reuse of municipal waste in west Cook County, Illinois. WCCSWA not only administers recycling programs such as the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, the Regional Disposal Project, and the Electronics Recycling Program, but organizes community events that include lawn care buy-backs and paint exchanges. Through its consumer assistance and school education programming, the agency helps citizens make sound environmental decisions and promotes the importance of recycling to young people.

I am also honored today to recognize the 2008 WCCSWA Executive Committee members: President Michael J. Garvey of Brookfield; Vice President Wayne Straza of Country-side; Treasurer Roy F. McCampbell of Bellwood; Director Kevin Barr of Schiller Park; Director Guy Belmonte of North Riverside; Director Karen Rozmus of Oak Park; and Director Marilyn May of River Grove.

The service and contributions made to west Cook County by the West Central Municipal Conference and the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency are extraordinary. I am pleased to honor the staff members, the committee members, and all those who make the activities of these organizations possible. As we work tirelessly to improve the lives of area citizens, I look forward to continuing to serve our communities with the current 2007 and future 2008 Executive Committee members, as well as other WCMC and WCCSWA leaders.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LOUIS J. PAPAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues, Mr. BACA, Mr.

BEERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SUSAN DAVIS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. Harman, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Ms. TAUSCHER, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, Ms. LYNN WOOLSEY, and Speaker NANCY PELOSI, to honor our long-time friend and colleague, the Honorable Lou Papan, who passed away at his home on Saturday, April 28, 2007, in Millbrae, California, at the age of 78. He was a distinguished American, a dedicated public servant, a forceful legislator, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Lou Papan was born Elias Papandricoupolos in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Greek immigrants, John and Flora Papandricoupolos. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Syracuse University and studied at Georgetown Law School. He served as a Sergeant in the Army during World War II and as a Lieutenant in the Air Force during the Korean War.

After Korea, he joined the F.B.I. and was transferred to San Francisco, where he met the love of his life the late Irene Damis, his wife of 42 years. Irene hailed from Portland, Oregon and studied at Mills College in Oakland. They had three children: John, Gina, and Diane. Gina is a member of the Millbrae City Council, and Diane is a practicing attorney in San Francisco. John passed away from a rare congenital illness at age 21, and in the wake of their profound loss, Lou and Irene founded an extraordinary scholarship and not-for-profit clothing bank to honor John's memory known as John's Closet, which has helped hundreds of low-income late-blooming students.

Lou began his political career in 1970 when he was elected to the Daly City Council. He was elected to serve the people of California's 19th Assembly District in 1972. He was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore in 1974, and became Chair of the powerful Rules Committee in 1976. He also chaired the Public Investment and Finance Committee.

In his many years in the Assembly, Lou Papan worked on behalf of California's working class, and was a tireless advocate for disabled children. He authored legislation that strengthened child and elder abuse reporting requirements and improved Worker's Compensation benefits. He promoted independent banking institutions and was an early supporter of e-commerce, an environmental champion who helped to purchase land in Pacifica for the State Park System, and protected endangered species on San Bruno Mountain. He improved government accountability by placing legislative records under the State's Open Records Act.

Lou retired from the Assembly in 1986 to run for the State Senate. He lost that race but was elected again in 1996 to his former Assembly seat where he served until 2002. In 1997, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in recognition of significant contributions made by immigrants to our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mr. Papan's daughters, Diane and Gina, his son-in-law, Dan Latini, and his beautiful grand-

daughter, Alexa Papan Latini, as we honor the life of this proud American. We take comfort in knowing that he is now reunited with his angels, Irene and John. Lou gave our nation many years of devoted public service and we are better for them.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on the evening of May 2, 2007 I missed nine Rollcall votes. I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on these Rollcall votes.

It was my intention to vote:

No on recorded vote 287 Sullivan Amendment to the Honda Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 288 Honda Amendment.

No on recorded vote 289 Campbell Amendment number 5.

No on recorded vote 290 Campbell Amendment number 4.

No on recorded vote 291 Garrett Amendment number 11.

No on recorded vote 292 Flake Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 293 Matsui Amendment.

No on recorded vote 294 Price Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 295 Final Passage of H.R. 1867.

#### INTRODUCTION STATEMENT FOR HIV/AIDS DENTAL SERVICE BILL

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Dedicated Dental Service for HIV/AIDS (DDS for HIV/AIDS) Act of 2007, to establish a loan repayment program for dental school graduates in exchange for their agreement to remedy a critical shortage of dentists for the poor, particularly in areas with a high incidence of HIV and AIDS, by agreeing to serve such patients. This bill is similar to legislation Congress has previously enacted to encourage other health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, optometrists and pharmacists to provide vital services in underserved areas. This bill is being introduced in conjunction with a series of HIV/AIDS town hall meetings that I am hosting in the District of Columbia.

I am introducing the bill on the same day when I am hosting a Men's Town Meeting on HIV/AIDS. This public meeting is one of a series of town meetings I am holding to increase awareness and individual responsibility at a time when 50 percent of AIDS cases today are African American. Howard University professors of dentistry inform us that the first indicators of HIV/AIDS infection are often oral health problems. Oral health problems often not only constitute an important early signal of HIV/AIDS symptoms; they also serve as benchmarks for disease progression. One of the most serious problems with the spread of HIV/AIDS is the reluctance of people to be tested for such a disease, especially in the Af-

rican-American community and other big city and rural areas. Access to dental care, therefore, is critically important from the earliest onset, especially in high impact areas. Access, of course, minimizes long-term oral health complications for patients, but it also provides important linkages to good overall medical care to combat the disease in the community.

A recent RAND health study on HIV costs and services found that the vast majority of patients received care at their local AIDS clinic, not a primary dentist. Moreover, these disfavored patients must look for service within the context of a nationwide drop in dental school applicants and graduates, and a projected 60 percent loss of active dentists due to retirement. As a result, the average American, especially those with HIV/AIDS, will, or already are, having difficulty in obtaining dental care.

The crisis is palpable for HIV/AIDS patients. They have even more difficulty than other Americans finding dentists who will accept Medicaid or treat patients at reduced cost.

Some dentists are reluctant to provide care. Although only one case of transmission between dentist and patient has been documented, problems of access are acute. Many patients must travel long distances to find care. Many states do not include dental care as part of their Medicaid coverage. Patients often must search for providers such as schools of dentistry or local community clinics which receive some funds from the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP), administered through the Ryan White CARE Act.

My bill would create a loan forgiveness program for dental school graduates who agree to serve HIV/AIDS populations in areas where there is a high incidence of such cases, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. This program is drawn from the nurse loan forgiveness program passed by Congress in 1998. The crisis for the dental profession, especially in the distribution of dentists in underserved areas, is even greater than for physicians. Dental school graduates incur an average loan debt of \$100,000. Under the guidelines of the program, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to pay 60 percent of the principal and interest on the loans in exchange for service for a period of no less than two years. If a dentist agrees to participate in a third year of service, another 25 percent of the principal and interest on his loans will be paid. Loan forgiveness programs bring important added value because many recipients remain in practice in the area to which they are assigned. The Secretary of HHS is to submit to the Congress a report on the program, with information including the number of dentists enrolled, the number and amount of loan repayments, the placement location of loan repayment recipients, and the evaluation of the overall costs and benefits of the program.

With more than one million Americans with HIV/AIDS, and over 16,000 in the District of Columbia, and its impact among people of color, these health providers need greater attention. We are proud of the overworked and under-funded services that are available in the District of Columbia. The Howard School of Dentistry has a long history of providing dental services to the poor here, and the HU CARES program provides care for nearly 1,200 patients a year. The vital Whitman-Walker Clinic, the largest provider of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in the District and the region serves over 1,500 dental patients a year.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in establishing this dental loan repayment program that will meet an immediate and pressing need in communities across the country, as we have for other professions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREE  
ABSENTEE ACT OF 2007

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide free postage for absentee or mail-in ballots in federal elections.

Since voter participation rates are shockingly low in this nation where we pride ourselves on our democracy, our leaders must do all we can to encourage voter turnout and remove obstacles.

We know that not everyone can make it to the polls on Election Day and we know that some voters prefer to vote from home because they have more time to review their options and do not want to wait in line to vote.

While only 6 percent of voters used the vote by mail option in 1979, that number has risen to around 40 percent in areas where voters can vote by mail for any reason such as in my district in San Diego.

In our fast-paced hectic society, voting by mail is an option that works for many people. We need to make voting by mail as convenient as possible. Making ballots postage free is a step in that direction.

The price of a stamp is not a burden for many people though it certainly is for some. For these people, adding a stamp to a ballot is a sort of poll tax and that is wrong.

For those for whom a stamp is affordable, it is not always easy to acquire a stamp or to know how much postage to put on an odd-sized ballot envelope. In fact, a postal employee even told me she drives around with her own mail in her truck for days because she can't find the time to weigh it and buy stamps.

With election deadlines, voters do not have time to wait until they can stop to pick up stamps. They should be able to vote and put their ballots in any mailbox without worrying about finding the right amount of postage.

We must also realize that providing postage for mail-in ballots does not come at tremendous cost to the federal government. Postage for ballots is managed in bulk making them eligible business reply rates which cost less than individual first class pieces. But more importantly, each voter need not figure out how much postage to put on.

It is hard to give an exact cost estimate of this bill since the number of mail-in voters varies election to election. However, if the federal government paid for the mail-in ballots in the 2004 election, the cost would have been around \$23 million. That is a small price to pay when you compare it with the billions we are spending on election machines and other costs.

In Congress, we have become accustomed to sending mail out with just the frank. We don't worry about having the proper postage. Shouldn't we share that privilege with the voters?

Creating postage-paid mail-in ballots is just one of the three major improvements we can make to mail-in voting. The others are allowing no-excuse absentee voting and implementing a ballot tracking system similar to that which we use for overnight packages. I have introduced legislation addressing these other areas as well.

If voters could vote by mail for any reason and know that they could just toss their ballots in any mailbox without having to worry about postage and if they knew they could track the progress of their ballot, more voters would vote by mail, the strain at the polls would be less and I suspect voter turnout would increase dramatically.

COMMENDING THE MAINEIACS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lewiston Maineiacs for their 4–3 victory over their Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, completing a 4 game winning streak and advancing the team to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League President Cup Finals. Since 2003, the Maineiacs have brought crowds to the Androscoggin Bank Colisée, and they have enjoyed spectacular success this season.

Off the ice, the team's players and their mascot, Lewy, are fixtures throughout the greater Lewiston-Auburn community, visiting local businesses, promoting reading and academic achievement in the schools, and supporting youth sports for the area children and young adults.

The Maineiacs have had an excellent season and much credit is due to the hardworking players and their coach, Clem Jodoin. With a 50–14 record regular season record—the best in the league—the Maineiacs moved quickly through the playoffs and will play in the 2007 President Cup Finals this Friday.

I would like to commend the team for their tremendous performance this season and their continued involvement in their local community.

Go Maineiacs!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA F.  
BRANCH

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda F. Branch, managing owner of Customer Service Management Consultants, LLC for her being honored by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Microenterprise Initiative Business Person of the Year.

Through CSMC, LLC, Linda has been dedicated to providing a wide selection of training and workforce development solutions since 2003 throughout Southern Nevada. As CEO, Linda has committed CSMC to bringing quality and excellence in training and staff development solutions to their clients' missions and

goals as a service provider. CSMC, LLC is a leading provider of continuing education training for healthcare and human service providers and they provide training solutions that are customized face-to-face and online for front line staff, middle management and upper management.

Linda has 30 years experience as a human resource provider, including facilitation and training in both public and private organizations. Linda is a well-known speaker and facilitator and has written a number of training workbooks that are certified through the Clark County Commission on Post Secondary Education. She has also received continuing education unit certification from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Social Work on two of her training workbooks. Linda earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work and a master's degree in Organizational Management.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda F. Branch. Her dedication to providing continuing education training and commitment to excellence are truly commendable. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, I was unable to be present for votes. Had I been present: For rollcall No. 270—H. Res. 334, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Community College Month, I would have voted "yea"; for rollcall No. 271—H. Con. Res. 112, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day, I would have voted "no"; and for rollcall No. 239—H. Res. 272, to commend the University of Florida Gators for their historic win in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO  
SHORTEN DEPRECIABLE LIVES  
OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION AS-  
SETS

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation that would shorten the depreciable lives of electric distribution assets from 20 to 15 years. I feel this legislation, is necessary to spur investment in a time where the demand for electricity is at an all-time high. Despite continued energy efficiency improvements, electricity consumption is expected to increase 41 percent by 2030, according to the Energy Information Administration.

To meet this growing demand, electric companies must expand and upgrade the nation's electricity infrastructure. The need to expand the nation's distribution infrastructure will require significant investment. According to a recent study by the Brattle Group ("Why Are

Electricity Prices Increasing? An Industry-Wide Perspective”), if recent investment trends continue, distribution investment will average \$14 billion per year over the next 10 years. This investment is almost triple the projected amount of annual investment in new transmission capacity and is likely to exceed capital spending on generation capacity over the next decade as well.

The American Council for Capital Formation released an analysis yesterday of the depreciation treatment of energy assets of the U.S. compared with 11 other countries. The analysis concluded that the U.S. generally has less favorable tax depreciation rules for electric distribution rules than a number of the U.S.’s major trading partners. The U.S. has slower cost recovery during the first five and ten years after the investment than the comparison countries. For example, U.S. capital cost recovery for distribution lines in the first five years is 29.5 percent compared to 40 percent in China, 58 percent in Korea and 50 percent in Taiwan. Nine of the countries analyzed had faster cost recovery than the U.S. From a competitive standpoint, our depreciation rules need to be updated. My bill will begin to tackle part of the problem.

Investment in electric distribution facilities—in wires, transformers, substations and all traditional utility distribution facilities—is needed, first and foremost to keep pace with growing customer demands. Distribution investment also is needed to replace and modernize our nation’s aging distribution grid.

Tax depreciation incentives for electric distribution systems also would help mitigate the cost of other factors affecting spending on distribution infrastructure. For example, some companies are being directed to place new and/or existing distribution lines underground, particularly in urban areas. Undergrounding power lines costs five to ten times the cost of overhead lines. In addition, large distribution system expenditures have been necessitated by widespread hurricane and storm damage experienced in 2004 and 2005, which has impacted energy and material costs across the nation.

The Brattle Group report estimates that underinvestment in transmission and distribution systems costs the American economy at least \$20 billion a year—a figure certain to grow if transmission and distribution infrastructure investment does not keep pace with demand. In 2005, we reduced depreciable lives for transmission assets from 20 to 15 years as part of the Energy Policy Act. Similarly, Congress should do the same for distribution assets. This action will spur investments needed to update the aging distribution infrastructure to a modern, automated, high-performance network.

IN MEMORY OF SHANE STANFIELD

### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Shane Stanfield of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who was killed in Iraq while serving his nation. It is with deep sadness today that I join Shane’s family in mourning their loss.

Shane Stanfield entered into military service on behalf of his country in 2000, eventually

serving with honor and distinction in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps. In 2004, Shane left the active duty military but continued serving his country as a private security officer. Shane was killed while protecting American personnel during Operation Iraqi Freedom on January 23, 2007.

Shane was only 25 years old. He is remembered both for his love of adventure and for his hardworking nature. Shane may be best remembered, however, for his kindness toward everyone he met.

We must never forget the sacrifice made by Shane Stanfield, or the countless other soldiers, who willingly place the safety and well being of the nation above their own. Shane Stanfield was a beloved husband, son, brother, uncle, nephew, and dear friend to those left behind. His family members and friends selflessly parted with him during his service to our nation.

We recognize that our deepest gratitude cannot possibly begin to diminish Shane Stanfield’s absence, but his memory will live on in the hearts of our nation’s citizens. I hope that this knowledge will provide his family with some measure of comfort as they work to find healing in Shane’s remembrance.

### COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk with my colleagues about a visit I recently made to Deer Park High School in my Congressional District, where the students invited me to participate in a hearing on college affordability.

The Seniors at Deer Park High School and I discussed the skyrocketing costs associated with getting a college education and the ways in which many middle class families on Long Island are put at a critical disadvantage—being too rich to qualify for student aid but too poor to pay for college. They shared their personal thoughts and concerns about how they’ll pay for college. And they advised me on legislation I’m drafting to make college more affordable.

Higher education is so important—but so many parents and students simply cannot afford to pay for college. And many parents and students who find a way to struggle through end up thousands of dollars in debt. Total expenses for public universities (including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses) now average \$12,796 per year. Total expenses for private universities now average \$30,367 per year. And New York has the highest number of subsidized student borrowers in the country.

How can the United States compete in the global economy if our young people cannot afford a college education? We’ve made a start. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress, we passed the College Student Relief Act of 2007. This legislation will make college more affordable and accessible by cutting the interest rate on subsidized student loans for undergraduates in half over the next five years—from the current 6.8% to 3.4%.

In closing, I’d like to commend the students at Deer Park High School for all of the hard

work and preparation they put into our college affordability hearing and I want to thank them for all of their wonderful suggestions. The time I spent at Deer Park High School truly helped reinforce my commitment to making college more affordable for Long Island families.

NEED TO ADDRESS H-1B SHORTFALL IN COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM LEGISLATION

### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of comprehensive immigration reform that is tough, practical and effective. I urge my colleagues to work together in a bi-partisan manner so that we can move legislation to the floor as soon as possible.

Our inability to solve the Nation’s immigration crisis is taking a major toll on the high-tech business sector and crippling their ability to have the workforce they need. As American companies struggle to compete in the global information-economy, they are continually seeking the brightest minds to develop new innovations and technologies. Sometimes, those minds are in other countries. Many of these individuals studied at top U.S. colleges and universities but have returned to their native country.

H-1B visas allow American businesses to hire temporary skilled foreign employees in specialized occupations when they are unable to find a qualified U.S. citizen for the job. These specialized occupations include architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, law, accounting, business specialties, theology and the arts.

Each year, the number of H-1B visas are capped at 65,000. Applications for 2008 were only open for 1 day, after 150,000 applications were filed on April 1.

Robert Breault, president and founder of the Breault Research Organization of Tucson, called the cap on applications “a catastrophe.” Southern Arizona’s “Optics Valley,” as well as other high-tech corridors, depend on foreign workers with advanced degrees—degrees often earned in U.S. universities—to supplement the workforce.

Our high-tech companies are competing in a global marketplace. To keep pace, they must hire the best employees. As comprehensive immigration reform legislation begins to take shape, congress must ensure that the number of H-1B visas is increased.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS T. MIKO

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Francis T. Miko, Specialist in International Relations with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Mr. Miko retired on

April 27, 2007, after serving the Congress for over thirty years in various positions at CRS. Mr. Miko's tenure spanned multiple Congresses and several epochs in foreign policy and European affairs, his area of specialization. He has served as the institutional memory of Congress on important issues in which he was the recognized expert. His work as an analyst, manager, and leader in the CRS organization is particularly notable for his tact, judgment, and unswerving commitment to the core CRS mission of supporting an informed national legislature with nonpartisan analytical and research work.

Mr. Miko began working at CRS in 1974 as a research assistant in Soviet and Eastern European affairs. As an analyst and later as a specialist, Mr. Miko served as the principal CRS expert on Central and Eastern Europe. The quality of his work earned him widespread recognition and significantly contributed to CRS's reputation as a center for advanced policy analysis. During the Cold War years, he produced numerous studies on Eastern Europe and the détente period between the United States and Soviet Union, including major east-west initiatives such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He participated in the congressional delegation to the Belgrade Conference of the CSCE in 1977 and the Budapest CSCE Cultural Forum in 1985. He was seconded to the Department of Defense in 1992 to serve as a representative of the Secretary of Defense at the CSCE Review Conference in Helsinki. As the Cold War wound down, Mr. Miko completed major CRS projects on the impact of the transformation of Eastern Europe after 1989 and the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Later, he provided key analyses on global security issues such as organized crime, trafficking in persons, and approaches to counterterrorism. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Mr. Miko served as co-coordinator of the CRS Terrorist Task Force that worked across subject divisions to coordinate related research needs for Congress.

I got to know Mr. Miko well in another role, one through which he also provided invaluable service to Congress. He has played an instrumental part in two congressional programs to assist with the development of new democracies. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Miko coordinated the CRS role in the Frost-Solomon Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The role of the Task Force was to help strengthen the parliamentary infrastructures of the formerly passive legislatures in twelve countries of post-communist central and eastern Europe. This unprecedented initiative of the U.S. Congress entailed extremely demanding and complex activities involving technical assistance on legislative practice, library and research institutional development, and automation systems and design. Mr. Miko's understanding of Europe on the one hand, and of Congress on the other, was essential to the success of the program, as his first-hand knowledge of the people and cultures of Eastern European countries helped the Task Force appropriately tailor its activities to the needs and working styles of its legislative partners in the region.

Rep. DAVID DREIER and I worked closely with Mr. Miko on the Frost-Solomon Task Force, and our positive experiences inspired

us, in 2005, to establish the House Democracy Assistance Commission to strengthen democratic institutions in emerging democracies worldwide. In this effort Mr. Miko has again proven an invaluable resource as a veteran expert in the development of democratic legislatures. He has helped the Commission determine appropriate partner nations, participated in needs assessments, and delivered direct technical assistance to partner legislatures. Most recently he accompanied us on a mission to Georgia, where we are working to support the democratic gains of the Rose Revolution. I and other Members of the Democracy Assistance Commission will greatly miss having such ready access to Mr. Miko at CRS, but we hope to find ways to continue to draw upon his insights and expertise as we move ahead with our work.

Over the years, Mr. Miko assumed several senior management positions at CRS, serving twice as section head of the Europe, Middle East, and Africa section, and once as deputy assistant director for the foreign affairs division. He represented the Library of Congress at the National War College in 1984–1985. He earned a Distinguished Service Award for his performance as representative of the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the 1992 Helsinki Review Conference.

In all of his professional endeavors, Mr. Miko has been a role model of the highest level of service to the U.S. Congress, the Library of Congress, and CRS. He has excelled as a capable manager of programs and resources, as a nationally renowned expert in his field of policy expertise, as a diplomat, and as a notable contributor to the legislative work of Congress.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to express my appreciation to Francis Miko for his many years of public service and for his multiple contributions to the Congress, and to wish him well in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PANCH R.  
PRASAD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Panch R. Prasad, C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation, for his recent professional successes and achievements.

Panch is the President and C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation. The company was founded in 1990 in Portland, Oregon, however, their corporate offices are now located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Since its founding, the U.S. International Trading Corporation has been committed to providing quality hair care, skin care, and cosmetics products. The company's beauty and cosmetics products are sold across the world with the products being available to consumers in East Asia, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and Australia.

Most recently, Panch was honored as the Small Business Exporter of the Year by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Small Business Administration utilizes an independent panel of judges that use several factors in awarding these honors to the recipients.

The panel evaluates businesses on several factors such as the growth in number of employees, increase in sales, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, and contributions to community-oriented projects. This is an outstanding and well-deserved honor. Panch believes in supporting a commitment to excellence by providing quality distribution and products to U.S. International Trading Corporation's customers. I applaud his commitment to excellence.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Panch R. Prasad. His professional success is truly commendable. I congratulate him for his recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

FEDERAL AGENCY DATA BREACH  
PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, secure information is the lifeblood of effective government policy and management, yet federal agencies continue to hemorrhage vital data. Personal information continues to be placed at risk, and we must ask: What is being done to protect the sensitive digital identities of millions of Americans, and how can we limit the damage when personal data does go astray?

As we all now know, a Department of Veterans Affairs employee reported the theft of computer equipment from his home—equipment which stored more than 26 million records containing personal information. VA leadership delayed acting on the report for almost two weeks, while millions were at risk of serious harm from identity theft and the agency struggled to determine the exact extent of the breach.

But this is only one in a long string of personal information breaches in the public and private sectors, including financial institutions, data brokerage companies, and academic institutions. Last year, we found the Census Bureau could not account for over one thousand laptops containing sensitive information issued to employees. And just recently, we learned the Department of Agriculture left sensitive data on a website, putting the personal information of 150,000 individuals at risk.

These breaches continue to illustrate how far we have to go to reach the goal of strong, uniform, government-wide information security policies and procedures.

On the Government Reform Committee, I focused on government-wide information management and security for a long time. The Privacy Act and the E-Government Act of 2002 outline the parameters for the protection of personal information. These recent incidents highlight the importance of establishing—and following—security standards for safeguarding personal information. They also highlight the need for proactive security breach notification requirements for organizations—including Federal agencies—dealing with sensitive personal information.

Congress continues working on requirements for the private sector—but Federal agencies present unique requirements and

challenges. These incidents demonstrate the importance of strengthening the laws and rules protecting personal information held by Federal agencies—and we need to do this quickly.

In order to get a more complete picture of the problem before pursuing legislation, we sent a request to all cabinet agencies seeking information about data breaches involving the loss of sensitive personal information.

The results were troubling. We learned there have been a wide range of incidents involving data loss or theft, privacy breaches, and security incidents. In almost all of these cases, Congress and the public would not have learned of each event unless we had requested the information.

My bill requires timely notice be provided to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a Federal agency. Despite the volume of sensitive information held by agencies, there currently is no requirement people be notified if their information is compromised. Under this legislation, the executive branch must establish practices, procedures and standards for agencies to follow if sensitive personal information is lost or stolen and there is a reasonable risk of harm to an individual. And we provide a clear definition of the type of sensitive information we're trying to protect.

We also give the agency Chief Information Officers the authority, when appropriate and authorized, to ensure agency personnel comply with the information security laws already on the books.

Finally, we ensure costly equipment containing potentially sensitive information is accounted for and secure. Half of the lost Census Bureau computers simply were not returned by departing or terminated employees. The agency did not track computer equipment, nor were employees held accountable for failing to return it. This is taxpayer funded equipment, containing sensitive information, and we must know what we have and who has it—at all times.

Each year, I release Federal agency information security scorecards. Despite some improvement, scores for many departments remain unacceptably low. The Federal Government overall received a C minus, a slight improvement over prior years.

The Federal Government has sensitive personal information on every citizen—health records, tax returns, military records. We need to ensure the public knows when its sensitive personal information has been lost or compromised in some way.

The language in this bill is identical to H.R. 6163, which I introduced last Congress. Last year, with the assistance of then Chairman STEVE BUYER, I incorporated this language into the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act (H.R. 5835), which passed the House on September 26. That bill, including my language, had strong bipartisan support, with 67 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, including the new chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

This bill is a critical first step toward limiting the loss of our sensitive personal information. I hope we can again move this important legislation through the House.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROLYN MAZURE AS SHE RECEIVES THE ELIZABETH BLACKWELL AWARD

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Connecticut NOW and all of those gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to my good friend, Dr. Carolyn Mazure, as she is honored with this year's Elizabeth Blackwell Award. Carolyn is a remarkable woman whose outstanding accomplishments have had significant impacts on women's health research. Each year, Connecticut NOW presents the Elizabeth Blackwell Award to an individual for "outstanding achievements in facilitating women's holistic health: emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual." I cannot think of a more appropriate or deserving recipient than Dr. Carolyn Mazure. She has dedicated her professional life to the advancement of women's health. Perhaps her most important contribution, to her field and to women everywhere, is the establishment of Women's Health Research at Yale—a program dedicated to advancing the study of women's health and gender differences across all areas of biomedical and psychosocial study.

Carolyn first came to New Haven to complete her postgraduate education at Yale University. Upon completion of her degree she was offered a faculty position at Yale—the University could not have made a wiser investment. Beginning her career as a clinician and researcher, Carolyn has built a distinguished reputation as a recognized scholar, esteemed clinician, teacher, mentor, and accomplished administrator. It was through her unique vision and respected understanding of the value of gender-specific research and data that Women's Health Research at Yale was developed. Carolyn has served as the organization's director from its inception—setting a new standard of practice for medical research.

In under a decade, Women's Health Research at Yale has initiated work and issued invaluable findings on some of the most pressing problems in women's health. The genetics of breast and ovarian cancer; the role of estrogen in memory; cancer screening in HIV-positive women; prevention of domestic violence; and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are just a small example of the more than 50 major projects they have initiated to date. This research, combined with the program's active educational community outreach, has translated new findings into practice as well as influencing public policies on health—making a real difference in the lives of women across the country.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Carolyn for many years and have often found myself in awe of her energy and enthusiasm. I have had the honor to introduce Carolyn on two of three occasions she provided testimony to the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of research on women's health and it was without hesitation that I supported her nomination for the 2005 American Association of University Women Achievement Award. I am grateful to Carolyn for her inspiring vision of what truly comprehensive medicine can be and so proud to have the opportunity to work with her.

Carolyn is a visionary leader who not only possesses the ability to explain the issues that confront us, but to also identify the path that stimulates change and builds alliances that unite us. She is dedicated to the common good and draws us to shared goals through her personal warmth and deep convictions. Guided by clear thinking, intense intellectual curiosity as well as integrity and honesty—this is a woman who has a genuine concern for the well-being of others and is committed to improving our lives and those of women in the future. I could not be more pleased to rise today to join Connecticut NOW, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my heart-felt congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Mazure as she receives this very special award. Carolyn has left an indelible mark on her field, our community and indeed our nation. It is a legacy that will continue to influence public policy and the health of women for generations to come.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-31)

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, for the third time I will vote in strong support of H.R. 1591, The Iraq Accountability Act. This time I will vote to override the President's veto of this critical legislation. With U.S. troop levels in Iraq increasing towards 170,000, all of whom are in the middle of a civil war; it is an act of political gamesmanship, not executive leadership, for President Bush to veto this legislation. With this veto, President Bush, with the strong support of his Republican minority in Congress, rejected \$95.5 billion for our troops in harm's way and walks away from billions in needed funds for our veterans. The President vetoed this bill and rejected providing our troops with needed training, mandatory rest time, and an exit strategy from a civil war in Iraq.

This presidential veto sends a clear message to Congress and to the overwhelming majority of American people who are demanding a change in this administration's Iraq policy. The message is this: the White House has no intentions of holding Iraq's political leaders accountable for the future of their country. They have no intention of honoring the benchmarks his administration has established for measuring success in Iraq. And, President Bush has no intention of ending the U.S. military's presence in Iraq during his remaining 20 months in the White House. The only timetable this president is likely to honor will result in him walking out of the White House on January 20, 2009, leaving behind more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops in Iraq and the greatest foreign policy disaster in American history for a new president to address.

The Democratic majority in this House have made the needs of our troops, our veterans and our Nation's security our top priority. Unlike the minority in Congress and the White

House, we are not deluded by a false hope that Iraq will suddenly transform itself into a nation of peace and tranquility with a surge of U.S. troops. Every indicator—military, economic and social—demonstrates that U.S. troops and American taxpayers are bearing an overwhelming burden on behalf of a nation that is broken and an Iraqi political leadership that refuses to act to retain sovereignty over their own nation.

Iraqis must take responsibility for the future of their nation, not U.S. troops. The only solution that can be achieved and sustained in Iraq is through political dialogue, not expanded military action by a foreign army. President Bush's failed policy has U.S. troops doing the job Iraqi soldiers and police should be doing. The veto of this legislation not only strips General Petraeus and all our commanders on the ground of any leverage to hold Iraq's political leaders accountable, it ensures that U.S. troops will continue being engaged in door-to-door searches, Baghdad foot patrols and raids on torture centers run by Iraqi security forces.

Last month, 104 Americans were killed in Iraq. The President's surge is not creating security for Iraqis, but has placed U.S. troops at greater risk. In March, 2,762 Iraqi civilians and policemen were killed. In April thousands more Iraqis were killed. On Monday, sixty Iraqis were killed, including the thirteen corpses found in Baghdad, "all blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the head" according to the Washington Post.

These are not just numbers, they are lives. They are the lives of men and women, children as well, American soldiers and Iraqi civilians, killed as part of a bloody civil war. More than 50,000 Iraqi are fleeing their country every month. Two million Iraqis are now refugees and another 1.9 million Iraqis are internally displaced because of sectarian killings, ethnic cleansing and civil war. For my colleagues who warn about a horrific humanitarian crisis if this legislation becomes law, why do you ignore the horrific humanitarian crisis that is taking place right now as a result of the failed policies of this White House?

I will vote to override this veto. This legislation starts the process of ending the war in Iraq. This legislation not only holds the Iraqis accountable, it holds President Bush accountable as well. This war started because of distortions, false information and the determination of the Bush White House to deceive the American people, not a threat to our national security. It has always been a war of choice and an unjust war. The empty rhetoric from the Republicans in this chamber claims that this legislation puts the American people at risk, yet it is their stay the course support for a disastrous Iraq policy that harms America. My Republican colleagues' rejection of accountability standards, benchmarks for success, and an exit strategy from Iraq is an indication of their blind loyalty to President Bush, his failed leadership and a perpetuation of the deceit that brought us the Iraq War.

I urge all my colleagues to vote to override President Bush's veto of H.R. 1591 and let us start down the path of successfully ending the war in Iraq.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM FEENEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my regret for missing votes on the House floor on Thursday, April 26, 2007. A close childhood friend died and I had to return home. I left directly after the vote on the Conference Report for H.R. 1591 vote on April 25, 2007.

## PRESBYTERIAN HOMES INC. 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Presbyterian Homes, Inc., located in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, for reaching its 80th anniversary.

Presbyterian Homes, Inc., (PHI), originated in 1927 when Mrs. Ellen Parker donated her farmhouse to care for 10 older women from Central Pennsylvania. Today, PHI is dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare, housing, and retirement services to older Americans in 19 communities.

More than 2,500 administrators, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare staff provide care to over 5,100 residents of PHI. Throughout its system of care, PHI provides independent living facilities, assisted living and personal care, skilled nursing care, specialized Alzheimer's and dementia care, rehabilitation therapy, adult day services, and operates a meals-on-wheels program.

Madam Speaker, please join with me congratulating Presbyterian Homes, Inc., on their 80th anniversary. I wish them luck as they begin their traveling exhibit which makes its debut in the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in May.

## RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cheerleading Squad at Washington Township High School. For the second year in a row, these outstanding student athletes won the Battle at the Capitol National Cheerleading Championship.

These young ladies are athletes in every sense of the word. They are dedicated and hardworking and spend up to 7 days a week practicing, cheering at basketball games and competing during the winter season while remaining excellent students. Team members include: Brooke Albano, Ashley Bonnette, Samantha Carfi, Victoria Collins, Bernadette Davis, Gabrielle DeMarco, Alyssa DeSilvio, Dana Dondici, Maria Freedman, Samantha Hersch, Holly Lloyd, Danielle Mace, Caitlin

McFall, Jenna Melchionna, Alyssa Mericle, Kristen Nisbet, Amanda Nowaczyk, Taryn Ortlip, Dana Pasqualone, Christy Pettit, Taylor Sartorio, Rachel Sims, Amanda Toton, Stephanie Toton, and Dana Villasin.

This year the Washington Township High School Cheerleaders competed against squads from around the country and won the Battle at the Capitol National Championship in Fairfax, Virginia. They also won the Olympic Conference Grand Championship for the eighth year in a row and the New Jersey Cheering and Dancing Coaches Association State Championship for the third year in a row.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the Washington Township High School Cheerleaders on their National Championship win.

## THE SAFE NURSING AND PATIENT CARE ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Safe Nursing and Patient Act with Representative STEVEN LATOURETTE (R-OH). Our legislation would achieve two vitally important goals. First, it would improve quality of care for patients across our country by assuring that nurses are not forced to work beyond the time they feel safe. Second, it would address our national nursing shortage by improving the working conditions that are causing nurses to leave their profession.

Assuring quality medical care and addressing our nursing shortage should not divide us on partisan lines. That's why I'm especially pleased to be working across the aisle with my friend from Ohio, Mr. LATOURETTE, in this important endeavor. This is legislation we've introduced together for several sessions of Congress. Given our changed environment in Congress, we are hopeful that we'll be able to enact it this time.

There are some 500,000 trained nurses in our country who are not working in their profession. While they leave nursing for many different reasons, nurses consistently cite concerns about the quality of care they feel that are able to provide in many health care settings today. Nurses are also greatly concerned about being forced to work mandatory overtime.

Listen to these words of a nurse in the State of Washington:

I have been a nurse for six years and most of the time I have worked in the hospital environment. It is difficult to tell you how terrible it is to "work scared" all the time. A mistake that I might make could easily cost someone their life and ruin mine. Every night at work we routinely "face the clock." All of us do without lunch and breaks and work overtime, often without pay, to ensure continuity of care for our patients. Yet, we are constantly asked to do more. It has become the norm for us to have patient assignments two and a half times greater than the staffing guidelines established by the hospital itself. I cannot continue to participate in this unsafe and irresponsible practice. So I am leaving, not because I don't love being a nurse, but because hospitals are not safe places: not for patients and not for nurses.

While stories like this are telling, we also have a growing body of research to back up the anecdotes. Premier among these studies is a comprehensive report issued by the Institute of Medicine in November 2003 entitled, "Keeping Patients Safe, Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses." The report finds that, "limiting the number of hours worked per day and consecutive days of work by nursing staff, as is done in other safety-sensitive industries, is a fundamental safety precaution." The report went on to specifically recommend that, "working more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period and more than 60 hours in any 7-day period be prevented except in case of an emergency, such as a natural disaster."

Another study published in the July/August 2004 Health Affairs Journal, "The Working Hours of Hospital Staff Nurses and Patient Safety," found that nurses who worked shifts of twelve-and-a-half hours or more were three times more likely to commit an error than nurses who worked eight-and-a-half hours (a standard shift) or less. The study also found that working overtime increased the odds of making at least one error, regardless of how long the shift was originally scheduled. Finally, this article illustrates how nurses are being forced to work more and more overtime. The majority of nurses surveyed reported working overtime ten or more times in a 28-day period and one-sixth reported working 16 or more consecutive hours at least once during the period. Nurses reported being mandated to work overtime on 360 shifts and on another 143 shifts they described being "coerced" into working voluntary overtime.

As these studies show, the widespread practice of requiring nurses to work extended shifts and forgo days off causes nurses to frequently provide care in a state of fatigue, contributing to medical errors and other consequences that compromise patient safety. In addition to endangering patients, studies also point to overtime issues as a prime contributing factor to our Nation's nursing shortage. For example, a 2001 report by the General Accounting Office, *Nursing Workforce: Emerging Nurse Shortages Due to Multiple Factors*, concluded:

[T]he current high levels of job dissatisfaction among nurses may also play a crucial role in determining the extent of current and future nurse shortages. Efforts undertaken to improve the workplace environment may both reduce the likelihood of nurses leaving the field and encourage more young people to enter the nursing profession . . .

We have the voices of nurses and the research evidence to prove that the practice of requiring nurses to work beyond the point they believe is safe is jeopardizing the quality of care patients receive. It is also contributing to the growing nurse shortage. Current projections are that the nurse workforce in 2020 will have fallen 20 percent below the level necessary to meet demand.

We have existing Federal government standards that limit the hours that pilots, flight attendants, truck drivers, railroad engineers and other professions can safely work before consumer safety is endangered. However, no similar limitation currently exists for our Nation's nurses who are caring for us at often the most vulnerable times in our lives.

The Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act would change that. It would set strict, new

Federal limits on the ability of health facilities to require mandatory overtime from nurses. Nurses would be allowed to continue to volunteer for overtime if and when they feel they can continue to provide safe, quality care. But, forced mandatory overtime would only be allowed when an official state of emergency was declared by Federal, State or local government. These limits would be part of Medicare's provider agreements. They would not apply to nursing homes since alternative staffing and quality measures are already moving forward for those facilities.

To assure compliance, the bill provides HHS with the authority to investigate complaints from nurses about violations. It also grants HHS the power to issue civil monetary penalties of up to \$10,000 for violations of the Act and to increase those fines for patterns of violations.

Providers would be required to post notices explaining these new rights and to post nurse schedules in prominent workplace locations. Nurses would also obtain anti-discrimination protections against employers who continued to force work hours for nurses beyond what a nurse believes is safe for quality care. Providers found to have violated the law would be posted on Medicare's website.

As usual, many States are ahead of the Federal Government when it comes to pinpointing problems that need to be addressed. Numerous States are currently considering bills to strictly limit the use of mandatory nurse overtime. Several States—including California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington and West Virginia—have already passed laws or regulations limiting the practice.

The Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act is an important first step, but it isn't the complete solution. I believe that standards must be developed to define timeframes for safe nursing care within the wide variety of health settings (whether such overtime is mandatory or voluntary). That is why the legislation also requires the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality to report back to Congress with recommendations for developing overall standards to protect patient safety in nursing care. Once we have better data in that regard, I will support broader limitations on all types of overtime. But, we must not wait to act until that data can be developed. The data collection will take years and the crisis of mandatory overtime is upon us now.

I know that our Nation's hospital trade associations will claim that our solution misses the mark because it is precisely the lack of nurses in the profession today that is necessitating their need to require mandatory overtime. Let me respond directly. Mandatory overtime is dangerous for patients plain and simple. It is also a driving force for nurses leaving the profession. These twin realities make mandatory overtime a dangerous short-term gamble at best. We should join together to end the practice.

Mandatory overtime is a very real problem facing the nursing profession and that is why our bill is endorsed by the American Nurses Association, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, AFT, SEIU, UAN, and UAW—organizations that speak for millions of America's nurses.

Again, our bill is not the sole solution. For example, I supported the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in August 2002. That legisla-

tion authorizes new Federal investment and initiatives to increase the number of people pursuing a nursing education. Such efforts will help in the future, but it will be years before that law's impact is felt in our medical system.

We need to help now. We must take steps to improve the nursing profession immediately so that today's nurses will remain in the field to care for those of us who need such care before new nurses can be trained. We also need today's nurses to be there as mentors for the nurses of tomorrow.

Mandatory nurse overtime is a very real quality of care issue for our health system and I look forward to working with my colleagues, enact the Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act. It will start us down the right path toward protecting patients and encouraging people to remain in—and enter—the nursing profession.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
RETIREMENT OF ALLEN LI

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued professional staff member of the Government Accountability Office—Allen Li—who is retiring from GAO after more than 28 years of service. During that time, he has provided invaluable oversight assistance to the Congress, and in particular to the Committee on Science and Technology.

As Director of the Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team, Mr. Li has been responsible for leading GAO's work related to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Examples of his recent oversight efforts include NASA's efforts to develop and build the International Space Station (ISS), Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV), the James Webb Telescope, and shuttle alternatives for supplying the ISS; the agency's management of its Deep Space Network (DSN); and NASA's implementation of its financial management system. He also has been a strong advocate for better cost estimation and project management at NASA and has aided the Committee's efforts to seek improvements at NASA in those areas. Mr. Li appeared before the Committee to testify on a range of NASA issues over the years, and we always found his testimony to be serious and thoughtful. He also testified before the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board following the tragic loss of the Shuttle *Columbia* and its crew.

Prior to assuming the aforementioned duties, Mr. Li was an Associate Director in GAO's Energy, Resources, and Science Issue Area where he directed work on research and development, nuclear safety, and Department of Energy management issues. However, those assignments represent only a part of his service to Congress and the Nation. Over the past 28 years at GAO, he has worked in several other units in GAO, including the Transportation Issue Area where he specialized in aviation safety and air traffic control modernization. Mr. Li has also frequently testified before Senate and House Committee and Subcommittees on civil and military issues, such as the F-22.

The quality of Allen Li's service has been recognized by GAO, and he has received the

Comptroller General's Distinguished Service Award, two Comptroller General's Meritorious Service Awards, and Director and Outstanding Achievement Awards from several GAO units.

Those who work at GAO make important, though often unheralded, contributions to improving the performance of our government. As Allen Li retires from GAO, I know that my fellow Committee members join me in wishing him well and in thanking him for his decades of dedicated public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TAMMY MATHEWS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Tammy Mathews, who has been named the Small Business Association's Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Nevada.

Tammy, the owner of Puppy Enterprises Dog Salon and Bakery and Small Town Dog Vacation Villas, turned a \$50,000 Small Business Association loan into two successful businesses which have flourished over the past several years. Between the two businesses, Tammy's staff consists of more than 20 employees, has a client base of over 1,000 customers, and projected gross sales of nearly \$1,000,000. Tammy's company has garnered widespread press attention and her novel approach to pet care has ensured continued patronage from her many clients. Tammy uses her company's success as a vehicle to give back to the community she serves and has worked to raise money to place shelter dogs and abandoned dogs in permanent homes. In addition to the recognition she received from the Small Business Association, Tammy was also named a 2004 finalist for the most innovative company of the year for the Stevie Awards for Women Entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Tammy Mathews. Her innovative spirit and hard work are commendable and I wish her every continued success.

TRIBUTE TO FORT GEORGE G. MEADE AND THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women who serve at Fort George G. Meade for their second place finish in the Army Communities of Excellence competition. The Communities of Excellence award program recognizes top installations from all over the world that demonstrate organizational maturity and outstanding capabilities. Brigadier General John Macdonald, Deputy Commanding General of the Installation Management Command, called the winning installations the "flagships of performance excellence for the Army."

I have the pleasure of representing Maryland's Third Congressional District in the House of Representatives, which neighbors Fort Meade and includes many of the surrounding communities. I am therefore acutely aware of the exciting and difficult work that is done at Fort Meade.

Colonel Ken McCreedy, garrison commander at Fort Meade, is a tremendous leader. He is charged with management of one of the Army's most important installations and has taken command at a time of great upheaval due to the impact of the 2005 BRAC. Despite these tremendous demands on his time, Colonel McCreedy has also involved himself in the community off post. He certainly deserves this recognition and I congratulate him on his fine work.

The men and women who serve with Colonel McCreedy at Fort Meade are exceptional individuals. For 90 years, they have worked to keep our Nation safe. Most people know that the National Security Agency, our military's foremost intelligence agency, is located at Fort Meade but there are many other organizations inside and outside of the intelligence community that contribute to our national security. One example is the Fort Meade Freedom Center, where they are housing soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. They stepped up to assist Walter Reed in housing these soldiers and provide shuttle service so they may receive their medical treatments.

Madam Speaker, I've been fortunate to visit Fort Meade twice in my first few months in Congress. The more I learn about this facility, the more I am impressed. They truly deserve this honor and I congratulate the entire Fort Meade community on their achievement.

WELCOMING EMILIA HAYWARD DECK

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce the birth of Emilia Hayward Deck on May 2, 2007 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida.

Emilia is the daughter of Wiley and Elizabeth Deck who are both part of our Florida 7th District Congressional Staff. The former Elizabeth Buckles and Wiley Deck met as staff members in our Washington office. Both moved to our Florida District Office in St. Augustine, in 2003. They married and have now expanded our Congressional Family with the arrival of Emilia Hayward Deck. Emilia's proud grandfather is Tony Buckles, Chief of Staff for Representative BOB FILNER of California.

To the Deck and Buckles families we extend our warmest congratulations.