

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE FDA'S PROPOSAL TO CLOSE TESTING LABORATORIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern over what I understand to be the Federal Drug Administration's proposal to close down as many as nine regional testing laboratories.

This decision, apparently made in the fall of 2006, has been steadily attracting resistance as more people are made aware of it. It appears that the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), which, among other activities, oversees the labs, plans to close between seven and nine laboratories—more than half of the current facilities, leaving only four to six labs up and running.

Madam Speaker, this nation has a spectacular technological reputation. I am proud of the work performed by the good men and women of the FDA. Everyone can understand the importance of quickly and efficiently testing dangerous materials, which is but one of the responsibilities of these laboratories. But I would like to emphasize that regional laboratories are even more important today, when an E. coli outbreak in California needs immediate attention and not days of delay because substances must be shipped across the country to a lab in New York. Recent outbreaks of tainted spinach, with immediate testing in California, proved this urgent point.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that we carefully and cautiously analyze this plan to consolidate our testing labs into a handful of regional centers. President Colleen M. Kelley of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), which represents more than 5,200 FDA employees, has expressed her concern that FDA employees are not being properly considered in this radical transition plan to close labs this spring. The targeted laboratories are located in Philadelphia; Denver; Detroit; Alameda, California; Lenexa, Kansas; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Winchester, Massachusetts. My understanding of the plan is that these operations, along with an estimated 250 employees, would be moved to five multi-purpose "mega-labs" geared to handle all types of FDA testing. Common sense tells us that our testing response will be altered greatly with fewer laboratories. Common sense also tells us that many loyal Federal employees will be facing drastic changes, including termination.

Sen. TED KENNEDY (D-MA) and Rep. JOHN DINGELL (D-MI) have raised concerns about these FDA lab closure plans. They have received limited response to their questions. This is unconscionable, given that we all work for the same team.

Madam Speaker, in this time of heightened concern about a wide variety of levels of safety in our nation, it seems particularly troubling

to be downsizing our FDA laboratories simply for budgetary concerns. I would be gratified to learn whether or not alternatives to these lab closures have been properly explored.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007 I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "Yes" on rollcall No. 302, "yes" on rollcall No. 303, "yes" on rollcall No. 304.

I would like this inserted into the RECORD in its appropriate place.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in honor of our nation's teachers, who every day, are inspiring people—of all ages—to dream, learn and achieve. Today, on National Teacher Day, it is important that we pause to thank educators everywhere for their service to our communities and our country. We entrust teachers with the development of our children—they are responsible for our ability to build a better future.

National Teacher Day should be an opportunity to think about the debt we owe our nation's teachers. Madam Speaker, We thank teachers for showing children the satisfaction and fulfillment of achieving their goals. We thank them for proving that learning can be fun. We thank them for contributing to the moral development of students. We thank them for guiding our children through every new challenge. But most of all, we thank teachers for dedicating their lives to inspiring and leading the next generation of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I am passionate about education because it has always been such an important part of my life. As a former educator and the brother of a schoolteacher I know how important teaching is and how rewarding it can be. I was honored to serve as an associate professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point where I was able to teach the next generation of military leaders. Just recently I saw a former student, who is now an officer in Iraq. Seeing the way he has grown as person and succeeded as a professional is truly gratifying.

All of us had teachers that changed our lives. Outside of our families, teachers are responsible for who we are and how we view the world. And the job can be tough, it can be

tiring and it can be thankless. Madam Speaker, that is why it is so important for all of us to take time to show our appreciation, not just today, but anytime we remember a lesson learned and overcome a challenge. I will take time today to think about the teachers who helped shape my life and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to the death of my grandmother.

On Wednesday evening and Thursday May 2 and 3, 2007, I was granted an official leave of absence and thus missed rollcall votes 284 through 301. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 288, 293, 296, 297, and 299 and "yea" on rollcall votes 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 292, 294, 295, 298, 300, and 301.

In addition, on May 7th I missed rollcall votes 302, 303, and 304 because of flooding in my district. My services were being utilized in the district helping fill sandbags to prevent any further flooding. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 302 and "yea" on rollcall vote 303 and 304.

IT IS TIME TO CLOSE THE GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the September 11th terrorist attacks posed a defining challenge for the United States. Our Nation was savagely attacked; our peace and prosperity threatened. A swift and decisive response was necessary.

Many of us offered to work with the Administration to come up with a legal framework to guide that response. One that offered the flexibility needed to meet the challenges posed by al Qaida and 21st century terrorism, but also respected human rights and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, the Administration went its own way and failed to establish a widely accepted legal foundation for its actions. We are all now paying the price.

Nowhere are the problems created by the White House's myopic approach more apparent than at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

• 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.

I have visited Gitmo three times.

Each time, I asked hard questions about how the men detained there were being treated, how long they would be held there, and what efforts were being made to ensure that the innocent were released. By the third visit, it became very clear that I was getting the run-around.

The truth was that the Administration was adrift in what I call the "fog of law." Guantanamo was built on a legal fiction. The Administration claimed the authority to detain any person it deemed appropriate, to deny that person the protections of U.S. and international law, and to do so indefinitely—so long as that person was held outside U.S. soil.

The claim was extraordinary, and the Administration seemed unconcerned that it was without sound legal parameters to guide its actions.

At Gitmo, the Administration effectively discarded the procedures that we have used for centuries—in civilian and military tribunals alike—to separate the innocent from the guilty and ensure fair punishment for those that deserve it.

Hundreds of men were detained at Guantanamo for years, without access to an independent court in which to argue their innocence, without access to the evidence against them, and without protection of the Geneva Conventions.

These are rights that the United States has long pressed developing countries to adopt, arguing that they are fundamental to any just legal system.

It should be no surprise that the Administration's ad hoc procedures appear to have resulted in the improper detention of many individuals whose only crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or having the wrong name.

The Supreme Court brought the curtain down on the Guantanamo legal fiction in its Hamdan decision.

And now it is time for the Congress to act.

Madam Speaker, the United States is engaged in a long struggle against al Qaeda and other jihadist terror organizations. These groups are successfully exploiting the antipathy that many in the Arab world—and, increasingly, not just the Arab world—feel toward the West, and toward America in particular.

In order to erode al Qaeda's appeal and dry up its recruiting base, we have to win the battle for the hearts and minds of the next generation of would-be terrorists.

Guantanamo has become a liability. The real and perceived injustices occurring there have given our enemies an easy example of our failures and alleged ill intent. The prison is so widely viewed as illegitimate, so plainly inconsistent with America's proud legal traditions; it has become a stinging symbol of our tarnished standing abroad.

Defense Secretary Gates has admitted as much, arguing the facility should be closed because its "taint" would render any trials held there illegitimate in the eyes of the world.

I agree with Secretary Gates. It is time to shut the prison down.

That is why I am proud to introduce, together with my friend and member of the Armed Services Committee Mr. ABERCROMBIE, legislation to require the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Senator FEINSTEIN has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

The bill requires the President to close the facility within one year of enactment, and gives him a range of choices for dealing with the detainees. These options include transfer to a detainee's country of origin (so long as that country provides certain assurances regarding treatment of the detainee); transfer to a facility in the United States to be tried before military or civilian authorities (like the first 1993 World Trade Center bombers and John Walker Lindh); transfer to a qualified international tribunal; or, if appropriate, outright release.

Make no mistake: this legislation is not about setting terrorists free. Many of those held at Gitmo are the worst of the worst—hard-core haters who cannot be rehabilitated. This legislation is about being true to America's most fundamental values and legal norms.

Closing Guantanamo alone will not heal America's moral black eye. But it is a necessary first step.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PETERSEN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American and one of my constituents, the late Joseph Petersen of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Mr. Petersen for the lifetime he spent in the service of his country as a Tuskegee Airman and I thank his loved ones for the sacrifices they made as well on behalf of this nation.

Mr. Petersen passed in December 2006 at the age of 97. Though he died too soon to see his unit awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest decoration of bravery that Congress can bestow, his life and spirit exemplify the heroism upon which the award was founded. Mr. Petersen and his unit fought gallantly and throughout four years of war they lost almost none of the bombers charged under their protection. Mr. Petersen was a soldier in combat in the truest form, striving against both enemy planes and domestic racism, and the courageous example he set will remain an everlasting inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues in saluting and honoring the memory of Joseph Petersen and in mourning his passing.

HONORING NEWTOWN HADASSAH

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Newtown, Pennsylvania Chapter of Hadassah on its 20th anniversary. The Newtown Hadassah should be commended for its remarkable efforts as both a women's organization and an advocate for the Jewish community.

Hadassah was founded in 1926 by Henrietta Szold and has since grown immensely in membership. With chapters in all fifty states and Puerto Rico and with more than 300,000

members in the women's Zionist organization, Hadassah has bridged the divides among religions, creeds, races, and political beliefs through its presence in more than thirty countries worldwide.

Its primary focuses are in five areas: health, Jewish growth and community, partnerships with Israel, social action and advocacy, and life skills. Through these different areas Hadassah shows its allegiance to the improvement of society, by all and for all.

The Newtown, Pennsylvania Chapter of Hadassah, founded in 1987, celebrates this year their 20th anniversary. It has more than 500 members and these women work to educate themselves and the community about Judaism and Israel. They help others to understand their connections to history and to life in the United States. The members are active in local Jewish and secular communities and reflect the national and international efforts of the greater Hadassah organization.

Madam Speaker, the Newtown Hadassah has spent the last 20 years showing their devotion to our community, enriching our society and strengthening our values. Today, they are working to usher in a new era of Hadassah's growing membership. It is with great pride that I honor and thank the Newtown Chapter of Hadassah for their tireless work in the past and urge them to continue their great work in the future.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA PORRELLO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize an outstanding individual, Christina Porrello of Kansas City, Missouri, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Art, a double major, from William Jewell College, on May 5, 2007.

The commencement ceremony was held at the Mabee Center for Physical education shortly after the graduating class observed the campus tradition of the last walk around the quad at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Christina has been very active in pursuing her degree, while also participating in many Delta Zeta sorority activities. Christina intends to teach art or special education classes. Also, I want to acknowledge the support of her parents, Joe and Sandie Porrello, and her siblings Andrea, Connie Jo and Joe Jr.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christina Porrello on her achievement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING VANDEN HIGH SCHOOL'S STATE CHAMPION ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise 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!

TAIWAN'S WHO MEMBERSHIP

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the government of Taiwan recently submitted a membership application to the World Health Organization. Since the objective of the WHO is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health," Taiwan's 23 million people must be considered. For years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization, which is a gross injustice due to Taiwan's health needs and Taiwan's potential contribution to the global health network.

I support Taiwan's bid for membership and urge my colleagues to openly voice their support for Taiwan. At a minimum, Taiwan should be granted observer status at the World Health Assembly this May.

Though Taiwan is now applying to the World Health Organization under the name of "Taiwan," it does not mean there is any change to Taiwan's national status. Taiwan continues to be the same country as before and its Constitution has not changed. The use of the name "Taiwan" represents a fresh start for the people of Taiwan and is commonly used around the world. Applying for WHO

membership under the new name is consistent with Taiwan's past campaign for observer status in the World Health Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to lend their support to Taiwan's WHO application. No country should belittle Taiwan's sincere intent to be included in the global health network. Taiwan's bid to become a WHO member is too important to be sidetracked by political disagreements because disease knows no boundaries. It is time for China to drop its objections to Taiwan's bid and welcome the 23 million Taiwanese people to the World Health Organization. Taiwan has much to contribute to the health system in China and to all the countries in the world. Taiwan looks forward to fulfilling its obligations as a responsible global citizen and working with international health institutions through medical cooperation and emergency humanitarian work.

A TRIBUTE TO OPRAH WINFREY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I heartily join in congratulating Oprah Winfrey, who has been named the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, a venerable institution that combats indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs.

Oprah Winfrey is such a visible figure in popular culture that her first name alone is iconic. The recognition she has earned through her talk show, acting, writing and various media enterprises has made her one of America's most recognizable people. And to her everlasting credit, she has put this visibility to good use in support of worthy causes.

A high-profile public figure who dedicates herself to helping the less-fortunate, Oprah sets an example for those of us in the public eye. She provides an inspiring model of the pursuit of meaning, hope, and fulfillment to millions. And as someone who has chosen children as the main focus of her philanthropy and her public service, she sets an example for all adults: Children are the bedrock foundation of our society, our chance for a more peaceful and healthy society, but because they are the least able to help themselves, they need and deserve our greatest efforts. As a grandfather of 17 wonderful grandchildren, I believe the message Oprah sends about kids is the most profound of all.

Motivated by this desire to help children in need, she founded The Oprah Winfrey Foundation in 1987. Since then, the foundation has made grants to organizations that support women and children around the world, providing education, training, and access to crucial resources. I laud Oprah's decision to focus the foundation internationally, not just in the United States. With our resources and our technology, we have a solemn responsibility to lift up the destitute in the rest of the world.

And The Oprah Winfrey Foundation demonstrates that private U.S. interests can combine with both governments and non-governmental organizations to foster that goal. I am particularly impressed that Oprah has also

used an inspirational partnership model in raising money. Oprah's Angel Network leverages her audiences as potential donors, with all the money they give going to NGOs that build schools, youth centers, and homes around the world. Her devotion to schoolgirls in South Africa is simply amazing. She has given so much money and time to the construction of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls to ensure that it will succeed, that those girls will succeed, and that South African society will improve from their education.

On a personal level, I am touched and grateful that Oprah has partnered with Elie Wiesel never to let us forget the Holocaust, the most horrible and harrowing moment in history and one to which Elie and I were witnesses. It speaks to Oprah's singular empathy that someone whose focus is often on modern-day trauma and travesty can so adeptly shine a light on the past. Simply the act of choosing Wiesel's classic "Night" for her book club spoke volumes. But her televised visit to Auschwitz with Wiesel last year made it real for everyone.

Indeed, Oprah has that uncanny and unparalleled ability to not just bring human experience in front of our eyes, but to make us feel it. And her desire and commitment to translating into public service the human capacity to feel for others is deserving of the deepest honor.

HONORING FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA POLICE DETECTIVE VICKY ANNE OWEN ARMEL AND MASTER POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL E. GARBARINO

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize two police officers from nearby Fairfax County, Virginia who served their community with great honor and distinction. Today marks the first anniversary of when Detective Vicky Anne Owen Armel and Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino were shot in the line of duty during a shooting incident at the Sully District Police Station in Chantilly, Virginia.

Detective Armel was killed while engaging and exchanging gunfire with the shooter. Master Police Officer Garbarino succumbed on May 17, 2006 to injuries sustained when the shooter opened fire on him in the Station's parking lot. Despite being shot five times, Master Police Officer Garbarino managed to get on the police radio to notify and warn fellow officers. The two line-of-duty slayings were the first in the 66-year history of the 1,364-member Fairfax County Police Department.

Detective Vicky Armel, badge 2806, spent 17 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer, eight years with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and the last nine with the Fairfax County Police Department. Detective Armel is remembered for many things, including her devotion to family, faith, and an upbeat and positive attitude.

Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino, badge 1417, spent 23 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. MPO Garbarino, also

known as “Gabby,” was admired and respected by those who knew and worked with him. He is remembered for his devotion to family, faith, willingness to lend a helping hand, and his sense of humor.

Both are missed every day by family, friends, fellow officers, and citizens of the community. Both are remembered as mentors and role models. The courage, honor and valor exemplified by Detective Armel and MPO Garbarino serve as a reminder for us to remember, celebrate and thank police officers and first responders for their dedication and service to the community and our Nation.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Taiwan has one of the most developed health care systems in the world and has a strong, proven record on controlling infectious diseases. It was the first Asian State to eliminate polio and has successfully eradicated smallpox, rabies and malaria.

Because our world is increasingly interconnected, exclusion of Taiwan from the international community is neither logical nor appropriate. Every year, travelers make over forty million international trips through Taiwan. With the rapid spread of diseases, one vulnerable site constitutes a vulnerability for us all; one weak link in the international health front puts at risk all our efforts.

Madam Speaker, the WHO has excluded Taiwan because Communist China claims that its health care system will protect Taiwan. Past experience has convinced me that this is not the case. When an earthquake struck Taiwan in 1999, Communist China refused to allow assistance teams to fly through its airspace. This unreasonable restriction cost these assistance teams hours of flying time and may have cost lives. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Communist China took days to report the Taiwan cases, which also cost lives.

For these and other reasons I rise in full support of Taiwan's application to be included in the World Health Organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed roll call votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO GAY CHIONSINI

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Chionsini, a unique and caring friend that I personally had the pleasure of working with in the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. Gay enjoyed a wonderful career with the Chamber and after nearly three decades of outstanding service decided to retire on April 30, 2007. Gay ended her career much the same way she started, as the face of the organization to all of its members and the community at-large. Like many others who have contributed to our community-based organizations and chambers all over Texas, Gay built strong relationships and a wealth of goodwill in and outside of the Beaumont business community. Gay's hard work, wisdom and dedication were critical in the day to day operation of the chamber and the achievement of its future goals.

Gay has had a distinguished 28 year career working for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and during that time served as the membership sales director, projects manager, office manager, executive secretary to the president, assistant to the director of public affairs, and secretary to the director of transportation. Gay and I had the pleasure of working together in the 1980's and I can tell you from first hand experience Gay was the consummate team player and I can not think of a better ambassador to the Beaumont community than Gay Chionsini.

It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Gay Chionsini for her 28 years of service to the Beaumont area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

This Denver-based Center has helped thousands of severely disadvantaged adults prepare for, maintain, and retain employment.

For 25 years, the Center's volunteers and employees have provided a full-time job readiness program, evening computer classes, and preparation for General Education Development tests for residents of the Denver area living below the poverty line. For those who need more than job training, the Center for Work Education and Employment provides instruction in life skills, builds relationships with potential employers, and helps participants deal with personal issues and obstacles.

Their continued 25-year commitment to the community is an inspiration. The Center helps thousands to turn their life around by breaking free of public assistance and becoming independent productive citizens. This work is vital

to the Denver area and is a model for caring citizens giving back to their community.

I applaud, and am grateful for, the work and dedication of the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They have enriched the Denver community and changed the lives of thousands and I look forward to another 25 years.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE LEADERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the rich heritage and important contributions made to our Nation by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I thank Congressman HONDA and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for organizing this evening's special order.

Born and raised in the diverse city of Los Angeles, California, I have been blessed with friendships and experiences that have given me a deep respect and appreciation of the unique cultures and customs of our AAPI communities.

That respect and appreciation has grown even greater as a member of Congress honored to represent many of these communities, including Little Tokyo, Chinatown, and historic Filipinotown.

The American dream for Asian American Pacific Islanders is the same as for all Americans: Freedom, justice, respect and the opportunity for a better life.

This year's commemoration theme—“Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007”—unfortunately highlights the sad reality that, while generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders have a long history of fighting to protect our country in time of war, contributing to the strength of our Nation's economy and enriching our lives with the beauty of their culture and customs, like too many other communities in our country, they continue to face the obstacles of discrimination and racism in pursuit of their American dream.

Eliminating these barriers and honoring the contributions of the AAPI communities is a top priority for me, my colleagues and our new Democratic majority.

We will continue to work to successfully: Pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair and just; eliminate health disparities by expanding health care coverage and removing linguistic and cultural barriers to quality care; honor our veterans by adequately funding veterans programs and restoring the benefits denied to so many veterans, including the thousands of Filipinos who bravely fought in the U.S. Military during World War II; Provide small business with the tools needed to encourage entrepreneurial innovation, which will help the AAPI and other vulnerable communities develop new business ventures that will create jobs and economic prosperity; and

work to make higher education a reality for all America's students by increasing the maximum Pell grant award and cutting the interest rates on student loans.

Mr. Speaker, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is also a wonderful opportunity for our country to honor hard-working and dedicated organizations that help our AAPI communities meet the many challenges of today.

I particularly want to recognize some of the organizations in my 34th Congressional District and thank their staffs and volunteers for the many valuable services they provide to the community: The Asian Pacific American Legal Center, is one of our Nation's largest public service organizations that provides legal services and education to create a more equitable society; the Chinatown Service Center's Family Health Clinic provides comprehensive, affordable health care to thousands of low-income families; the Little Tokyo Service Center's Community Economic Development programs have developed more than \$100 million in community-serving nonprofit real estate; the Filipino American Service Group, Inc., provides services to seniors, veterans, and homeless adults in and around Historic Filipinotown; and the Japanese American National Museum and its affiliate, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, educates the public about the importance of remembering Japanese American history to help guard against prejudice in our society.

These are just a few of the many organizations devoted to improving the quality of life in the 34th Congressional district and throughout the Los Angeles region, and I salute them for their services.

In closing, I thank the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and especially my constituents for continuing to enrich my life, the lives of Angelenos, and our Nation as a whole.

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

This legislation provides protection to all Americans, and is consistent with our proud history as a Nation whose founding principle is that all people are created equal. Growing up on a tenant farm in rural North Carolina, I learned basic values that say that you treat all people with respect. These are the values that America stands for. Hate crimes—violent crimes motivated by bigotry against race or creed, hatred against nationality or disability, or intolerance for difference—have no place in a country that holds fast to those values.

Mr. Speaker, hate crimes exhibit exceptional circumstances where a federal role is appropriate and necessary because the crime is intended to intimidate Americans beyond the individual victim or jurisdiction where the crime occurs. The bill that the House is considering today provides vital support for the prosecution of these most heinous acts of violence. It gives local and state law enforcement vital resources to investigate and prosecute hate

crimes. These resources are desperately needed, as small rural police departments sometimes cannot afford lengthy and complicated investigations. The funding provided in this bill will ensure crimes do not go unresolved due to lack of funding.

This bill appropriately targets crimes that are motivated by hatred or bigotry, not the hatred or bigotry itself. While we must work towards a world free of racism and prejudice, it is not the place of the government to tell people how to think or feel, or what to believe. What we can and must do, however, is work to sow the seeds of justice, freedom, and equality. We must protect all of our citizens from crime, and ensure that justice prevails when hatred leads to violence.

I support this bill, and I oppose the Republican motion to recommit H.R. 1592 because it is a parliamentary maneuver intended to kill this legislation.

This bill is a step towards a more just, more equal, and more free society. It provides state and local law enforcement crucial federal resources they need, and makes sure that these terrible crimes are fully investigated and prosecuted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007 I was unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303 and 304. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each of the three rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 7, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 407, H.R. 1025, and H. Res. 371.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 302 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 407, the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 303 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1025, the Lower Republican River Basin Study Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 304 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 371, In observance of National Physical Education and Sports Week, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES
WEEK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe National Nurses Week, an

annual recognition of the critical role played by registered nurses in meeting the nation's health care needs.

The origin of this event can be traced to 1953, when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare proposed the proclamation of a "Nurse Day." The following year, nurses were celebrated during the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to the Crimea.

National Nurses Week now begins each year on the 6th of May, which is National Nurses Day. During the week, we also celebrate National Student Nurses Day, on May 8th, and School Nurses Day, on May 9th. The week concludes on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, which is celebrated around the world as International Nurses Day.

National Nurses Week is one of the Nation's largest health care events. Activities include banquets, educational seminars, and other community-wide events. These events draw awareness to the importance of registered nurses in our nation's healthcare system. These nurses compose the largest group of healthcare workers in the United States.

Today, I would like to recognize our nation's 2.4 million registered nurses for their passion to the health profession and their commitment to quality healthcare. I support the goals of National Nurses Week, and am proud to represent many of our nation's fine nurses in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL AND
ELAINE STRASBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong achievements of Rabbi Michael and Elaine Strasberg, of Flushing, New York. The Rabbi and Elaine will be the Guests of Honor at the Seudas Shabbos of Congregation Ohr Moshe in Hillcrest, New York, on May 12, 2007, where they will be honored for their lifelong community service. They will celebrate this joyous occasion surrounded by family and friends.

The Strasbergs have been leaders in their community for more than three decades. Rabbi Michael led the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor for 30 memorable years, during which he performed the B'nai Mitzvah services for my own children. More recently, he joined Congregation Ohr Moshe, which will be honoring the couple at a gala dinner on May 12.

The Rabbi Strasberg now works at Sinai Chapels as Director of Pastoral Counseling. In this setting, he provides comfort and strength to families who are going through the trying and painful time of the loss of a loved one. The Rabbi also educates the community with his moving shiurim or lectures on the substance and meaning of the Torah. Michael and Elaine actively participate in community events and organizations on behalf of Sinai Chapels, and work to preserve halacha (Jewish law) and Jewish tradition.

Elaine Strasberg is well-known for her superb cooking and enthusiastic leadership of Israeli dance classes for the women in the community. Elaine is also frequently at the top of my mind, as the creator of crocheted yarmulke, which I wear most often.

The Strasbergs have always been great supporters of Israel and active in many causes to this end. The Strasbergs take great pride and joy in their family, especially their children and grandchildren. They have five children; daughters Chaya, who is married to Dani; Zahavi, Malka, Rehana, and son Amichai, who is married to Adina. They have four grandchildren and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the fifth.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Rabbi Michael and Elaine Strasberg for their years of dedicated commitment to the Flushing and Jamaica communities and their residents. The Strasberg's integrity, selflessness, and good example have made a compelling difference in the lives of those they have touched. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me now in honoring Rabbi Michael and Mrs. Elaine Strasberg.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEVIN GASPERS AND STAFF SGT. KENNETH LOCKER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to offer my condolences to the families of 1st Lt. Kevin Gaspers, of Hastings, and Burwell native Staff Sgt. Kenneth Locker, who were laid to rest last week with honor. They lost their lives, along with seven other soldiers of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, in a terrorist attack in Iraq.

These young men represented some of the best qualities of Nebraskans, and our State mourns their loss.

Locker has been described as compassionate, caring, thoughtful, and generous. Before he died, he told his father he was fighting in Iraq for the children, that they might have a safer world to live in. His sacrifice for that idea should be inspiring for us all.

Gaspers also had a reputation of generosity, sincerity, and dedication. He touched so many lives during his time with us, and the outpouring of support from the community has been nothing short of inspiring.

These young men led lives rich in meaning, and it is tragic to see those lives cut short. They were sons, friends, and role models. They were filled with kindness, selflessness, and humor. My heart and thoughts go out to their families during this difficult period.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 344, congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators across the U.S. for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes. This resolution, offered by

Representative CHARLES BOUSTANY of Louisiana, is a great way of acknowledging the excellent service charter schools provide to students and parents across the Nation.

This is National Charter Schools Week and over 1 million students are receiving an outstanding education through the thousands of charter schools in the United States. Offering choice, accountability, flexibility and local control, charter schools are a great educational alternative choice for students and parents.

I congratulate the 27 charter schools in Kansas and the over 3,600 charter schools across the Nation for their continued focus on giving students a quality education and helping to keep America competitive in the global economy. Equipping America's young people with a sound education is vital and charter schools are doing this with excellence.

Today, I will vote in favor of H. Res. 344 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained for rollcall No. 278, Mr. SESTAK's amendment to H.R. 1429. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO NEW JERSEY PEACE ACTION

HON. BILL PASCRELL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker; I would like to call your attention to the work of an outstanding organization, New Jersey Peace Action, which will celebrate 50 years of activism in New Jersey at an anniversary reception on Sunday, May 6, 2007.

It is only fitting that New Jersey Peace Action be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the very purpose of this organization is to help educate and engage New Jersey residents in the community and political activism. Their work helps Americans become informed and active in the democratic process.

New Jersey Peace Action began as NJ SANE in 1957. That year the New York Times ran the headline "We are facing a danger unlike any danger that has ever existed before," calling for an end to nuclear testing and asking Americans to redirect our energies, rediscover our moral strength and redefine our purpose. The National Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy was formed, and its New Jersey signers became the base of NJ SANE. The following year, NJ SANE selected Dorothy Eldridge as chairperson. NJ local committees echoed National SANE campaign to end nuclear testing by exposing facts about radiation, and assumed a role as watchdog on an international crisis that threatened nuclear war.

By 1960, NJ SANE had gained wide support. At four rallies they sponsored about "Ending All Nuclear Threats—Our Best Chance for Peace," with Dr. Linus Pauling, they drew

crowds of between 600 and 1000 people. In the next decade, the growth continued. Over 5,000 marchers took part in a 110-mile walk from McGuire Air Force Base to the UN to call for a permanent test-ban agreement with the USSR. NJ SANE campaigned to expose the true nature of nuclear war and end civil defense drills in schools. They worked to support President Kennedy's efforts toward a test-ban treaty, and when it was signed, continued opposition to drills in schools. Soon came the 1970s and efforts were turned to the crisis in Vietnam, and the group opened its first real office. Members marched on Washington, raised money for war-injured children in Vietnam, and began draft counseling in addition to other efforts. In 1975, NJ SANE successfully campaigned against President Ford's request for \$522 million for the Indochina War. Soon Operation Transfer, a campaign to change national priorities, took off and NJ SANE supported two new coalitions, SEA Alliance and NJ Mobilization for Survival.

As we entered the 1980s new issues emerged and NJ SANE remained on the front lines for peace. SANE responded to Iran and Afghanistan with a call to reason, emphasizing the development of safe renewable energy sources as alternatives to oil dependency. Nuclear freeze efforts strengthened, and the group became involved in issues concerning Central America. In 1986, SANE merged with the Nuclear Weapons Freeze locally and nationally. As we entered the 1990s, more issues arose and S/F was there to face them. There were rallies against the Gulf War, focus turned to economic issues, and the first concert for peace was held. In 1992, NJ SANE/Freeze became NJ Peace Action for a Sane World. In 1997 Virginia Ahearn and Bob Bender became Co-Directors, and Virginia continued on to be Director.

Soon NJ Peace Action entered the new millennium, with a new Director, Madelyn Hoffman. Right after September 11, 2001, NJ Peace Action began holding vigils, more than 100 of them, in 12 different locations in support of addressing the attacks through international law rather than military action. The focus soon became opposition to the Iraq War. NJPA participated in the largest anti-war demonstrations since the Vietnam years. Memorials were held for the dead in Iraq, and a Peace Education Workshop was held for families.

Although some of the causes have changed throughout the years, a surprising number are still left to work for. The members of NJPA today are still working to eliminate nuclear weapons, and protect civil rights. They promote peaceful conflict resolution at all levels, and educate others in their communities by reaching out to them at community events, working closely with other groups to protest war and work for peace.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of groups like New Jersey Peace Action.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the New Jersey Peace Action, all those who have been informed and motivated by their work, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of this group to not only New Jersey but our entire Nation.

CONGRATULATING AMBER ROSE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Amber Rose, an outstanding young woman from Elizabeth, Colorado. Ms. Rose, a student at Elizabeth High School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a State recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her high school, Amber founded a nonprofit organization that distributed more than \$30,000 worth of art supplied to disadvantaged children around the world. As a State Honoree, Amber will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC, from May 5 to 8 for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become 1 of 10 National Honorees.

Ms. Rose should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 246, on H.R. 1434, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building," I was attending a memorial service for the students and parents of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 1434.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING REVEREND ANTONIO VALDIVIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Reverend Antonio Valdivia, Pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland, California. Known affectionately to his parishioners, and throughout his community, simply as Father Tony, he has served as a priest in the Catholic Church for over 44 years. Today, the St. Louis

Bertrand Parish and the Oakland community come together to thank him for his leadership and service on the occasion of his retirement.

The son of first-generation immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico, Father Tony was born in Oakland. Growing up in West Oakland, he attended St. Joseph Parish, which later merged with St. Andrew Parish and is now part of the Catholic Parish of Christ the Light. During his childhood, Father Tony spent every Sunday at the parish church, attending morning Mass and then returning in the evening for Benediction. One day a priest picked him to be an altar server, and this began his journey into the religious vocation.

Father Tony attended elementary school at Old St. Mary's Parish and was taught by the Holy Names Sisters. Later he studied at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park where he was one of the few Hispanic seminarians on campus, and the only student from West Oakland. He enjoyed his experience in the seminary, particularly his studies in English literature and philosophy.

Father Tony was especially drawn to studies that presented a model of Church as being present in the life of the people. While in school he worked to put those teachings into practice, guiding people as they struggled through the changes in the liturgy, the birth of parish councils, and the development of lay leadership. He also walked with them through the pain of the civil rights era, the Vietnam War, the advent of widespread drug use, the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the continuing and often tumultuous dialogue over the issue of immigration.

During his 44 years as a priest, Father Valdivia served as pastor of five parishes: St. Anthony in Oakland, St. Leonard (now Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Fremont, St. Cornelius in Richmond, St. Catherine in Martinez, and at St. Louis Bertrand since 2003. In addition to serving as vicar of the diocesan Hispanic community, he also served as an associate pastor, as well as a member of the diocesan Pastoral Leadership Placement Board.

Father Tony holds a master's degree in counseling and has used those skills to counsel at-risk youth at public schools throughout the Bay Area. He also put that training to use as a missionary in the Archdiocese of San Salvador from 1991-93, serving as an advocate for peace and justice in a community that was being ravaged by civil war.

I have known Father Tony for many years, and it has always been a pleasure to work with him in the service of my constituents. He is an unwavering advocate for human rights, labor rights, immigration reform, peace and social justice. His commitment to his parishioners and to the people of Oakland has had a positive impact on countless lives. Today I join the St. Louis Bertrand Parish, along with our entire community, in thanking and saluting Reverend Antonio Valdivia for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

NORTHERN IRELAND PARLIAMENT

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today is an historic day for the peo-

ple of Northern Ireland. A day that has been years in the making and which heralds a new era of peace. Today in Belfast, parliament opened with the swearing in of Unionist and Sinn Fein members side-by-side.

I congratulate Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness on their new roles as first minister and deputy first minister of the assembly. Today is proof that despite decades of violence, two previously bitter enemies can sit down and work through their differences peacefully through representative government.

Nine years ago, the Good Friday Agreement envisioned this day. The work to cement that achievement has been difficult but it has been accomplished through negotiation and compromise.

Certainly, today is not the end of disagreement, but it is the beginning of settling things politically and not militarily. Today is possible because both sides have recognized that violence is not productive, that killing benefits neither side. The children of Northern Ireland can now grow up in a country where hate is not a virtue.

What the people of Northern Ireland have accomplished today is an example for areas around the world suffering with internal conflict. A people who were once at war with one another have freely elected leaders who will work to solve problems peacefully.

Again, I congratulate the people of Northern Ireland on this historic occasion. It is a day to remember and in which they should take pride.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 247, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida as the "Sergeant Dennis O. Flannigan Lecanto Post Office Building," I was attending a memorial service for the students and faculty of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SAINT JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint John Missionary Baptist Church, one of the oldest and most highly regarded churches in Oakland, California. Today, the Oakland community comes together to celebrate Saint John's 60 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community.

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church was founded by the late Dr. Carl J. Anderson on July 7, 1947. For 54 years, Dr. Anderson led an extensive outreach effort to thousands of sick, disadvantaged and imprisoned persons.

His love for God and humanity impacted the lives of many from Washington, DC, to the West Coast and Alaska as he led his membership in feeding and clothing those in need, and assisting in the employment of thousands.

During the Vietnam War, church members even received testimony from soldiers stationed abroad whose loved ones has sent them tapes of Dr. Anderson's famous Gospel Call Hour radio broadcast. They expressed gratitude for the encouragement they gotten from those broadcasts, during which Dr. Anderson and the members of the Saint John Missionary Baptist Church would pray for anyone requesting prayer, regardless of race, ethnicity or creed.

On September 1, 2000, Dr. Anderson was called home after his many years of service and ministry. Today Saint John Missionary Baptist Church continues this proud tradition of under the spirited and inspired leadership of Reverend Gregory B. Payton.

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church continues to play a leading role in initiating and expanding a wide range of charitable and community-building activities. In addition to ministering and counseling countless members of the congregation, the church regularly hosts a variety of community gospel events and seeks to promote the development and education of our young people.

On July 7, 2007, Saint John Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the church for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide invaluable social and charitable services to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its 60 years of ministry, the Saint John Missionary Baptist Church has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our shared goal of world peace.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
PEACE COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA
AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
JEHAN PERERA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka and to a man who, were he not a brave and determined patriot, might be my constituent. Jehan Perera came to Massachusetts as a student and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1982. After winning a traveling fellowship, he returned and earned a J.D. from the Harvard Law School in 1987. He could have chosen to remain in the United States, practice law, and become an exemplary citizen here. Instead, he chose to work for peace in his native country. The son of a distinguished Sinhalese family, he learned Tamil and devoted himself to national reconciliation. He serves as the Executive Director of the National Peace Council and from that forum he has, for almost two decades, urged moderation and restraint, mutual respect and understanding. Jehan Perera is a

fearless but thoughtful and nuanced critic of intransigence from any quarter. He has never ceased to call for magnanimous policies that respect both democratic decision-making and minority rights, and, of course, individual human rights. He has been active worldwide in encouraging representatives of civil society to work to resolve communal tensions. He rejoiced in a ceasefire negotiated in 2002 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). I share his profound sorrow that the hopes it inspired have not been fully realized.

In April of this year, Jehan Perera was honored in a ceremony at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in New Delhi addressed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Dr. Perera had been chosen by the Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India to receive its 2006 National Award for Peace, Tolerance & Harmony. A few days later, as friends gathered in Colombo to congratulate him, Jehan Perera received a death threat, the first addressed to him personally.

I honor and admire his fortitude. Active citizenship always demands some sacrifice, loss of privacy and leisure; hours and days spent in negotiations; the willingness, on occasion, to differ with our friends or to make common cause with old adversaries. In some places and at some times, politics, even the politics of peace and reconciliation, demands more than that. It calls for unflinching courage in the face of those who would threaten murder to kill even the hope of peace. I call upon all peace loving men and women to keep Jehan Perera in their thoughts and in their prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 245, on H. Res. 179, Expressing Support for a National Foster Parents Day, I was attending a memorial service for students and faculty of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE 400TH
ANNIVERSARY OF JAMESTOWN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, the 105 settlers who landed at Jamestown in the spring of 1607 had little idea of the hardships they would soon face in the New World—life in the wilderness was racked by disease and famine. Nor was this band particularly equipped for life under such unforgiving conditions. Captain John Smith dubbed half of them "gentlemen."

But with just the right blend of faith, ingenuity and luck, the settlers of Jamestown survived, planting the seeds for the American Democratic experiment. Indeed, the inspiration for the current U.S. Congress comes from July 1619, when the New World's first representa-

tive body convened in the Jamestown church. There, they established "one equal and uniform government" over all Virginia. It brings me great honor today to recognize the sacrifices of these first brave Virginian settlers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 299 on May 3, 2007, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 30, 2007, Vietnamese Americans across the nation observed the 32nd anniversary of the fall of Saigon to North Vietnam, marking the end of the Vietnam war. There are now more than 1.12 million Vietnamese Americans living in the United States. They overcame many hardships to rebuild their lives, created thriving communities, contributed to the diversity and well-being of our country and worked towards their American dreams.

They have not forgotten that their former compatriots, family members, and friends in Vietnam are still being denied the basic freedoms that America has fought so hard for. Vietnamese Americans of different generations are actively working with their counterparts in Vietnam to create a more open, democratic society that is free of oppression and religious persecution.

The United States, in good faith, granted Vietnam permanent normal trade relations with the assurances that Vietnam was and will continue to improve its human rights records. Vietnam expressed its desire to create stronger, bilateral relations with the United States. However, despite these assurances, Vietnam has significantly increased the level of its detention, harassment, and oppression of political activists in the past several months since its accession into the World Trade Organization. They have blatantly disregarded their own claims that they will be actively engaged in promoting and protecting human rights with the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On May 2, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 243, calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The resolution further urges the Government of Vietnam to comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedom

and human rights and adhere to the rule of law.

In voting in favor of House Resolution 243, my thoughts were with Father Nguyen Van Ly, a well-known peaceful political dissident, who was shown in an alarming video being physically silenced by Vietnamese guards at his anti-propaganda trial. The literal image of free speech being smothered has been broadcasted to the world and the United States cannot stand quietly by. The list of those dissidents being harassed, threatened, and detained continues to grow as Vietnam attempts to quiet political dissidents prior to their general elections this May.

I urge the Department of State to adopt the re-designation of Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for its continued oppression of religious freedom, as recommended by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. It is my hope that the Vietnamese government will consider how their actions are viewed by the world, and that they immediately cease their detention and harassment of peaceful, democratic activists.

CONGRATULATING MORGAN
MCDONALD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Morgan McDonald, an outstanding young woman from Aurora, Colorado. Ms. McDonald, a student at Prairie Middle School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a state recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her middle school, Morgan helps lead a school group that works to build leadership skills and improve the scholastic achievement of African-American students. Morgan will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC from May 5th to 8th for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become one of ten National Honorees.

Ms. McDonald should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP
KEITH JENKINS ON HIS EPIS-
COPACY CONSECRATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Bishop Keith

Jenkins, on his recent ascent to the episcopacy of the Open Door Evangelistic World Ministries in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PROCLAMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP OF REFORMED EPISCOPAL
CHURCHES

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,
Hallelujah!

It is with great felicity that we proclaim the imminent consecration of the very Reverend Keith Jenkins to the episcopacy in the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on the twenty first day of October, Anno Domini, two thousand and six, at The Elim International Fellowship, The Protestant Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

The aforementioned consecration will commence at ten o'clock forenoon, at 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

May the blessings of the strength of Israel be upon you, our good brother Keith; and the love of the resurrected one sustain and preserve you. May your steps be guided by the everlasting spirit and your speech be seasoned with salt that you may know how to give an answer to every man concerning the hope that lieth within you.

Signed, His Eminence The Most Reverend Wilbert Sterling McKinley, Archbishop Primate His Eminence, The Most Reverend Trevor Dominic Bentley, Archbishop Exarch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHIL-
DREN ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce an important piece of legislation, the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act: the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every child, in every classroom, is taught by an excellent teacher.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on the overwhelming demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to encouraging talented people to enter the field and stay there.

Let me also thank the organizations, and their members, who go to work every day with the commitment to help our schools and our students succeed. They are a great constituency for this legislation, and I appreciate all of their input into this bill. Thank you to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the Associations of Community Organizations for Reform Now, the Business Roundtable, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the Education Trust, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the National Council of La Raza, National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Education Association, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, New Leaders for New Schools, the New

Teacher Center at DC-Santa Cruz, Operation Public Education, Teach for America, and The Teaching Commission.

We all remember the difference that outstanding teachers have made in our lives, but we also know that students who most need the best teachers are least likely to get them. There are many reasons why people decline to enter the teaching profession or decide not to remain there including reasons such as low pay, lack of meaningful professional development, lack of respect, inappropriate working conditions, or little opportunity for advancement.

By failing to address this problem, Congress is shortchanging our children and costing taxpayers an estimated \$2.2 billion annually to replace teachers who have left the profession. We need to act immediately to ensure that we have an adequate supply of exemplary teachers for the next generation of students.

My 43 colleagues who are original cosponsors and I are prepared to respond to this challenge facing American education with an innovative approach that matches the seriousness of the challenge with the "The TEACH Act of 2007"—the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher, in every classroom, teaching every child, has the supports they need to help their students succeed.

The single most important factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We all remember a teacher—or even several teachers—who made us proud of ourselves for what we accomplished and helped us face our future with hope and confidence. Imagine if every one of our teachers over the years had given us that same strength.

The TEACH Act will accomplish four critical goals:

Increase the supply of outstanding teachers.
Ensure all children have teachers with expertise in the subjects they teach.

Identify and reward our best teachers.

Keep the best teachers and principals in our schools.

This bill is a major legislative initiative that will attract our most talented teachers to our nation's classrooms where they are needed the most—and encourage them to stay there.

Over the next decade, we will need to hire more than two million new teachers to serve in our public schools. Yet today, we have no national plan for attracting outstanding students into the teaching profession, or keeping them there.

My bill addresses this need by helping school districts to pay more competitive salaries and by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates committed to a career in education, to established teachers working in fields like math and science, where the teacher shortage is most acute, and to retirees with math and science expertise who would like to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

The TEACH Act also offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers who are working in high priority communities.

We know that too many teachers do not receive adequate preparation or training for their jobs to improve during the first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.

The TEACH Act helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs

that include proven strategies such as structured mentoring, common lesson-planning, and intensive professional development. This bill also helps veteran teachers improve their skills through peer mentoring and review programs.

My bill also addresses the problem that poor children are far less likely to be taught by expert teachers. Nearly three-quarters of math classes in high-poverty middle schools are taught by teachers who lack a major—or even a minor—in math. The TEACH Act provides higher pay for outstanding teachers and principals who transfer into the hardest-to-staff schools where they can help the children who need them most. Making sure these children are taught by a well-trained teacher is crucial.

The TEACH Act also helps create true career ladders that allow teachers to advance in the profession as they gain new knowledge and skills. The bill would augment the salaries of teachers who seek out opportunities to advance their own professional development and to mentor colleagues who are new to the profession.

We also know that nothing is more important in attracting—and keeping—outstanding teachers than outstanding principals. My bill raises standards and improves recruitment and training for new principals.

Teaching is not just another job. Teaching is a career that must be satisfying itself, that must attract the best people, and that must instruct our children to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

We can have a dynamic and exciting future for America's schools and their students. We have the national resources. Now, we must make the commitment.

We must dedicate the necessary resources, demand the necessary results, and stay with it to the end to make sure that every child in America has a teacher we can all be proud of and that every teacher in America can say they are proud of us too for the support we give them.

I would also like to acknowledge three reports that were particularly useful. The Teaching Commission's report, *Teaching at Risk: A Call to Action*; the Center for American Progress report, *Ensuring a High Quality Education for Every Child by Building a Stronger Teaching Force*, and the National Academy of Education report *A Good Teacher in Every Classroom: Preparing the Highly Qualified Teachers Our Children Deserve*. All three reports were extremely instrumental, particularly in identifying practices that are working well and need to be taken to scale.

The TEACH Act will take us where research and experience say we need to go: stronger teachers, stronger principals, and stronger schools. I look forward to achieving the vision of a better school system for all of our children.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VAL MCCOMIE, FORMER AMBASSADOR OF BARBADOS AND FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend, Val McComie, who after a distinguished career and a lifetime of service, passed away on May 4, 2007, and to enter into the RECORD his obituary.

Ambassador McComie dedicated his life to public service. He served as a secondary teacher, and then embarked upon a career in diplomacy that saw him reach and contribute at the very highest levels. He began at the entry level of the Barbados Diplomatic Service, then rose quickly through the ranks to become his nation's ambassador to Venezuela from 1974 to 1976, and Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States from 1980 to 1990. His dedication to public service is noteworthy. I'm particularly proud of his interest in human rights and environmental issues. His legacy within the inter-American community will live on.

I will keep his wife, Elia Garcia McComie and daughter Gail McComie in my thoughts and prayers.

OBITUARY—VAL MCCOMIE, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Val McComie, 87, a former ambassador of Barbados to the United States and Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, died May 4 after a lengthy illness at the Washington Home hospice in Washington, DC.

Ambassador McComie was born in Trinidad and received his secondary education in Trinidad and Barbados. He attended the University of London, graduating in Modern Languages. He completed post-graduate studies at the University of Bordeaux and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Val McComie taught at secondary schools in Barbados, Arizona, and Ghana, and then joined the Barbados diplomatic service after the country became independent in 1966. He was appointed as ambassador to the United States and permanent representative to the OAS in 1968. He was instrumental in negotiating Barbados' entry into the OAS and the Inter-American Development bank. He subsequently served as ambassador to Venezuela from 1974 to 1976.

Ambassador McComie was elected as Assistant Secretary General of the OAS in 1979, and served with distinction for two successive terms from 1980 to 1990. He retired in 1990.

He was well known in inter-American circles for his outstanding and successful efforts at creating greater links of understanding and practical cooperation between the Latin American countries and the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. He also encouraged the promotion of human rights and environmental concerns in the hemisphere.

His first wife, Margery Clarke McComie, died in 1956.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Elia Garcia McComie of Washington; a daughter from his first marriage, Gail McComie of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and two sisters.

A THANK-YOU TO OUR NATION'S TEACHERS ON NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Day and in strong support of our Nation's teachers.

As the daughter of a teacher and now the mother of a teacher, I know firsthand the importance of quality education for all children and understand the dedication of these committed professionals to our children. Teachers are the driving force behind our Nation's responsibility to provide a high quality education to every child. I know from personal experience that education can be the key to a better life.

I commend our Nation's teachers and their dedication to our youth. Teachers are on the front lines of our education system, working tirelessly to ensure that our children have the skills to reach their maximum potential.

I want to give just one example of an extraordinary teacher from my district—the Fourth District of Wisconsin. Ms. Andrea Payan of Morgandale Elementary School in Milwaukee was recently awarded the nationally-recognized Milken Educator Award.

Ms. Payan has motivated and inspired her students, her colleagues, and her community. Not only has Ms. Payan dedicated herself to her students, but she also serves as a mentor to new teachers, providing support and advice to those who have chosen this challenging and rewarding profession.

On this day of National Teacher Appreciation, I encourage my colleagues to not just "talk the talk," but to "walk the walk" and strengthen our investment in public education.

I thank and congratulate Ms. Payan, as well as the thousands of teachers in my district who may not have been nationally recognized, but who share that same commitment and dedication. I encourage everyone to remember and thank a teacher who has made a difference in their life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303, or 304 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each vote.

POWER SHARING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the historic

power-sharing agreement in Northern Ireland as leaders today were finally sworn in to the Northern Ireland Assembly outside of Belfast.

The people of Northern Ireland are long past ready for the assembly to meet and take the final steps towards lasting peace, prosperity and devolved government. It is important for the members of the assembly—particularly party leaders Martin McGuinness and Ian Paisley—to not dwell in the past but rather get to work on building a strong economy and providing for the people of Northern Ireland.

We must remember the 3,500 people that died and thousands more that were injured during the Troubles over the last 30 years. But now is a time of peace and a time for the people of Northern Ireland to look forward.

Taoiseach (tay-shuck) Bertie Ahern and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are to be commended for their lasting commitment to permanent peace and justice in the North of Ireland. It is my hope that the next Prime Minister of Great Britain will share Mr. Blair's passion and perseverance for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The progress made in Northern Ireland is absolutely remarkable considering the violent past it has had. I would like to commend Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams for taking the steps necessary towards completely disbanding the IRA and supporting the policing institutions so that an agreement could be made.

I would also like to thank Ian Paisley for finally saying "yes" and sitting at the table with

Gerry Adams. Both sides made difficult concessions during this process but the concessions are worthwhile to bring an end to the tragic violence.

It is now time for the two sides to fully work together to improve schools, roads, hospitals and the economy so that the people of Northern Ireland can have the representation they deserve.

Madam Speaker, this truly is a historic day for Northern Ireland as it steps into a future of peace and diplomacy and steps out of a past filled with violence and unease.