

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN EARL LEE HOGAN

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Sunday night, June 3, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives lost one of its own, a distinguished gentleman from Southern Indiana. Former Congressman Earl Lee Hogan passed away Sunday evening, leaving behind a notable career of public service to Hoosiers. Born in 1920 in Hope, Indiana, Earl Hogan represented the Ninth District of southern Indiana from 1959 to 1961. As a young man, Congressman Hogan served his country as a bombardier on a B-17 in the Air Force, from 1940 to 1945. During his Air Force career, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Congressman Hogan had a long career in law enforcement in Bartholomew County, serving first as deputy sheriff and then sheriff. Following his congressional service, Congressman Hogan took several positions focusing on rural development and agricultural issues. I thank Congressman Hogan and his family for their commitment and dedication to public service and all that they have given to the people of Southern Indiana. Congressman Hogan will be missed, but he leaves behind a record of service that speaks volumes about this honorable man.

BENJAMIN JAMES DUDDY FOR
THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Duddy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Benjamin has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol, Den Chief, and Troop Scribe. Ryan is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is Little Silent Stalking Snowy Owl. Ben is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Benjamin constructed over 160 feet of fencing around a fishing pond. This safety fencing was erected to allow handicapped campers access to enjoy the pond and minimize the danger of accidentally entering the water. The project included distribution of 4 tons of gravel and recon-

structing trail access to the pond. All of Benjamin's hard work took place at the Tall Oaks Youth Camp in Linwood, Kansas.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Duddy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, last month the House of Representatives voted on important legislation including VA health care bills, lobbying reform legislation, and amendments to the fiscal year 2007 supplemental appropriations bill.

During the consideration of these bills, I was in Minnesota to attend the funeral Mass for my uncle, Frank Oberstar.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to recommit to H.R. 1100 (rollcall vote 408); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1100 (rollcall vote 409); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 67, "Veterans Outreach Improvement Act" (rollcall vote 410); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 612, "Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act" (rollcall vote 411); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1470, "Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act" (rollcall vote 412); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2199 "Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act" (rollcall vote 413); I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2239, "Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act" (rollcall vote 414).

I would have voted "aye" to order the previous question on H. Res. 427 (rollcall vote 415); I would have voted "aye" to approve H. Res. 427 (rollcall vote 416). I would have voted "aye" to order the previous question on H. Res. 438 (rollcall vote 417), and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 438 (rollcall vote 418).

I would have voted "nay" on the Smith motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2317 (rollcall vote 419); I would have voted "aye" on passage on H.R. 2317 (rollcall vote 420); I would have voted "aye" on the Conyers amendment to H.R. 2316 (rollcall vote 421); I would have voted "aye" on the Chabot motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2318 (rollcall vote 422); I would have voted "aye" on passage on H.R. 2316 (rollcall vote 423).

Because of my strong support for important and necessary funding for VA health care; necessary assistance for the Gulf region and U.S. farmers, and my support for an increase in the minimum wage, I would have voted "aye" on House Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, the fiscal year 2007 supplemental appropriations bill (rollcall vote 424). Because House

Amendment 2 to H.R. 2206 failed to provide reasonable accountability provisions to measure the Administration's Iraq policy, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 425.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KIRTI DESAI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the most recent achievement of an outstanding member of the New Jersey community, Mr. Kirti Desai. In a ceremony on Ellis Island on Saturday May 12, 2007, NECO presented Mr. Desai with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor recognizes individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds who have successfully maintained their cultural heritage and traditions while making outstanding achievements in their communities, personal lives, and professional endeavors. Since 1986 the Ellis Island Medal of Honor has been sponsored by NECO, a non-profit organization with a mission "to honor our diverse Past, to advocate for positive change in the Present, and to build strong leaders for the Future."

For over twenty years U.S. Presidents, artists, athletes, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and humanitarians have been recognized with this prestigious award. In receiving this award, Mr. Desai ranks among an impressive list of past medalist recipients ranging from former President Bill Clinton to famed athlete Muhammad Ali. With his own list of notable achievements, Mr. Desai is well deserved in finding a place among these outstanding Americans.

Mr. Kirti Desai, better known as Kenny, is the President, CEO, and founder of TAK Group of Companies. With a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, a hard-work ethic, and unstoppable determination, Mr. Desai built his business from the ground up. Mr. Desai continued to expand his business into a conglomerate encompassing an increasing number of markets, eventually forming TAK Construction, TAK International, TAK Realty and Investment Company, and Sycamore Manor.

While it is one thing to establish a business, it is quite another to receive continuous recognition for its quality and success. In this regard, Mr. Desai's companies have been recognized with the New York and New Jersey Port Authority's Construction Company of the Year Award and SBA Construction Award from Washington, D.C. under the Clinton Administration. Successful businesses such as these result from exceptional qualities of the individuals behind them.

As an active member of a number of various philanthropic organizations, Mr. Desai is as relentless in his commitment to his community as he is to his business companies. Somewhere between managing his business

• 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.

enterprises and raising three children, Mr. Desai is a leader in cultural and educational institutions including serving as a Director and Board member of the Bharitya Vidya Bhavan; the Chairman of the Indian Culture Society of Union, New Jersey, and the President of Vraj. He has even been involved in aiding the completion of the Mahatma Gandhi Center and Hindu Temple in Wayne, New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Assembly and the Township of Clark, New Jersey have already written proclamations acknowledging Mr. Desai's remarkable achievements in his life. It is only fitting that I now also acknowledge Mr. Desai's most recent recognition. I would like to thank Mr. Desai for his contributions to the New Jersey community and congratulate him on this Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

A TRIBUTE TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena, which will be celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. For the past 70 years, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena have remained committed to their motto of "Caring for our future, one child at a time."

Incorporated in 1937, the Boys Club of Pasadena, a member of the national organization, Boys Clubs of America, began by serving a Christmas dinner for 200 underprivileged boys in a rented space in Pasadena.

By 1953, the Boys Club membership had reached 4659, a drastic increase from 560 only ten years earlier. In the early 1960s, several milestones were achieved; the Boys Club acquired its own property, joined United Way of Los Angeles and received the National Program Award for Excellence for its Science Series Program.

Continuing to expand its services, the 1970s saw the Boys Club of Pasadena acquiring the Slavic Branch in Pasadena, becoming Pasadena's sponsor of the Summer Hot Lunch Program for Children, which served over 400 meals daily to club members, and the Boys Club Scholarship Program was formally established to aid young people with vocational, educational or fine arts pursuits.

The Boys Club of Pasadena opened the first childcare facility operated for pre-school children by any Boys Club. The Mackenzie/Scott Child Development Center opened in 1989 and was licensed by State of California for 88 preschool children. In 1990, the Center was accepted into the State of California Food Program and was formerly recognized by the City of Pasadena for excellence in child care.

In 1990, after the Boys Clubs of America changed its name to Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Boys Club of Pasadena changed its name to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena.

Hilary Crahan became Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena in 2004 and under her leadership the club has continued to emphasize both formal and informal education. Currently, over 7200 children participate at the five sites: Slavik Branch, the Mackenzie-Scott Branch, the Scott Child Care

Center, the Performing Arts Center, and the Orange Grove Learning Center. The more than fifty academically enriching programs include music and arts education, sports, technology training, leadership classes, and tutoring in math, English, and science.

It is my pleasure to honor the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pasadena on their anniversary of 70 years of dedicated service to the youth in the 29th Congressional District. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PETER BOYNTON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Peter Boynton. Captain Boynton will retire on June 1, 2007 after serving as Commander of Sector for the Long Island Sound, headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut, since June, 2004. Captain Peter Boynton has displayed a stalwart dedication to the safety and well-being of all those who travel on his waters and coastline for years. The Long Island Sound Sector includes 16 field units in Connecticut and on Long Island with 490 active duty military and civilians, 180 reservists and 1,800 volunteers with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In his position as Captain, Boynton has been responsible for port safety and security, search and rescue, marine inspection and pollution response in Connecticut, Long Island and waters 200 miles offshore.

Captain Boynton has spent 10 years at sea on six Coast Guard cutters including the icebreaker Mackinaw, the cutter Spencer and the tall ship Eagle. He has commanded three cutters; Escanaba in Boston, Ocracoke in Puerto Rico, and Cape Morgan in Portland, Maine. His seagoing service includes spending five winters patrolling Georges Bank in the Gulf of Maine, and his Ocracoke crew seizing 23 tons of marijuana and 2 tons of cocaine in the Caribbean Sea.

Captain Boynton served at the White House as the Director for Global Affairs on the National Security Council staff, coordinating national policy for drug interdiction and migrant smuggling. He was also the senior Coast Guard liaison at the Department of State, coordinating international Coast Guard operations with the diplomatic community. He served as the Chief of Intelligence on a multi-agency drug task force in New York City.

Captain Boynton holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and an Ocean Engineering degree from the Coast Guard Academy. Captain Boynton holds an unlimited Master's License in the Merchant Marine. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Presidential Service Badge.

Captain Boynton has always gone above and beyond the call of duty, specifically when it comes to paying the utmost personal attention to the questions and concerns of the community. He has built a reputation for listening to problems, answering questions, and finding solutions. He has done an excellent job pro-

tecting the people who travel on the Long Island Sound by being accessible to hearing and responding to their needs. I applaud Captain Peter Boynton for his contributions and dedication to the United States Coast Guard and the Long Island Sound.

PRAISING LT. GOVERNOR DAVID PATERSON'S COMMITMENT TO MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK STATE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bestow praise to Lt. Governor David Paterson of the great state of New York for his commitment to empowering Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MWBE). His initiative to start this dialogue has shown the lack of contracts that MWBEs receive from the major agencies and authorities in the state. Lt. Governor Paterson's leadership in this initiative will help to improve procurement practices in New York State by ensuring that MWBEs receive contracts that they are fully capable of performing.

Lt. Governor David Paterson's commitment to MWBEs will benefit businesses throughout the state just as the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone has done for business development, jobs, educational and health programs, and social services in Harlem, East Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. Today I enter into the RECORD an article published by the New York CaribNews highlighting the efforts of Lt. Governor Paterson for the advancement of MWBEs in New York State.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 15, 2007]

LT. GOVERNOR PUSHES AGENDA TO BENEFIT MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

ALBANY, NY.—Taking an important step in fulfilling a campaign pledge to usher in a new era of accountability in the area of state government utilization of Minority and Women Owned Businesses, Lt. Governor David Paterson convened a meeting of executives from the state's major agencies and authorities. This historic gathering of state decision makers was part of a mandate issued in an Executive Order signed by Governor Eliot Spitzer on February 18th which, among other things, establishes an executive Leadership Council to examine state procurement practices and increase the utilization of qualified MWBE's.

Lt. Governor Paterson, who is leading the state's efforts to improve its MWBE program told Executive Leadership Council members, "Last year the state spent over \$11 billion in discretionary expenditures and MWBEs only received 3% of state contracts. This administration will reserve the negative inertia of the past 12 years and push to build the capacity of MWBE firms and increase the utilization of qualified MWBEs."

After laying out the vision for the new MWBE initiative, MWBE Development Executive Director Michael Jones-Bey explained the purpose of the Executive Leadership Council sating that, "This will be a forum to discuss best practices for implementation of procurement policies. It is also a means to hold agency executives accountable for compliance with state MWBE procurement laws."

For many in attendance the highlight of the meeting was where agency executives made their presentations. Each executive delivered a PowerPoint presentation reporting their agency's previous quarterly utilization of MWBEs for expenditures in the areas of construction, construction consulting, commodities, and services. This was followed by a presentation of their goals. This unprecedented public airing of MWBE agency performance was followed by a general group discussion of ways to tackle some of the common problems encountered by agency executives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JACOB EAPEN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jacob Eapen on being the 2007 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Dr. Eapen, a resident of Fremont, California, is a pediatrician who has spent countless hours through the years in community service. When he hasn't been serving on various boards in or near Fremont, he has provided medical assistance statewide and overseas. He has spent more than 25 years giving back to a world too often in need.

His endless work has earned him local, state and national recognition. His most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, is a prestigious honor given annually by the New York-based National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. The medal celebrates the immigrant experience and seeks to honor Americans from a wide variety of backgrounds for their positive and lasting imprint on society.

In previous years, the medal has been awarded to six U.S. presidents; courageous heroes who created positive social change such as Rosa Parks and Elie Wiesel and athletes, including Muhammad Ali. He is one of just six Indo-Americans and one of 12 Californians to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor this year.

Dr. Eapen was born in Trivandrum, Kerala, in southern India where he grew up and received his medical degree. He earned his master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. He spent five years in Sub-Saharan Africa as a teacher and physician. He recalls his days in Africa where he would arrive at the medical clinic at 8 a.m. and find 150 people waiting in line for medical help, including some who had walked for hours. This experience fueled his passion to value life and to make a difference in the lives of others.

He is currently an elected member of the Washington Hospital board of directors and works as a practicing pediatrician in Newark with Alameda County Health Services. Dr. Eapen has previously served as a board member of the Association of California Healthcare Districts, medical director of a local health care clinic, Alameda County public health commissioner, U.N. high commissioner for refugees in the Philippines, and as an adviser to Alameda County's Every Child Counts Commission. In 2004, he received the Medical Board of California's First Physicians award.

I join Dr. Eapen's friends and admirers in congratulating him on receiving his most recent award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. It

is well deserved and a fitting symbol of his endless commitment and contributions to make a better life for others.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
PATTENAUDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Pattenaude on the occasion of his being named chancellor of Maine's public university system, after 16 years of dedicated service to the University of Southern Maine. Richard's service to USM was extraordinary, and I join his many friends, coworkers and the students he taught in wishing him the best of luck in the next phase of his career.

Richard's service to public education began in 1972, when he took a job teaching political science at Colorado State University. His service to Maine's educational system began in 1991 when he became president of the University of Southern Maine.

Under his leadership, the University grew substantially in the classroom. Richard helped to add 12 new undergraduate, 5 masters and 2 doctorate programs to the course catalog, he rewrote the University's mission statement, and he led in the creation of the University's first and second strategic plans. Richard's influence extended beyond the classroom, however, and he made major contributions to improve USM's campus. He constructed over 75 million dollars worth of state of the art buildings and created more than 12 educational institutes—including the Multi-Cultural Student Center and the Center for Entrepreneurship—which responded to community needs.

Richard was truly successful in living up to his motto during his time with Southern Maine—he "worked hard, did well, had fun." His leadership as the University's president will be missed, but the school can rest assured knowing he will still be working diligently to make Maine's public university system better for future generations of students.

IN TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL DONALD J. WETEKAM

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-Chair of the Air Force Caucus to honor Lieutenant General Donald J. Wetekam, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, for his long and exceptionally distinguished military career.

General Wetekam entered the Air Force in June 1973 after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. A career logistics officer, Don has commanded three maintenance squadrons, a logistics group and a logistics center. He has served staff tours at both major command and Air Staff levels, and served as Chairman, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Board of Directors.

General Wetekam was responsible for leadership, management and integration of Air

Force civil engineering, security forces, logistics readiness, supply, transportation, and aircraft and missile maintenance, as well as setting policy and preparing budget estimates that reflect enhancements to productivity, combat readiness and quality of life for Air Force people.

Most importantly for the state of Georgia, General Wetekam served as Commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB from 2002–2004. I watched as he created an excellent team atmosphere that led to use of LEAN and the introduction of unprecedented efficiencies at Robins. This model was the precursor to such efficiencies throughout the Air Force, culminating with Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO 21).

Finally, Madam Speaker, I should note for the record that, although he has received numerous military awards, Don's Blues Brothers imitation is rumored to be quite special. A mutual friend told me it's the best he's ever seen, particularly the dance routine in "the very small, black pants." But that same friend added that he'd seen the routine twice, which was "to be honest, one time too many." So I'd guess Don's second career won't stray too far from his current day job. No doubt he will maintain his interest in running and NASCAR. He and his wonderful wife Sherrie are community-oriented folks who are involved in various charities. I hope they settle in Middle Georgia where they will always be welcome. If they do, I'll run with Don, maybe catch some NASCAR but certainly skip the Blues Brothers.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED AND
LESTER GUDGELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's 6th Congressional District: Mildred and Lester Gudgell of Meadville, Missouri. Mildred and Lester will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 7, 2007.

Mildred and Lester were married on June 7, 1947 in Trenton, Missouri. They have raised five children: Nancy, Peggy, Benny, Paul and Ray, who is now deceased.

Mildred and Lester Gudgell have been outstanding citizens of Meadville and Northwest Missouri. They are dedicated and active members of their community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mildred and Lester Gudgell. Their marriage of 60 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 70 for receiving

the Volunteer Dedication Award given by The San Diego-Imperial Counties, AFL-CIO.

NALC Branch 70 was chartered in 1970, and has had a tradition of volunteering for charities, food drives, and legislative actions.

Unfortunately, due to the Hatch Act of 1939, the working letter carrier was prevented from taking any significant volunteer role in partisan political campaigns until 1993 when the Hatch Act was reformed.

NALC Branch 70, the United States Postal Service (USPS), along with the help of many other unions work together every year (on the 2nd Saturday of May) to collect food from our customers for those in our communities who are in need. This year will mark the 15th anniversary of the NALC Food Drive.

In 1982 the NALC Branch 70 and the USPS established a national program called Carrier Alert, of which Branch 70 is a member. This program, in simple terms, allows elderly and disabled customers to sign up for special attention from their letter carriers. When letter carriers suspect there is trouble they report it. One phone call could save a life; and in fact, lives have been saved through this program. The neighborhood letter carrier is always eager to help monitor the well-being of their customers. It is what letter carriers across the Nation do every day, with or without a formal program.

NALC Branch 70 and the USPS once a year also work with the Lions Club International by collecting eye glasses which are used to distribute to the poor throughout the world and was awarded the International Order of The Lion in 2005 by the Lions Club.

NALC Branch 70 understands it is not just about working together to help their own union, but working together with others so that everyone can have a better life. This is why the NALC Branch 70 is such a proud and distinguished member of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT WEST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of West Brook Middle School. More than 150 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at West Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Breanne Babin, Nicole Becker, Tamar Beylerian, Isabella Blanco-Rivas, Nicholas Bushman, Julia Castronovo, Deborah Daoud, Arnold De Masi, Anthony Gallo, Tiffany Hsiung, Alisha Jadhav, Stephen McGuire, Lauren Mihalik, Christina Muller, Hayley Niland, Aisling O'Connor, Justin Ordonez, Jacqueline Paizis, Kevin Perusse, Kimberly Portes, Nicholas Ruso, Zacky Sungkar, Daniel Toppo, Maxwell Wagner, Matthew Warren, Nadia Admani, Christopher Akdemir, Emily Aranda, Varun Bhatt, Miranda Campbell, Gabriel Cepeda, Divya Dasani, Nadine Haddad, Connor Hagen, Noel Hodgins, Brittany Hovan, Kwon-Sung Jung, Kathleen McGee, Leah Paterno-Olivari, Michael Piquero, Brian Polsky, Diego Ramirez, Michael Rullis, Akari Saito, Amitoj Sawhney, Nicole Sicari, Victoria Stable, Nicole Tomic, Mimi Tsang, Alok Vaidya, Shefalee Vohra, Brandon Birdsall, Diana Blanco, Nicholas Bucci, Ryan Bucci, Steven Carrescia, Justin Cochran, Mark Cristaldi, Rebekah Daniel, Joseph Dobrowski, Aleah Dotson, David Elhananov, Zinath Froogh, Michelle Kim, Emil Lopez, Carla Nilo, Yusuke Oshimizu, Daniel Paolazzi, Rachel Rigolosi, Eric Rosenzweig, Erika Soto, Athanasios Stepas, Michael Thompson, Gregory Vaks, Zachary Yabroudy, Priyanka Abraham, Jafar Ali, Alexandra Arrighi, Matthew Askling, Nicole Cagar, Alex Castro, Jesse Christie, Tyler Deas, Nicholas Delgiorno, Ariana Dellosa, Nina Fiorilla, Dean Fujita, Oscar Gonzales, James Hallihan, Nikolaos Haralambakis, Max Hopkins, Zalaikha Javed, Sofia Koutsoumbis, Matthew Lahanas, Lindsey Lucas, Kayla Mees, Janki Patel, Zachary Reuveni, Ryan Rivera, Liridona Shala, Pratyusha Valiveti, Matthew Alpher, Jason Back, Parita Bhandari, Thomas Bores, Brooke Bukowski, Randy Casallas, Harold Choo, Matthew DeMatteo, Julia Deutmoser, Jana Devaney, Margaret Doyle, Joseph Faris, Laura Heckelmann, Daniel Heidt, Yurina Iijima, Farah Kiki, Michelle Kim, Elyse Krupinski, Maya Peterson, Victoria Petruzzella, Victoria Poplaski, Justine Rizzitello, Adam Ron, Daniel Schauer, Emad Tirmizi, Kevin Tirpanciani, Lakhini Vyas, George Ayob, Jr., Shannon Barile, Tiffany Buchen, Francis Ciabrone, Alexandra Cooney, Julia Cuomo, Alyssa De Clemente, Julia Dellosa, Erika Dipasquale, Jessica Goldman, Jessica Hazuda, Nicole Huaman, Sundesh Kodali, Kimberly La Vecchia, Matthew Lemash, Brian Monticello, Timothy Moran, Deanna Napoli, Shivam Raikundalia, Raquel Riggitano, Jacob Roth, Nicholas Salemme, Karan Shah, Zainab Shahsamand, Donovan Spivey, Carly Turton, Shawn Abraham, Joseph Akdemir, Asha Babu, Rachel Buchbinder, Allison Chang, Daniel Chen, John Chinchar, Inderpreet Dhaliwal, Lindsay Diamond, John Diaz, Sky Digirolamo, Stephanie Edelstein, Julia Gerogiannis, Michael Kim, Gina Kisley, Joseph Lee, Daisy Lee, Grace Lim, Annika Nungra, Alyssa Nungra, John Piccinich, Abraar Quraishi, Alexa Salinardi, Alexander Shater, Courtney Smallze, Rebecca Song, Ashlin Twardzik, Parth Vaidya.

TRIBUTE TO FAYE COWART

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Faye Cowart. Mrs. Cowart has served the community for 38 years as a leader in the area of public education. As an outstanding educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1969, Mrs. Cowart has been dedicated to the promotion of student success and educational achievement.

Mrs. Cowart has been a long time resident of Altadena, CA, and began her career in education as a teacher in the Los Angeles School District. After teaching for several years, she served as a Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and Compliance Coordinator in the Specially Funded Programs Branch. In each of these endeavors, she distinguished herself as a tireless advocate for improving the quality of education for all of our students.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Faye Cowart for her dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of quality education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Mrs. Cowart's service will also join me in wishing her much joy in the years to come and great thanks for her time, her energy, and her efforts.

DANIEL VINCENT WILLIAMS FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Vincent Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to replace the wire fencing around the backstop and painting the poles of the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fifth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Vincent Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COUNCILLOR LEONARD F. O'LEARY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary of Salem, MA. Councillor O'Leary recently announced that he would not be seeking reelection. It will be the first time since 1984 when

he was first elected as Councillor of Salem's Ward Four that the O'Leary name will not appear on the ballot.

Lennie honorably served twelve consecutive, two-year terms, and his twenty-four years on the Salem City Council rank him among the longest serving City Councillors in Salem's long and storied history. He earned the respect of his colleagues on the Council over the years as reflected by their electing him Council President on four occasions during his tenure.

Lennie's institutional knowledge made him a valuable resource on the Council as he served as Chair on all of the Council's committees, including the Finance Committee and Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs. He also served as the longtime Council Liaison to the City's Board of Health. Councillor O'Leary served his country as a member of the National Guard from 1961–1967, and he took great pride in advocating in support of his fellow veterans while on the Council.

In his over two decade long Council career, Lennie was legendary in his devotion to his Ward Four constituents, and he provided them with reliable and responsive service. He kept them informed with regular neighborhood meetings and tended to their every need whether by filing measures to prohibit overnight parking of heavy vehicles in residential neighborhoods or meeting with engineers and DPW crews to make sure road work proceeded in a timely and reasonable manner. Lennie advocated tirelessly for his Ward Four neighbors appearing at hundreds of Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and Conservation Committee hearings to make sure their concerns had a voice and were heard. He was rewarded by support across his Ward that was broad and deep.

Lennie would be the first to admit that he did not do it all alone. He would tell you that he had good friends and that he had good fortune in working with four mayors and countless dedicated colleagues on the Council. However, most important to Lennie was the full and untiring support he received from his wife Mary, who often accompanied him to those late night Council and Board meetings. Mary provided counsel that he could trust.

This week in Salem, Lennie's colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family will gather to celebrate and thank Councillor Leonard F. O'Leary for 24 years of unselfish public service. It is a most appropriate and deserving recognition for someone who has given so much of himself to the City of Salem.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final legislation to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007. While this final compromise is not perfect, I will vote for it to provide necessary funds for our troops in the field as well as meet other important priorities.

This bill contains more funding than the President requested for military health care and veterans health care. It expresses the support of the U.S. Congress for a new direction in Iraq by tying economic aid to 18 specific benchmarks on political, security and economic progress, although it provides the President the waiver authority he negotiated before agreeing to sign the bill. This bill also includes the first raise in the minimum wage in a decade as well as critical funding for domestic needs like hurricane recovery efforts.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress from both political parties as well as the President and the Administration to provide a new direction in Iraq and to meet the critical needs of the people of North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

H.R. 198 "RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 198, which recognizes the significance of Black History Month.

Madam Speaker, it is easy to forget the past, especially a past that is so painful for so many. But I think we all recognize that the story of blacks in America is one that is truly uplifting and gives us the spirit to believe that any accomplishment is possible if we strive for it.

I want to take this opportunity today to talk about the black history that is too often ignored. Let me start by saying that we all revere the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. We love the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. I am deeply grateful that this Nation has a day to honor Dr. King and that we have a Black History Month so that our children may understand the struggle that black Americans had to endure just to get to this point.

Madam Speaker, the history of blacks in America did not begin and end with the Civil Rights Movement. We need to remind everyone that the America we know today was built in substantial part by the skill, labor, intelligence, and determination of African Americans. These black pioneers succeeded despite the oppression they openly faced.

That's the history I want to talk about today. I want to talk about black Americans whose accomplishments have sometimes been overlooked. Their greatness in the face of adversity is what makes me so proud to be an African American.

So many oppressed people have had to surrender their souls, their hopes and their dreams because of the hardship they have been forced to face. However, black history is full of men and women who faced their hardships head on and refused to accept what they were told was their destiny. Instead, they instead looked at what they were given and dared to believe that not only could they improve upon it, but that they could strive for achievements almost unimaginable to any American. These great figures of black history are our past; they are our future. They are our compass as we move forward into this new generation.

I am proud to be a member of Congress representing the great State of Texas. In the 211 years of congressional history there have been 105 African American Members of Congress. We tend to think that before the Civil Rights Movement black Americans had no ability to represent themselves in government. Despite the tremendous obstacles of intimidation and harassment that were faced by black Americans who sought and won election to political office.

Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American member of Congress. During the Civil War, he helped organize Maryland's first two black regiments for the U.S. Army. In February 1870, he was elected from Mississippi to the United States Senate seat formerly held by Jefferson Davis. Hiram Rhodes Revels was in an extraordinary position, not only was he the first African American in Congress only a few years after the Civil War had ended, but he was representing a State where black men had only been in positions of servitude.

His seat in the Senate did not come without great controversy; a great debate arose in the Senate as to whether a man of color was entitled to a seat in our Nation's legislative body. However, it was the great Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts who made the closing argument for Revels' admission, declaring: "All men are created equal, says the great Declaration, and now a great act attests to this verity. Today we make the Declaration a reality."

During his time in the Senate, Hiram Revels voted to forgive officials from the secessionist States, who had broken their oaths to uphold the Constitution, as he made great efforts to unite a war-torn Nation. After leaving the Senate, Revels returned to Mississippi, where he became the founding president of Alcorn College. His life was one of tremendous achievement against the backdrop of the turbulent Reconstruction era.

Almost 100 years after Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected to the U.S. Senate, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress, when she was elected to represent New York's Twelfth Congressional District in 1968 running on the slogan, "Fighting Shirley Chisholm—Unbought and Unbossed."

She reflected that spirit well during her 14 years in Congress. During her first term she spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, and the poor and against the Vietnam War. Her first term in Congress was set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement and the women's movement for equal rights.

Shirley Chisholm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation required a determined leader to represent the voice of so many Americans who felt dismay at their treatment. She took an extremely active role in changing the way women were to be judged from that point on. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes."

This is a sentiment that I myself take to heart. Women in this Nation are now told they have a right to determine the kind of life they want to lead; Shirley Chisholm was at the core of this movement.

On January 25, 1972, Chisholm announced her candidacy for President. She stood before the cameras and in the beginning of her speech she said, "I stand before you today as

a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States. I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests. I am the candidate of the people."

Shirley Chisholm did not win the nomination; but she went on to the Democratic Convention in Miami and received 151 delegates' votes. More than that, she demonstrated the will and determination of so many Americans who had previously felt forgotten, she had lighted a fire under so many who had felt disenfranchised.

Despite being separated by almost a century Hiram Rhodes Revels and Shirley Chisholm led very similar lives. They both were in positions of great responsibility during times when this Nation was under a great burden. The true greatness of their story is not just that they overcame the oppression they faced, but that they had the courage to help remedy a Nation that in many ways had spited them. They refused to bend their principles to the hatred they faced; they were true pioneers in leadership.

They are my role models in Congress not only because they are African American but because they represent the kind of leaders that America has always needed at times of adversity, they had a spirit and a courage that could not be broken, they had a vision of America that exceeded most of their peers.

I am very proud to be a Member of Congress from the city of Houston, a city that is home to NASA. This Nation has been blessed to have been the pioneer in space exploration. However, one of our greatest accomplishments has been that not only have we sent men to space, but that we have sent different men and women who represent the spirit of this great Nation.

Major Lawrence was the first African American astronaut who trained at NASA. In 1983 Guion Bluford became the first African American to fly in space. He went on to serve on three more NASA missions and logged over 688 hours in space. Before becoming an astronaut, Maj. Guion Bluford flew 144 combat missions in Vietnam. Tragically, Ron McNair lost his life in the tragic Challenger accident, but we all will forever remember his great accomplishments. Mae C. Jemison also became the first African American female to fly in space.

In less than a century and a half blacks in America had gone from the chains of slavery to the surface of the moon. Physically this is an amazing accomplishment, but spiritually these great men and women throughout black history could have accomplished what they did without those who came before them. Each great black man or woman gave hope to future generations and recognition to the fact that no amount of oppression could suppress a true vision of a greater America.

The African American community continues to rise; this is still a beginning for us not an end. The vision for America that so many black Americans strived for is not yet complete. There are many more great black minds and souls that this Nation will be blessed to experience. I look forward to seeing our progress, I delight in our great history but I am really looking forward to our future progress.

For all these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am pleased and proud to support H.R. 198,

which gives due recognition to the significance of Black History Month.

STATER BROS. MARKETS: A HISTORY OF SUCCESS . . . PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Stater Bros. Markets chain for receiving the "Spirit of Cooperation Award" recently presented by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Stater Bros. Markets traces its beginnings back to a small grocery store on West Yucaipa Boulevard in Yucaipa, California. Twin brothers Cleo and Leo Stater purchased the original Stater Bros. Market with a \$600 down payment, and opened for business on August 17, 1936. By the close of the 1940s, the Stater Bros. had expanded the chain to 12 locations, with 225 employees.

During the 1950s, Stater Bros. Markets had almost doubled to include 23 locations in the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles. In 1960, the company began the operation of a construction business. This new division acted as a general contractor and became responsible for all planning, supervision and construction of new stores and other facilities. In 1979, scanning was introduced in the stores and during this time there was a significant growth and expansion for the company. During the 1970s, the number of store locations more than doubled to a total of 83 supermarkets.

The year of 1980 was the largest calendar year of growth for the company, with 10 supermarkets opening. In 1982, Stater Bros. launched its first television advertising campaign. In 1999, Stater Bros. acquired 43 additional supermarket locations, which included 33 former Albertson's Supermarkets and 10 former Lucky Supermarkets. Ten of the new locations were in San Diego County, giving Stater Bros. its first presence in the area of my Congressional District.

By the year 2004, Stater Bros. had been awarded the "Supermarket Retailer of the Year" twice, by the Progressive Grocer in 2001 and the Grocery Headquarters Magazine in 2004. In 2005, Stater Bros. made the "Fortune 500" list for the first time and was the only Inland Empire headquartered company to make the list.

Today, Stater Bros. is the largest privately owned Supermarket Chain in Southern California with annual sales in 2006 of \$3.5 billion. They are highly deserving of the recognition that they are receiving from our very distinguished labor council and an excellent, corporate community partner.

IN HONOR OF THE WINNERS OF THE 2006-2007 INTERNET SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the stu-

dents of Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, New Jersey, who recently won first place in Information and Communication in the 2006-2007 Internet Science and Technology Fair. The Class of 2008 students, James Cahayla-Wynne, Walter Hickey, Alexander Hieronymi, Robert Hoffmann, and John Kelly III developed an Integrated Navigation System called "On Target."

As the students themselves have described it on their website, www.ph3k.com: "We resolve to design a multipurpose beacon, using GPS (Global Positioning Systems) technology, that can relay both its position and additional information about the surrounding environment, to existing data centers. These data centers will then synthesize and organize this raw data and forward it to the troops in the field who need it."

These very bright students were aided in their quest by very supportive family, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders—Mrs. Bernadette Kozak, LTC Steven Fleming of the U.S. Military Academy, Fr. Lou Konopelski, and Mr. Paul O'Connor. As the George Bernard Shaw quote on the Don Bosco website states, "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." Clearly, the faculty and staff at this school breathe life into those words each day.

TRIBUTE TO THE FLINTRIDGE FOUNDATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Flintridge Foundation, which will receive the 2007 Community Award presented by the Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Pasadena, California on June 10, 2007. Each year, this award is given to an individual or organization that demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to education and the community.

The Flintridge Foundation was created in 1985 and strongly upholds the values of individuality, diversity, and creativity on which it was founded. Francis and Louisa Moseley believed that the private sector was well qualified to understand and quickly respond to the changing needs of individuals and society as a whole, and out of that vision the Flintridge Foundation was born.

Since its beginning, the Flintridge Foundation has provided \$23,531,290 in grants and has developed a conservation program that has helped to conserve biological heritage and ensure the sustainability of natural resources by supporting the preservation and restoration of native ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest.

For their success and commitment to promoting education, the environment, and many other important priorities, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Flintridge Foundation upon receiving the 2007 Community Award.

ROSS ALLAN WILLIAMS FOR THE
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ross Allan Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to build a new enclosed dugout on the third base side for the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fourth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ross Allan Williams for his accomplishments and for his efforts put with the Boy Scouts of America forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO SIMPLIFY THE TAX AND
ELIMINATE THE DRAWBACK FEE
ON CERTAIN DISTILLED SPIRITS
USED IN NON-BEVERAGE PROD-
UCTS MANUFACTURED IN A U.S.
FOREIGN TRADE ZONE OR DO-
MESTIC USE AND EXPORT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill designed to equalize the competitive playing field between domestic and foreign users of certain distilled spirits used in the manufacture or production of non-beverage products.

Non-beverage products include medicines, medicinal products, food products, flavors, flavoring extracts and perfumes, all of which are unfit for beverage purposes.

The bill does this by allowing users that demonstrate to the Treasury Department that they are producing non-beverage products in a U.S. Foreign Trade Zone to avoid the excise tax on distilled spirits, which a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage product that uses distilled spirits does not pay.

A Foreign Trade Zone is a restricted-access site authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and supervised by U.S. Customs where companies can use special Customs procedures for importing and exporting materials and finished products. Zones are located in or adjacent to a Customs port of entry and operated pursuant to public utility principles under the sponsorship of a corporation granted authority by the Commerce Department pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act and regulations.

Authorized companies, of which there are many in New Jersey, therefore will be subject to continuous regulation by the Commerce and Treasury Departments as well as Customs.

The bill preserves necessary safeguards for the government as it monitors which compa-

nies use distilled spirits for beverage purposes and which companies use them for non-beverage purposes.

Such companies will be required to file regular reports with the Department of Treasury showing that the distilled spirits are used in the manufacture of non-beverage products. Currently, such manufacturers pay an excise tax of \$13.50 per proof gallon and then must file for "drawback" with the burden on the claimant to show eligibility for drawback.

Under the drawback procedure, the government rebates all but \$1 per proof gallon, charging the companies a \$1 administration fee. Companies subject to this procedure can have considerable cash flow tied up in this process for an appreciable period of time. Again, a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage products is not subject to such tax and consequently, is not burdened by the need to file for drawback.

The imposition of this tax and burdensome drawback process on American manufacturers and producers put them at a competitive disadvantage, which I believe we should eliminate, while preserving the integrity of the government process to monitor the use of distilled spirits.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN COUNTY AND
FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Martin County, MN on two milestones it is celebrating this weekend: the sesquicentennial celebration of Martin County and the city of Fairmont, Minnesota, and the centennial celebration of the Martin County Courthouse.

Martin County was founded 150 years ago, on May 23, 1857. The county was named after Henry Martin of Wallingford, Connecticut, who was a resident of Mankato at the time.

The first permanent residents of what is now Fairmont, Minnesota were two men named E. Banks Hall and William H. Budd. In June of 1857, they built their homes beside two lakes that today are named—appropriately enough—Budd Lake and Hall Lake.

The town's original name was Fair Mount, which was later changed to Fairmont. Fifty years after the founding of Martin County, the County Courthouse was commissioned.

Construction on the Martin County Courthouse was completed on November 1, 1907: The building is built from Michigan sandstone and Indiana limestone and is topped by a dome that stands 108 feet above the ground.

The total cost of constructing the Courthouse—including furniture, plumbing and decorations—was just under \$125,000.

Today, this Courthouse is the jewel of the city of Fairmont, where it sits overlooking Lake Sisseton.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Martin County Courthouse has made many changes, but it has not lost its original beauty.

I am pleased to join the State of Minnesota in congratulating Martin County and Fairmont, Minnesota on this important milestone. And I wish them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALLY BAILEY
FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE
PROTECTION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wally Bailey, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and his group's recent visit to Capitol Hill during this year's annual recognition of Building Safety Week. On May 9, Mr. Bailey led a delegation of members of the International Code Council to meet with Congress to discuss nationally focused concerns in building safety and fire prevention. This year ICC's delegation focused specifically on a proposal to create a Community Building Code Administration Grant Program, and Mr. Bailey spoke to me persuasively of how this program would expand and support the quality and effectiveness of building code and fire code administration in underserved areas of our country.

Mr. Bailey serves as President of the Board of Directors of the International Code Council, a volunteer role to which he was elected in national leadership of a membership association of over 42,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals. It is this group that develops the building and fire codes that are in use all across our country for the construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the business, schools, and places of worship we visit regularly. These codes, created and maintained through a voluntary consensus development process, are in use by over 22,000 U.S. jurisdictions, including those who govern the quality, safety and energy efficiency of building construction at the local, State and Federal levels.

For the past three decades, Mr. Bailey has been a tireless advocate for building safety through superior building codes and effective building code administration. As the Director of Development and Construction for the City of Fort Smith, he supervises activities of a multi-disciplined department that governs codes administration, inspections, plan review, property maintenance, historic preservation and land development. As a matter of note, two years ago he celebrated a quarter century of service to the City.

Since 1999, in addition to his work with the City of Fort Smith, Mr. Bailey has served in leadership positions with the ICC, culminating in his present role as President of the Board. Besides his being a distinguished citizen of my District, in my opinion, ICC's membership elected a leader who is an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2007, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board Vice President Steven Shapiro, Board Secretary/Treasurer Adolph Zubia, Immediate Past President of the Board Henry Green; Board members Gregori Anderson, Edwin Berkel, James Brothers, John Darnall, William Dupler, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn,

Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

ED MATTAS: "AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF SAN DIEGO"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Mattas, who is being honored with the "Community Service Award" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

After graduating from Kearney High School in San Diego, California, Ed started his Union career with Hazard Products in 1981. When Hazard closed their manufacturing plant in 1985, he moved on to RCP Block and Brick. While at RCP Block and Brick, Ed served as the Shop Steward.

Ed was then elected as Trustee to Teamsters Local 36 in 2001 and was appointed Vice President in 2006. He was hired as the Training Director for the San Diego County Construction Teamsters in 2002. Along with the job came a tractor trailer that is funded by Teamsters Locals 36, 481, 542, and 683. These Locals have made it easy for him to make the Teamster truck available for volunteer projects whenever possible.

Ed and his students have helped in many events in San Diego and Southern California. These events include the Postal Food Drive, the Christmas food and toy distribution, providing the hauling for the Trail of Hope Charity to the Apache Indians, many projects in assisting the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, and helping to transfer food from the San Diego Food Bank to many needy organizations.

Ed Mattas truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING CHRISTINE WARD-DIAZ,
WINNER OF A PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
TEACHING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Ward-Diaz, a science and math teacher at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, New Jersey, and winner of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year.

As the Paramus Superintendent Janice Dime has noted, Ms. Ward-Diaz "makes

science learning come alive in her classroom." I had the pleasure of visiting with Ms. Ward-Diaz last year with the EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson, to discuss energy conservation. Her teaching style clearly invigorates her classroom and challenges her students. The children were well-informed and excited to absorb as much knowledge as they could from their teacher.

Christine Ward-Diaz holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Scranton and a masters in environmental studies from my alma mater, Montclair State University. Her superior teaching methods have long been recognized by her peers, earning her East Brook's Teacher of the Year in 2004-05. The Presidential Award is the federal government's highest honor for teaching excellence.

This statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will ensure her well-deserved place in official history. But, more importantly, the generations of students she inspires are a legacy in which we will all always share. I commend Christine Ward-Diaz for her dedication to her students and her community.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE GARRETT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Garrett, who will receive the 2007 Leadership Award presented by the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Pasadena, California on June 10, 2007. Each year, this award is given to a community leader who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to education and the community.

Raised in Los Angeles, California, Mike Garrett attended the University of Southern California, where he excelled as a football player and set numerous records. As an exemplary student athlete, Garrett was named an All-American twice, awarded the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 1965, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

Garrett went on to become a star in the American Football League playing for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers. He was a two time AFL All-Star, and led the Chiefs to a Super Bowl Victory in 1969. Throughout his entire professional career, Garrett gained a total of 8,049 yards and scored 49 touchdowns.

After his professional football career, Garrett attended the College of Law at Western State University, where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1986. Garrett also held numerous professional positions, which included Director of Business Development at the Great Western Forum, working at the District Attorney's Office in San Diego, and doing color commentary for USC football telecasts. In January of 1993, Garrett returned to USC as the Athletic Director where he has helped the football program regain its status as a dominant football power.

For his success and commitment to promoting education and athletics, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Mike Garrett upon receiving the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule's 2007 Leadership Award.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite my opposition to the war in Iraq, I supported the passage of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, H.R. 1591, when it came before the House in March. It was a difficult decision but I had to vote my conscience.

For the first time we were requiring accountability standards by establishing benchmarks and a timeframe for redeployment. Another persuasive factor in supporting H.R. 1591 was the funding for body armor, Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles, MRAP, traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and veterans health care. Finally, I was encouraged by the fact that we were taking proper care of our soldiers by ensuring that they were properly rested, trained, and equipped. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this bill that could not be overturned by the House.

A few weeks ago on May 10, Congress considered and passed version two of the Iraq Supplemental, H.R. 2206. This bill would have provided \$42.8 billion for the Iraq War. Funding would have supported the immediate needs of the U.S. military through July. However, shortly before the August recess Congress would have to decide whether to release an additional \$52.8 billion of war spending that would last until September.

This measure would have placed needed limitations on access to funding based upon the progress reports provided to Congress by the President thereby, bringing the President and his administration back to reality by enforcing accountability standards. However, in an effort to avoid another veto by President Bush, H.R. 2206 has been butchered into a bill hallow and reintroduced without needed provisions that would safeguard this country from continuing a seemingly endless military operations in Iraq. Therefore, I voted in favor of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206 and voted against Amendment 2.

One of my primary concerns has been to ensure that the troops receive the equipment, rest and training they require and surely deserve. In keeping in line with these key concerns, I voted in support of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, which provides support for defense and the global war on terror totaling over \$14.489 billion in funding namely, \$617 million in state and foreign operations, \$3.137 billion for BRAC (fully-funded), \$1.789 billion in Veterans Medical Care (including funding for Walter Reed Medical Center), and \$1.050 billion for Homeland Security.

Moreover, Amendment 1 supports our troops by appropriating \$343 million for our military personnel in the U.S. Army, \$408 million for our service members in the U.S. Navy, about \$108.9 million for our troops in the Marine Corps, \$139.3 million for those in the U.S. Air Force and marked increases in funding for our reserve personnel. Furthermore, it protects

our troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan by supplying over \$258 million for defense-wide MRAP vehicles as well as over \$2.6 billion in funding for the armed forces to purchase this same equipment.

Amendment 1 also resolves many of the shortcomings of our military medical healthcare facilities and defense health programs inability to treat and care for our men and women in uniform returning from combat with injuries. In doing so, it allots \$1.878 billion for our Defense Health Programs specifically, \$6 million for treatment of TBI and those suffering from PTSD, the signature injuries of our troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It also provides needed oversight of our military medical treatment facilities, military housing, medical hold personnel and housing provided to them by requiring a series of inspections be conducted by the Secretary of Defense thereby, ensuring that our service members never again return to military facilities at home that are substandard.

Amendment 1 also provides \$393 million in funding to the State Children's Health Insurance Programs, SCHIP, a vital program to the Nation and to the State of Maryland.

Currently, over 137,000 children in Maryland are without health insurance. Fully funding this program will be a great step toward providing universal health care to our neediest children. I should also note that Amendment 1 also provides needed agricultural, FEMA and general Gulf Coast recovery support for those still suffering from the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Katrina by appropriating over \$2.87 billion in financial support.

President Bush can no longer expect a blank check without any accountability given the current circumstances in Iraq. Over 3,400 soldiers have died and the number increases each day. We have been working diligently to negotiate with the President but he has constantly failed to meet us halfway, despite the clear need for a new direction and policy in Iraq. His mandate to have a bill with no strings attached as to time lines for redeployment or one absent of key benchmarks measuring our progress with accountability and needed oversight measures included is unreasonable and irresponsible. This is exactly why I firmly disapprove of Amendment 2.

The President has outlined the need for benchmarks himself particularly, in a January 13, 2007 radio address stating that "America will hold the Iraqi Government to benchmarks it has announced. These include taking responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November, passing legislation to share oil revenues among all Iraqis, and spending \$10 billion of its own money on reconstruction projects that will create new jobs." These are strong commitments. And the Iraqi Government knows that it must meet them, or lose the support of the Iraqi and the American people.

The President must be held accountable. No more blank checks. It is our duty to protect our brave men and women in uniform. Therefore, I call on my colleagues listen to the American people and vote against Amendment 2.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DIGITAL TELEVISION CONSUMER EDUCATION ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of a bill that I am introducing, which would educate the American people about the Nation's transition to digital television broadcasting and help prepare them for the analog cutoff date in February 2009.

As you know, Congress enacted a "hard date," February 17, 2009, by which our TV broadcasters must cease analog broadcasting and only transmit in digital. On that date, anyone who relies on over-the-air broadcasts will need a set-top box to receive and convert digital TV signals in order for their analog TV to continue to work.

The benefits of transitioning to digital TV signals are enormous, most importantly opening up desperately needed spectrum for first responders. I believe the American people will support this transition, but to make this transition a success our constituents need to know and understand why this is happening.

The Federal Communications Commission has been tasked with the responsibility of the success of this transition. If the Commission does not approach the analog cutoff date with care and consideration of the consumer, millions of TV viewing Americans will be left with a black screen.

I am particularly concerned that the FCC is relying heavily on a website to inform consumers about the transition and how to prepare for the analog cutoff day. I believe that this is not enough. According to the GAO, 21 million U.S. households rely on over-the-air television. Many of these households have a combined income of \$30,000 or less and do not have immediate access to the internet. I am not convinced that a website will help these families obtain the necessary information to prepare for the transition.

To facilitate this transition and make up for the lack of sufficient education from the FCC, I am introducing the National Digital Television Consumer Education Act. This legislation requires TV retailers to place signs next to analog televisions that will include an advisory that additional equipment is necessary after February 17, 2009 to continue using that TV. The bill also requires broadcasters to air PSAs for more than a year to help educate the public about what is happening and the set-top box subsidy program.

The DTV transition will impact every American. We must do everything to ensure the success of this transition and help our constituents from losing their television transmission in February 2009. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill which will help prepare the American people for the upcoming transition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 17, 2007, I missed six recorded votes due to a family obligation in Texas. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

H.R. 1427, FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

Rollcall No. 378 H. AMDT. 203 (BACHUS R-AL) Amendment No. 001—"yes"; rollcall No. 379 H. AMDT. 205 (HENSARLING R-TX) Amendment No. 003—"yes"; rollcall No. 380 H. AMDT. 209 (MCHENRY R-NC) Amendment No. 007—"yes"; rollcall No. 381 H. AMDT. 210 (KANJORSKI D-PA) Amendment No. 008—"no"; rollcall No. 382 H. AMDT. 211 (ROSKAM R-IL) Amendment No. 009—"yes" and rollcall No. 383 H. AMDT. 213 (GARRET R-NJ) Amendment No. 011—"no."

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LIMA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay special tribute to the outstanding women of the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter marked its 100th anniversary with a special reception on June 3, 2007.

Chartered on April 10, 1907, the Lima Chapter has served the people of Lima in countless ways through the years. From their work in support of servicemembers and veterans to their committed work with the youth of Allen County, Ohio, the women of the Lima DAR have compiled a long and distinguished record of service in times of war and peace.

Fifty-two women have served the Lima Chapter as Regent, starting with Mrs. Clara Paine Ohler. The chapter's membership through the years has included women from all walks of life who have distinguished themselves in numerous ways through their service.

The Lima DAR is especially noted for its work in local schools to promote civic education, reflecting the group's love of country and its high regard for the gift of freedom that we all enjoy. They are true examples of the DAR's high calling to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom.

Madam Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Lima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Our nation is better served through their hard work and diligence. We wish them all the best at their centennial celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR
SCOTT NISELY POST OFFICE
NAMING BILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to honor Scott Nisely of Marshalltown, Iowa, one of America's heroes who was killed in combat on September 30, 2006, while serving our country in Iraq.

Scott Nisely served 22 years in the Marines as an officer on active duty and as a reservist, retiring with the rank of major. He then worked 12 years for the U.S. Postal Service in Marshalltown, Iowa. Due to Scott's strong desire to serve his country, he accepted an enlisted rank in order to fill a vacancy in the Iowa Army National Guard. Scott had served a tour of duty during Operation Desert Storm as a marine in addition to Operation Iraqi Freedom as a guardsman.

Scott's friends, family, coworkers and fellow soldiers and marines attest to the positive and lasting impact he had on their lives. Scott's life was a shining example of dedication to service, and a strong commitment to his family, faith and country. The legislation I am introducing with the support of my colleagues from Iowa—LEONARD BOSWELL, STEVE KING, BRUCE BRALEY and DAVE LOEBSACK—would name the post office located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office." The proposal was initiated by Scott's coworkers at the Marshalltown Post Office, and I am proud to help them make this timely and appropriate honor a reality. I strongly encourage my colleagues to swiftly consider and pass this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAJOR GENERAL
BENNIE E. WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifetime commitment of service to the United States of America. On June 15th, 2007, MG Bennie E. Williams of Fredericksburg, Virginia will retire after 35 years of dedicated service in the United States Army.

General Williams was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry after graduating from the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Morgan State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education Administration and was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. He received his Master's degree in Transportation Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and military education includes courses at the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

General Williams' initial assignments included a posting as Platoon Leader and Motor officer for the 2nd Armed Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In September 1975, he was Assistant Operations Officer and Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 69th Transportation Battalion, Korea.

In July of 1992 he assumed command of the 169th Maintenance Battalion, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas. From there he deployed with his unit to Somalia in Support of Operation Restore Hope.

Following a year of study at the Army War College, he transferred to Europe, and assumed command of the 16th Corps Support Group. From there he deployed with his unit to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. In July 1997, he assumed the duties of Chief of Staff for the 3rd Corps Support Command. In July 1998, he was transferred to Fort Belvoir, Virginia and assumed the duty of Chief of Staff Transportation Legislation at the Defense Logistics Agency, and was later named Chief of Staff for Defense Logistics Support Command for Defense Logistics Agency.

In September 2000, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and again transferred overseas and was named Deputy Commanding General of the 21st Theater Support Command. He was later promoted to Major General and was later appointed Director of Logistics Operations and Readiness J-3/4, Defense Logistics Agency, in September of 2005, where he has been able to bring his wealth of experience and singular talents to bear on solving some of the most intricate sustainability and logistics challenges faced by our nation's Armed Services.

His tireless and selfless dedication to serving his country is represented by the many decorations he has earned including the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Superior Unit Award, and the Parachutist Badge.

In closing I wish to commend General Williams for his many years of distinguished service to our Nation, years spent protecting our freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I wish him and his wife, Lenora, God-speed in his retirement.

A NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN—
UNATTENDED CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ISSUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, criminal justice issues continue to plague our communities to the point that they threaten our national security. In this Congress we should make a commitment to address the issue of illegal guns distribution, recidivism, crack-cocaine sentencing disparities and systemic disenfranchisement of ex-offenders. We owe this to the many, primarily minority, families that are destroyed every year because of these devastating social ills that can be prevented.

First, the use of illegal guns is a serious problem across America. Everyday illegal guns are used to commit violent crimes, particularly in urban communities. The loss of life as a result of use of an illegal gun has ruined families and communities. We can no longer stand and watch as criminals illegally obtain-

ing guns and use them to cause havoc. I serve as co-chair on the Congressional Task Force on Illegal Guns. Our focus is to address the Tiahrt Amendments, a series of "riders" in recent Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriation bills that limits local law enforcement access to data on gun tracing. These amendments which have become increasingly restrictive since Fiscal Year 2003 deny local law enforcement agencies the ability to identify illegal gun traffickers.

National security encompasses addressing issues that lead to poverty and hopelessness, for these feelings of despair threaten the safety of all Americans. Preventing individuals who have served their time in jail from obtaining employment, education and health care only leads to the unfortunate alternative; resort to careers in crime. Almost all states have in place a system of expunging records or providing a meaningful chance for ex-offenders to rebuild their life. The federal government has no such system. Therefore, I introduced H.R. 623, the Second Chance Act of 2007, which provides that federal ex-offenders have the same second chance as many state offenders. Federal first time ex-offenders who prove that they have fulfilled all requirements of their sentence, parole and supervised released have been completed; they have obtained a high school or GED equivalency degrees; they have remained free of drug and alcohol dependency; and they have completed a full year of community service can qualify for re-entry into society and have their records expunged.

In addition, the rate at which blacks and whites are sent to prison for drug offenses continues to be grossly disparate and raises a clear warning flag concerning the fairness and equity of drug law enforcement across the country. We need to continue to build momentum to eliminate the sentencing disparity that keeps defendants convicted of trafficking crack in jail far longer than those convicted for powdered cocaine. Under the existing law, a defendant convicted of trafficking five grams of crack cocaine receives the same five-year mandatory penalty as a defendant convicted of trafficking 500 grams of powder cocaine. In addition, a mandatory minimum penalty of five years is automatically imposed for possession of five grams of crack cocaine, whereas simple possession of any quantity of any other substance—including powder cocaine—is a misdemeanor offense punishable by a maximum of one year in prison. To begin to address this, I introduced H.R. 460, the Crack Cocaine Equitable Sentencing Act, moves us one step closer to eliminating the disparity in sentencing for crack and powder cocaine offenses.

Finally, deprivation of the right to vote is not an inherent or necessary aspect of criminal punishment nor does it promote the reintegration of offenders into lawful society. Nationally, an estimated 5.3 million Americans are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people with felony convictions. This fundamental obstacle to participation in democratic life is exacerbated by racial disparities in the criminal justice system, resulting in an estimated 13 percent of Black men unable to vote. The impact on the political power of the minority communities is nothing short of devastating. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support legislation that will help address the criminal justice issues that have been left unattended for far too long.

HONORING GRAPEVINE ROTARY
CLUB'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Grapevine Rotary Club's 40th Anniversary. The Rotary Club organization was started in Chicago, Illinois in 1905 and currently has approximately 1.2 million members associated with 32,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide. In 1964, Grapevine Mayor, Ira E. Woods had the vision of starting a Rotary Club in the community. On June 22, 1967 a telegram was delivered from Rotary International with confirmation of their charter membership.

Grapevine Rotary Club is an organization who benefits many people both near and far. Locally, they assist needy students at Grapevine Middle School with a mentoring program and sponsor many events, including: a yearly essay contest, the Special Olympics at Grapevine High School, the annual banquet for the Special Olympians, and the yearly Senior Citizens Banquet. In years past they built a pavilion at a local park. And, for the past 15 years, the Rotary Club has put up American Flags on holidays along Grapevine's Main Street. They have also supported local charities such as GRACE and Nash Farm.

They have helped others across the country such as in New Mexico where they have worked with other Rotarians to purchase water rights at the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School on the Navaho Reservation.

Globally, they have: helped donate fire trucks and ambulances to Acuna, Mexico, Grapevine's sister city; supported cataract surgeries and helped provide artificial limbs for the needy in India; assisted students at a school in Tanzania and helped drill water wells in Peru and Ghana. The club sponsors teacher exchanges throughout the world including Latin America, Eastern Europe and India. The Grapevine Rotary participates in the One World program with Russia to help promote world peace.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the tremendous contributions to the individuals, organizations and communities that Grapevine Rotary Club has benefited for the past 40 years. It is an honor to represent this humanitarian organization in the 24th District of Texas.

NICO FERRARO: AN INSPIRATION
TO SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nico Ferraro, who is being honored as the "Labor Leader of the Year" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Nico was initiated into the union on June 15, 1971, and knew it was for him. He went on to serve a five-year steamfitter apprenticeship with the United Local 638 in New York City.

His urge to travel and see the country continually took him to several western states until

he eventually landed in San Diego. Nico's political activism caught the attention of Local 230's officers and he was elected to the Executive Board in 1989. In 1992, he was elected as the Pipefitter Business Representative and served in that capacity until his appointment to Business Manager in 1997.

As Local 230's Business Manager, Nico represents the various divisions of the 1600 member local union in many ways. He is a Trustee to the pension and welfare funds, the Secretary to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee, President of the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council #16, President of the San Diego Building Trades, a member of the Board of Directors of the National City Park Apartments' 460 unit complex, built and managed by the Building Trades since 1968, and an Executive Board member to the Central Labor Council. One of Nico's proudest positions was serving on the Board of Directors of the Construction Tech Academy from 2002 to 2006. The academy is a uniquely designed High School dedicated to Construction, Architecture, and Engineering. The San Diego Building Trades honored Nico as the John Lyons Labor Leader of the Year in 2000.

In his role as Business Manager, Nico is focused on organizing, training, and political action. He is dedicated to improving the wages, pension and working conditions of his membership and demonstrating to all of San Diego the benefits of union membership. He has spoken on the record before the Industrial Welfare Commission.

Nico is involved in all aspects of the Labor movement. He has had numerous pro-union letters to various editors of San Diego newspapers published. To enhance his career as a union officer, Nico enrolled in the Labor Studies Program at San Diego City College. He completed the program in 1994 and continued his studies, earning a Business and Labor Studies Degree and graduating with honors in June 2000.

California Governor Gray Davis further honored Nico by appointing him to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Board, where he was asked to determine the wages, work hours and working conditions for the mining, drilling and construction industries.

Nico Ferraro truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING THE REVEREND BILLY
GRAHAM

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the historic ministry of the Reverend Billy Graham. On Thursday, May 31, 1,500 of Reverend Graham's friends gathered for the dedication of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina. Among those friends were all three of our living former Presidents. Reverend Graham's ministry has touched more people in this world than could ever be able to attend such a dedication.

I am honored to have Reverend and Mrs. Graham as two of my constituents in Western North Carolina. The Grahams moved to Montreat many decades ago, and have made

an indelible mark on the area. I have the utmost respect for Reverend Graham.

The newly dedicated Billy Graham Library is appropriately built in the shape of a barn, which no doubt reminds Reverend Graham of his childhood on a nearby dairy farm. When Billy Graham was born some 88 years ago no one but God knew the influence he would have on the world.

Billy Graham has ministered to hundreds of millions of people across the world, over 210 million of those contacts coming through the form of live audiences. Reverend Graham has ministered to Congressmen, celebrities, and heads of state. He has ministered to people without regard to their wealth, political affiliation, social status, or skin color; and he did it before such things were popular. Billy Graham has stood for what is right throughout his long career. He paid Reverend Martin Luther King's bail on numerous occasions, refused to speak in Little Rock while school segregation was being insisted upon by the state government, and he would not visit South Africa during Apartheid until The government would allow a desegregated audience.

Reverend Graham commented at last week's dedication that "I feel like I've been at my own funeral, listening to all these speeches. I feel terribly small and humbled by it all." That statement explains the character of Reverend Graham better than anything I can say.

Madam Speaker, the legacy of Billy Graham will live on long after he is gone, and I am proud to congratulate him on the opening of this new library which will help to carry his legacy forward. Billy Graham has served his Lord for a lifetime, and it is an honor to serve Reverend Graham in the United States Congress. May God continue to bless Billy Graham.

D/FW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S
"WELCOME HOME A HERO" PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the "Welcome Home a Hero" program at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The "Welcome Home a Hero" program is a daily gathering of volunteers to celebrate the homecoming of soldiers returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. This program is one of the Nation's foremost morale builders for our troops with over 150 civic organizations, governmental departments, and businesses volunteering during its 3-year tenure. This tremendous effort has made the "Welcome Home a Hero" program one of the largest ongoing community service efforts in north Texas. These committed volunteers have given of their time so that our troops, as well as their families, can see how proud we are as a community, and as a nation, of their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the north Texans that participate in the "Welcome Home a Hero" program are the first people the troops see upon their return to the United States, and they speak on behalf of all Americans in thanking them and celebrating the safe return of each soldier. On June 12, 2007, the 500,000th soldier will come home for a well-deserved 2

weeks of rest and recuperation, and I am proud to share that the “Welcome Home a Hero” program at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport has been selected by the U.S. Military to host this celebration. I extend my personal gratitude to the program’s volunteers for their efforts in supporting our dedicated men and women in uniform who are proudly serving our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am indeed honored to pause and pay tribute to these wonderful volunteers and valiant soldiers who represent the very best of the United States of America.

THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group (ISG)—also known as the “Baker Hamilton Commission”—as a bipartisan foundation for long overdue strategic change in our policy in Iraq.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues Representatives FRANK WOLF, MICHAEL MCCAUL, and DANIEL LIPINSKI—and 41 other Members—in introducing this bill, and I am grateful for all their help in building support for this legislation. Representative WOLF deserves special recognition for the role he played in spearheading the creation of the Iraq Study Group and in pushing forward its recommendations.

The ISG was created in March 2006 at the request of a bipartisan group of Members of Congress, led by Representative WOLF, and was co-chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker and former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Lee Hamilton. In December 2006, the ISG released its recommendations and outlined a bipartisan approach to bringing a responsible conclusion to the Iraq war.

What this legislation does is to take these recommendations and establish them as official United States policy. Among the recommendations outlined in the bill are a new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group; giving the highest priority to training, equipping and advising the Iraqi military and security forces; assessing the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military; accelerating and increasing oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq; implementing and oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction; ensuring that the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request; and setting conditions that can lead to redeployment of U.S. combat forces as early as the first quarter of 2008, including necessary diplomatic, infrastructure and security benchmarks.

It is clear to me that a Democratic majority in Congress cannot unilaterally legislate an end to this war and expect its architect and champion—President Bush—to sign on the

dotted line. In my view, the only way to end this war—and to end it in a way that minimizes the likelihood of greater regional bloodshed—is to broaden the tent of opposition, and engage concerned Republicans in pressuring the Bush Administration to change course. That is why I worked last year with Representative Joe Schwarz on a resolution insisting on benchmarks for Iraqi political stability and a process to hold the Bush Administration accountable.

That is why I am introducing this bill today. Democrats and Republicans must work together to change the course in Iraq, and implementing the major policy recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group is an overdue step in this direction.

As an early and consistent opponent of this war I do not believe that embracing these recommendations is the only action we in Congress must take, but it is important as a foundation. I, for one, will also continue to push for a strategy of military disengagement in Iraq and phased redeployment of our forces, because I do not believe we should ask our soldiers to referee a civil war.

Ending American military participation in this war and managing the consequences of the Bush Administration’s failures will not be easy and it will not come overnight, but it will come—and the ISG recommendations offer a means of moving toward these goals.

Many of us embraced the ISG’s recommendations when the report was first released last year, and many of us believe that the report still provides a comprehensive blueprint for a way forward in Iraq and the Middle East, from both the military and the diplomatic perspective.

I do not believe the ISG recommendations or my bill will offer a complete solution, but they will offer a start.

We went into war as a badly divided country; I hope we can end it differently and that is my motivation in offering this bill today.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2007 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions. Since the organization’s founding in 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and de-

mocracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year’s international honoree was Victor Phillip Dahdaleh, Chairman, Dadco. Mr. Dahdaleh is Canadian.

And for the first time in its history, NECO presented a Global Humanitarian Award to H. E. Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little or no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

I, once again, commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. As Rosemarie Taglione, Executive Director of NECO has said so eloquently on a number of occasions: “NECO’s message of tolerance and harmony among diverse ethnic groups is, perhaps, even more important today than it was 20 years ago.”

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2007 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year’s recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement:

Dr. Gregory Adamian, H. E. Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, George Altirs, Peter Arnell, Dr. Elias Ayoub, Dr. Ernest M. Barsamian, Michelle Bodden, Edgar Cahn, Leo Chen, Dr. Aram V. Chobanian, Jaekun Chung, Mario Ciano, Denis A. Cortese, MD, Hon. Leslie Crocker-Snyder, Victor Phillip Dahdaleh, Nicholas J. Daniello, MD, Dr. Joel Alan DeLisa, Kirti Desai, Dr. Akshay Desai, Michael J. Dowling, James J. Dowling, Blaise Durante, Hon. Jacob Eapen, MD, MPH, Mory Ejabat, Richard A. Elias, MD, Hani Findakly, PhD, Arthur Flegel, Jon Fortgang, Douglas Foshee, Philip Friedman, Cynthia R. Garrett, Obren Gerich, Joi Gordon, Col. R. L. Grabowski, USMC, MSGT Nicholas G. Grand, USAF (Ret.), Patrick Grant, Hon. Chuck Hagel, George Hamilton, William Harrington, Esq., Richard Heckmann, Col. Jack H. Jacobs, USA (Ret.), Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, Ik Joong Kang, Dr. Sarkis Kechejian, Don Keenan, Do-Young Kim, David E. Kimmel, Jr., Dr. Steven S. Koh, George J. Kostas, Les Kuczynski,

Joan Kuyper-Farver, Irene Ladas, LTC. Larry H. Lang, USAF, Rep. Tom Lantos, Dr. Edwin Pak-Wah Leung, Dr. John M. Levinson, Hon. Guillermo Linares, Harvey Mackay, Patrick J. Martucci, Thomas Mattia, CPT. Gary A. Maynard, USN, Mitchell Modell, Hon. Samuel Mok, Todd Morgan, C. Warren Moses, Dr. Vance Moss, Dr. Vince Moss, Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani, Maureen Murphy, Fereydown Nazem, Hon. Liet Nguyen, Col. Tracey E. Nicholson, USA, Fr. Michael O'Connell, Dr. Kiran C. Patel, Antonio M. Perez, Asst. Chief Diana L. Pizzuti, L. Rafael Reif, PhD, RADM Stephen W. Rochon, USCG, James Rogers, Michael Rogers, Hon. Carlos A. Romero-Barcelo, Ali A. Saberioon, Carlos A. Saladrigas, Dominick M. Servedio, Smita N. Shah, Donald Soffer, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, Toomas M. Sorra, MD, Debra Brown Steinberg, Esq., Daniel J. Sullivan, Daniel J. Thomas, DDS, Gerald Turpanjian, Luis A. Valentin, Tai Nin Wang, Richard J. Wolff, Mahvash Yazdi, Dr. Gazi Zibari, Mira Zivkovich.

HONORING BILL FRANCE JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to William Clifton "Bill" France, who passed away Monday, June 4, 2007, at his home in Daytona Beach, Florida. It was my honor to have known and worked with Bill France over the past years. Known by friends as "Bill Jr.," he was a legend in American motorsports.

The son of NASCAR's founder, he was born in Washington, DC on April 4th, 1933. His family moved to Daytona Beach in 1934 where his father, William France, Sr., began establishing the world's most famous racing circuit and a national sports phenomenon.

Bill Jr. graduated from Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach in 1951 where he played on the basketball team. He attended the University of Florida and served in the United States Navy from 1953 to 1955.

After his service in the Navy, Bill Jr. found the love of his life, Ms. Betty Jane Zachary, who became the mother of his two children, Brian France and Lesa Kennedy. Both of his children and his wife were instrumental in the success of what is now "the most watched American sport," NASCAR.

Bill Jr. did not begin his journey as CEO. He started working his way up the ranks holding positions as a flagman, concierge, race scorer and other jobs. In 1959, he even drove a bulldozer and a grater during the construction of the Daytona International Speedway before becoming Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

With the passing of Bill France, American motorsports has lost a great leader, our country and State have lost an outstanding citizen and I have lost a wonderful friend. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community, a respected businessman, a compassionate husband and a loving father. To his wife Betty Jane, his son Brian, his daughter Lesa France Kennedy, his brother James, his three grandchildren and the all of the France family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Bill France's contributions and ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great American.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALLY BAILEY
FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE
PROTECTION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wally Bailey, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and his group's recent visit to Capitol Hill during this year's annual recognition of Building Safety Week. On May 9, Mr. Bailey led a delegation of members of the International Code Council to meet with Congress to discuss nationally focused concerns in building safety and fire prevention. This year ICC's delegation focused specifically on a proposal to create a Community Building Code Administration Grant Program, and Mr. Bailey spoke to me persuasively of how this program would expand and support the quality and effectiveness of building code and fire code administration in underserved areas of our country.

Mr. Bailey serves as President of the Board of Directors of the International Code Council, a volunteer role to which he was elected in national leadership of a membership association of over 42,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals. It is this group that develops the building and fire codes that are in use all across our country for the construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the businesses, schools, and places of worship we visit regularly. These codes, created and maintained through a voluntary consensus development process, are in use by over 22,000 U.S. jurisdictions, including those who govern the quality, safety and energy efficiency of building construction at the local, State and Federal levels.

For the past three decades, Mr. Bailey has been a tireless advocate for building safety through superior building codes and effective building code administration. As the Director of Development and Construction for the City of Fort Smith, he supervises activities of a multi-disciplined department that governs codes administration, inspections, plan review, property maintenance, historic preservation and land development. As a matter of note, 2 years ago he celebrated a quarter century of service to the City. Since 1999, in addition to his work with the City of Fort Smith, Mr. Bailey has served in leadership positions with the ICC, culminating in his present role as President of the Board. Besides his being a distinguished citizen of my District, in my opinion, ICC's membership elected a leader who is an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2007, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board

Vice President Steven Shapiro, Board Secretary/Treasurer Adolph Zubia, Immediate Past President of the Board Henry Green; Board members Gregori Anderson, Edwin Berkel, James Brothers, John Darnall, William Dupler, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn, Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

IN HONOR OF THE WELCOME
HOME A HERO PROGRAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Welcome Home a Hero program at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Every day, more than a hundred troops come through DFW on their way home from Iraq and Afghanistan for Rest and Recuperation. Since Welcome Home a Hero's inception in 2004, coordinated volunteers have gathered at the airport each day to greet our brave men and women serving our country and to make sure they receive the warm homecoming they have earned.

Welcome Home a Hero is a result of the dedication of the North Texas Commission, the employees at DFW International Airport, the USO, the Boy Scouts of America, local businesses and thousands of volunteers. This program is one of the largest and most effective community initiatives in north Texas, and its positive impact on the morale of our troops has not gone unnoticed.

As the 500,000th soldier arrives at DFW International Airport this month and the program approaches its 3-year anniversary, I want to thank all involved in this valuable effort. The dedicated and selfless participants of this valuable program are what make our country great.

The North Texas Commission, DFW Airport employees, the USO and all of the volunteers should be proud of their leadership and accomplishments. I am extremely grateful for their dedication to our troops and our country, and I applaud the people of north Texas for taking the initiative to create this program.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL METTS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Mr. Michael Metts, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-

Noon Rotary Club. Michael's leadership during 2006 and 2007 has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club and the community of Carlsbad. During his tenure, membership exceeded one hundred people and the Hi-Noon Rotary Club awarded \$28,000 for high school scholarships. In addition, under his leadership the Carlsbad Hi-Noon and Carlsbad Evening Rotary clubs partnered to sponsor the annual Oktoberfest fundraiser, a community event which provided over \$26,000 to the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad and Community Youth Services.

During his presidency, a number of other projects were completed. These projects included providing volunteers to help maintain public and private property, provide food and clothing for the needy and the homeless and assist in the distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. A Children's Christmas party and dinner for very needy elementary school students was also provided. In an effort to improve literacy, badly needed bilingual dictionaries were provided and distributed in English and Spanish speaking elementary schools. In addition a book a week was contributed to a school library and mentors were also provided for the "City Stuff" program. This program promoted an understanding of the working of city government for young Carlsbad school children.

Michael's leadership also contributed to the hosting of exchange students from 11 foreign countries, the sponsorship of a Model UN Project, the building of a house for a needy family and dental care and financial aid for impoverished children in Mexico. Support was also provided to our deployed service personnel overseas.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Michael Metts. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

HONORING THE ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT OF VINCENT GIACALONE OF EMERSON, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend twelve-year-old Vincent Giacalone of Emerson, NJ, whose artistic submission to the UPS Store Design Dale's New Ride contest took the top prize.

The contest was sponsored by UPS to raise awareness and funds for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots program, which distributes toys to needy children across the nation each year. Since its beginning in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks led a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles to collect and distribute 5,000 toys to needy children to brighten up their Christmas, Toys for Tots has grown to be a program almost synonymous with the holidays. Over its 59-Christmas-history, Toys for Tots has distributed 370 million toys to more than 173 million needy children.

Vincent's prize-winning artwork will emblazon NASCAR's Dale Jarrett's #44 Camry at an October 28th race in Atlanta. This date marks the kick-off of the fundraising campaign for the Toys for Tots Foundation in 2007. Since its inception 16 years ago, the Foundation has supplemented the Marine Corps' local toy collections with more than 70.2 million toys valued at more than \$387 million and has provided valuable promotion and support materials.

I commend young Vincent Giacalone for being a part of a program that helps so many children his own age share in the spirit and joy of the holidays each year.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of UPS.

In 1907, Jim Casey founded the American Messenger Company, in Seattle Washington, with \$100 borrowed from a friend. Within its first 12 years in business, the company would change its name to Merchants Parcel Delivery and then to United Parcel Service. That name lasted until 2003 when the company adopted the acronym, UPS, familiar to customers worldwide, as its official corporate name.

The world has changed drastically in the 100 years since Jim Casey started his delivery business in Seattle. UPS has not only adapted to those changes but it has been an industry leader through the innovative ways it conducts its business. In 1907, most deliveries of the American Messenger Company were on foot. Longer distances required the use of bicycles for transportation. Deliveries included, as the initial company name implied, messages as well as parcel deliveries from merchants and meals from local restaurants.

The reputation of the American Messenger Company grew because of the guiding principle of the founder, "best service and lowest rates." As their reputation and business expanded, the company also increased its territory, first to include the entire west coast, then to the New York City market in the 1930's. Through aggressive battles with regulating agencies, UPS finally expanded its territory nationally to be the first package delivery company to have access to every address in the 48 contiguous states in 1975.

As the company's territory expanded, it had to also adapt to the evolution of its core business. As the landscape of transportation and communication improved dramatically in the early part of the 20th Century, the need for messenger service declined. With gas and rubber rationing imposed during World War II, many stores cut back on their customer deliveries. Customer demand for rapid service necessitated the need for air transportation. The need for real-time information on delivery status required new technologies and information systems. With each of these developments, UPS not only adapted, but led the industry.

Today, UPS is a global corporation that not only delivers packages but provides manage-

ment and information services to meet the growing demands of their customers. UPS continues to be innovative. As an example, they have the largest fleet of alternative-fuel vehicles in the industry, traveling a combined 126 million miles since the year 2000. Through all of its growth and innovation, UPS remains true to its founder, Jim Casey's slogan, "best service and lowest rates."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the management and employees of UPS as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker. I rise today to join the Jewish people in Jerusalem and throughout the world in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day.

On June 7, 1967, the 28th of Iyar 5727, the Israel Defense Forces in the heat of the Six-Day War unified the city of Jerusalem under Jewish control. At approximately 10 a.m. on that day, the earth shattering proclamation "The Temple Mount is ours. It is in our hands" reverberated in the hearts of Jews across the globe. The dream of once again being able to visit the Kotel, the Western Wall, and other previously inaccessible holy sites of Jerusalem, had become a reality. In the subsequent years to follow, Jewish people from every nation on earth would make pilgrimages to the holy city of Jerusalem to visit its revered sites and offer their heartfelt prayers.

Every stone in Jerusalem is saturated with Jewish history, every street contains a story and saga from biblical times, as well as modern times. Even though Jerusalem is a city laden with rich archeological artifacts, and remnants of ancient times, it has become a thriving city that has preserved its historic nature and adapted to modern life. Beautiful shopping malls, fresh food markets and restaurants are commonplace in Jerusalem, which emphasizes the enormous cultural advancements that the modern State of Israel has made in its short existence.

Perhaps one of the most moving aspects of modern day Jerusalem is its abundance of Yeshivas, Kollels and the prominence of Jewish religious life. It is truly inspiring to see Jews, young and old immersed in the deep study of Jewish texts. Many Hasidic sects and other Orthodox institutions based in my district have satellite branches in Jerusalem and quite a few of my young constituents study Judaism in Jerusalem and return to the United States invigorated from their experiences.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize this very jubilant day and reaffirm my unflinching support for the city of Jerusalem and the State of Israel.

ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER AS "NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK"

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, today I will introduce legislation to designate the third week of October as "National Teen Driver Safety Week."

Unfortunately, roughly 7,500 teenage drivers were involved in fatal car crashes in 2005. The time has come for us to recognize this terrible problem and consider effective interventions that will help reduce the number of accidents involving teens.

On Monday, January 22, 2007, following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of two Pennsylvania high school students, the Morning Call compiled a report of fatal crashes involving teens that had occurred in the Lehigh Valley region since 2001. This report indicated that there were a total of 13 fatalities between 2001 and 2006, with alcohol involved in two of the seven accidents reported. Other contributing factors included racing and reckless behavior. Sadly, it appears these events could have been prevented, enabling these children to reach their destinations safely.

To address this troubling issue, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is currently conducting research that will help develop the best interventions to reduce the risk of crash injury for teen drivers and travelers sharing the road with them. The alliance of CHOP and State Farm Insurance Company, its partner in this initiative, is nationally recognized for its research and outreach involving child passenger safety. However, this year they have expanded their agenda from the car seat to the driver's seat in an effort to address the cause of motor vehicle crashes, the leading cause of death among American teenagers. Together, CHOP and State Farm have conducted research indicating that teens often drive while distracted and fatigued. I believe this alliance between CHOP and State Farm brings together a wide range of expertise in research and outreach—translating scientific evidence into actions that will help save lives.

It is important that Congress supports efforts to effectively educate teens and families about ways to address these problems. This resolution will support the goals and ideals of a week in which intensive programming will be used to encourage teens to drive more safely. By perhaps delaying exposure to risky driving conditions until they have enough supervised driving experience, managing peer-to-peer interactions around driving, and reinforcing the need to detect and react to hazards more appropriately, teens will be better prepared to drive responsibly.

Madam Speaker, teens are dying in crashes at a rate of four times that of adult drivers and we must act now to prevent future tragedies.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK SPONENBURGH

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise honor Captain Mark Sponenburgh, a remarkable and distinguished constituent of mine from Seal Rock, OR. On this 63rd anniversary of the "D-Day" landings in Normandy, a ceremony is being held in Washington, DC to celebrate the dozen remaining "Monuments Men" who served our country with honor and valor during World War II. While Captain Sponenburgh was unable to attend today's ceremony, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the countless contributions he has made to our country and community.

Over the years, Captain Sponenburgh has served others in a variety of capacities. He volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1942 where he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. Stationed in Britain, he served campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, and Luxembourg before requesting to be transferred to the Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives section program under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces.

During World War II, Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler ordered covert missions to locate and secure art from every region his regime conquered in Europe. As a member of the "Monuments Men," Captain Sponenburgh joined an elite multinational force of more than 350 men and women serving on frontline military units during and after WWII to preserve, protect and liberate artistic and cultural treasures in countries occupied by the Allied armies.

Responsible for having tracked, identified and catalogued millions of priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts stolen by Hitler and the Nazis, the heroic deeds of these unsung heroes continue to benefit us all today.

In addition to having studied and taught in Britain, France, Egypt, and Pakistan, Captain Sponenburgh brought his many years of experience and skills to the University of Oregon as well as Oregon State University. Admired by his students for his passion and intellect, he was sorely missed when he entered retirement.

I joined my colleagues in this chamber last month in passing a resolution honoring the great contributions made by all members of the "Monuments Men," but today I rise, Madam Speaker, to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Oregon's last living member, Captain Mark Sponenburgh.

IN RECOGNITION OF D-DAY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our brave military forces who on this day in 1944—63 years ago—landed on Utah and Omaha beaches, two of the five beaches at Normandy on a mission known as Operation Overlord, the D-Day invasion.

Today we honor those who never made it ashore, drowning from the weight of their gear or killed by the enemy as they struggled out of the water. The ones who did make it fought valiantly on those beachheads and further on through many campaigns in Europe during World War II.

There are fewer and fewer of the Great Generation left with us today, but their sacrifice for our country and their dedication to protecting freedom and democracy lives on.

On this day, which commemorates the beginning of the Allied forces effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II, I ask that everyone take a moment to remember all of these brave souls and salute them. We are forever grateful for their service and their sacrifice to protect freedom for future generations.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sanctity of Life Act. The Sanctity of Life Act provides that the Federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. The legislation also clarifies that State and local courts do not have to treat Federal cases overturning State abortion laws as binding precedent.

Abortion on demand is no doubt the most serious sociopolitical problem of our age. The lack of respect for life that permits abortion significantly contributes to our violent culture and our careless attitude toward liberty. Whether a civilized society treats human life with dignity or contempt determines the outcome of that civilization. Reaffirming the importance of the sanctity of life is crucial for the continuation of a civilized society. There is already strong evidence that we are on the slippery slope toward euthanasia and non-consensual human experimentation. Although the real problem lies within people's hearts and minds, the legal problems of protecting life stem from the ill-advised *Roe v. Wade* ruling, where the court usurped the State's authority over abortion. Congress can, and should, take a major step toward restoring respect for all life by using the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue Federal judges from interfering with a State's ability to protect unborn life.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. By following the Constitution and using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution, we can restore respect for the sanctity of human life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, June 5th, 2007. Had I been

present for votes, I would have voted "yes" on each of the five votes taken: H. Res. 397, H. Res. 422, H. Res. 430, H. Res. 451, and H. Res. 452.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO STOP GENOCIDE
AND VIOLENCE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 422, a resolution calling on China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur.

I would like to thank the Congresswoman from California for her dedication to human rights throughout the world and especially in Darfur.

I was pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill and pleased that this Congress will not let the ongoing genocide go unnoticed or ignored.

What's taking place in Darfur today is truly a crime against humanity. Every day women are raped, men are killed, and children face violence, hunger, and desperation.

China has chosen to continue to invest in Sudan and to prop up a government bent on murder and bloodshed. Let us be clear: any country that supports the Khartoum government's brutality—either through monetary or military support—is complicit.

I urge the support of this resolution and call on our own administration to take immediate actions to bring an end to the genocide in Sudan.

A TRIBUTE TO OSWALD "OZZIE"
TORRES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Oswald "Ozzie" Torres who is being honored at the International Association of Lions Club District 20-K1 Governor's Testimonial Dinner. Mr. Torres, a native of Brooklyn, NY, is a successful Certified Public Accountant who credits his achievements to his caring parents Osvaldo and Lydia Torres.

Mr. Torres decided to follow in his father's footsteps and establish a career in accounting. Together they are the driving force of the firm Torres and Associates.

Mr. Torres has been a member in good standing of the Brooklyn Caribe Lions' Club since 1995 and has received numerous recognition awards from Lions Club International. Among those honors include; the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship and the Robert J. Uplinger award from District 20-K1.

Mr. Torres has been a presenter at many orientation sessions and workshops speaking in both English and Spanish. He has served District 20-K1 as Chairman of International Understanding and Cooperation, Leadership,

Membership; Business Manager of the Kings and Queens Publication; Zone and Region Chairman; Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer; Vice-District Governor; and currently District Governor.

Mr. Torres has served the communities of both Brooklyn and Queens and has previously been named "Business Person of the Year." He is a member and Executive Board Officer of the Boricua Festival of New York and is an Executive Member of the Woodhull Hospital Auxiliary Board.

Mr. Torres is married to Melissa Torres and has two sons Michael and Brandon.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community for all of his contributions.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Oswald "Ozzie" Torres.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY
ABROAD FOUNDATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1469, the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which will significantly enhance opportunities for Americans to gain international education, build understanding and respect among different cultures, and enhance leadership in the global community.

Senator Paul Simon embodied the role of concerned citizen, which is the essence of this program. Starting his career in the newspaper business, he served in the Illinois General Assembly and as Lt. Governor of Illinois, and later was our colleague in the U.S. Congress, where he served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Senator Simon was a great believer in the hope that good government can instill in people, and was widely regarded for his commonsense, hard work and integrity. In addition, Senator Simon was proud of Southwestern and Southern Illinois, where he got his professional start, entered politics and lived much of his life. It was a pleasure to serve with him and it is important for young Americans to know about his career and ideals.

As a professor and author of numerous books, Senator Simon was passionate about education. He was particularly interested in the need for American students to travel abroad to learn about different peoples, their languages and their cultures. In this way, the United States would be better able to understand and work with other nations.

Today, only one percent of U.S. undergraduate students participate in a study abroad program during their degree program. This statistic shows the United States is failing to take advantage of a valuable tool that should be used to enhance our standing in the world and to improve our Nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, as economic competition and national security continue to defy geographical boundaries, the need for our students to gain international knowledge greatly increases. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE
PARREN JAMES MITCHELL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and achievements of Parren James Mitchell, the first black Congressman to represent the State of Maryland, 1 of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, and a champion of civil rights. Mr. Mitchell was a powerful force in the 20th century resurgence of Black political strength in the United States and I was proud to serve with him in the Congress.

Born in Baltimore, MD, on April 29, 1922, Parren Mitchell was the ninth of 10 children in his family. He earned a bachelor's degree from Morgan State College in 1950 and was the first Black to earn a master's degree from the University of Maryland—College Park in 1952, after a successful suit that granted him fair admission. Mitchell returned to his undergraduate institution to teach sociology and serve as the assistant director of the Urban Studies Institute. He was also a commissioned officer of the 92nd Infantry Division during World War II, receiving the Purple Heart.

Having amassed more than 3,000 awards and 14 honorary degrees, Mitchell was a leader in politics and business. He served on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City from 1954 to 1957 and as executive director to both the Maryland Human Relations Commission and Baltimore Community Action Agency.

Mr. Mitchell was elected to the 92nd United States Congress in 1971 and reelected for seven successive terms. As the first Black to head the House Committee on Small Business, his greatest triumph was in leading a fight to ratify bills providing special aid to Black business owners on the grounds that Blacks had been subjected to discrimination for generations. In addition to heading the Small Business Committee, he was also Democratic whip at large, the senior member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, and chairman of its Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy.

In 1980, Mitchell founded the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., MBELDEF, whose accomplishments include a successful lawsuit against Burger King in 1988 for discriminatory practices in awarding franchises.

As a mentor to African Americans committed to improving American civil rights, such as former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, Kweisi Mfume, Mitchell was selflessly committed to uplifting his people and was even referred to during his chairmanship of the CBC as "the Little General."

Parren is remembered in Congress as a soft-spoken yet eloquent speaker with a large presence. Former Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar asserted it was Mitchell's impassioned plea for sanctions against South Africa that persuaded him to accept a tougher measure than the Senate originally backed in 1985.

Parren, along with other family members have dedicated their careers to public service and specifically to representing the people of

Baltimore for many years. His brother, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the late civil rights activist, was the chief lobbyist for the NAACP for 30 years and was instrumental in the passage of several civil rights bills. Two of his nephews, Clarence M. Mitchell III and Michael B. Mitchell, Sr., were elected as Baltimore city councilmen and Maryland State senators. His nephew, Keiffer Mitchell, is currently serving as a Baltimore city councilman and plans to campaign for the upcoming mayoral election in Baltimore city. His legacy of inspiring others to serve the public still lives on.

In remembering the life of Parren Mitchell, I am grateful to have known him personally and am confident that America is a better place because he lived.

HONORING THE COMMITMENT OF
HERB HICKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Herb Hicks as he celebrates his 40th year of perfect attendance as a Rotarian. A dedicated man, Hicks has been present for over 2,000 weekly Rotary meetings.

Hicks helped found the Cantonment Rotary Club in 1948. He later became the club's fifth president. Furthermore, Hicks has received the honor of being named a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary, a privilege reserved for those who have donated \$1,000 to the club. At 93 years of age, Hicks is the last charter member of the civic organization; yet he continues to play an important role at his local Cantonment Rotary Club.

Paul Frederick, current president of the Cantonment Rotary, explained, "Herb is one of the exemplars in this club. He leads by example and attendance to Rotary functions is one thing this club stresses. No one in this area has a longer perfect attendance record." He also pointed out that Hicks hosts an annual picnic for Rotary members and family.

Hicks is very clear on his priorities, saying, "I think Rotary is important. I put church first and Rotary second in my life." Hicks admits to cutting many business meetings short in order to be present for his 12:15 p.m. Wednesday meetings. However, for circumstances that were unavoidable, Hicks had a backup plan. Rotary International allows missed meetings to be made up by attending other local Rotary club meetings. Hicks divulged, "I have attended make-up meetings everywhere in the United States."

In total, Hicks has been a member of Rotary for 59 years. The dedication exemplified can only be explained by Hicks as he said, "I like the fellowship and I like what Rotary does, I like its world-wide outreach and I believe in its principles and high ethical standards." To put it simply, Hicks asks, "If you are not going to attend, why belong?"

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to Hicks as he has not only set a precedent for the Rotary, but also has challenged the commitment of those before me today. I take pride in Hick's determination, and I wish him all the best.

HONORING LEE HAYES OF THE
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a great American patriot and World War II hero, Lee Hayes, of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen.

In 1941, the formation of the all African-American squadron based in Alabama, the Tuskegee Airmen, was largely regarded as an "experiment" by the U.S. military to test the combat readiness of an all-black fighting squadron. These brave servicemen demonstrated exceptional selflessness and patriotism as they fought two wars for our country—one against the enemy overseas and the other against segregation and discrimination at home.

Among the honors bestowed upon the Tuskegee Airmen include 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 14 Bronze Stars, and 8 Purple Hearts. Most recently, they were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that the legislative branch can bestow.

I am proud to call one of the Tuskegee Airmen a friend and neighbor. His name is Lee Hayes. He was raised on Long Island and is a current resident of Amagansett, New York. At 88 years young, Mr. Hayes was born in Mannboro, Virginia. In the 1930s, Lee's family moved to eastern Long Island, where he attended East Hampton High School.

Lee Hayes developed an interest in flying planes at a young age, while keenly aware of the sad racial realities of the time. In his own words: "I never thought much about whether or not blacks fly airplanes . . . It didn't occur to me that we didn't, and the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to do it."

After the Army drafted him and after scoring a 94 on the preliminary examination, Mr. Hayes impressed his instructors by quickly learning to fly the B-25 bomber. Mr. Hayes never entered combat, as the war ended shortly before he finished his pilot training. He was honorably discharged and returned to East Hampton.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent Lee Hayes in the U.S. House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful nation, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Lee Hayes and the Tuskegee Airmen for their extraordinary bravery and contributions to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE
BOHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Bohan, for her outstanding efforts in educating children, and for her lifelong commitment to family, colleagues, and friends.

Cathy has educated and enlightened our children and prepared them for life's journey for approximately 40 years, including 13 years

at Saint Richard School where she currently teaches third grade. She has proven herself a wonderful teacher, colleague and friend. Not only does she teach at Saint Richard School, but she also makes a tremendous contribution as member of the Liturgy Committee, a Eucharistic Minister, a Praxis Pathwise Mentor, and a member of the Retreat Committee.

Likewise, her services to Saint Clarence Church as RCIA Leader, Eucharistic Minister, PSR Teacher and Pre-Cana organizer while at the same time raising three beautiful children, is truly admirable. She has been married to her beloved husband, Patrick, for 30 years.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Catherine Bohan for her long and successful career as an educator and for her dedication to and care for the future generations of Northeast Ohio.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO STOP GENOCIDE
AND VIOLENCE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to support H. Res. 422, a resolution calling on the government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan. This resolution highlights China's inaction regarding the genocide in Darfur and I am particularly proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Since the conflict began 4 years ago, 400,000 persons have been murdered and 2.5 million displaced. Thousands are still dying from the ravages of war each month in an area roughly the size of Texas. This campaign of terror in the region has been labeled "genocide" by our Government.

China is Sudan's largest trading partner and the main foreign investor in Sudan's oil industry. China National Petroleum Corporation has a 40 percent share in the international consortium extracting oil in Sudan, and it is building refineries and pipelines, enabling Sudan to benefit from oil-export-revenue since 1999. Although most Western oil companies have withdrawn from Sudan under pressure from human rights organizations, Chinese companies have turned a blind eye to the brutal war in which Sudan forced 2.5 million of its citizens from oil-rich lands without compensation. Nor have these companies shown concern that Sudan uses oil revenue to purchase arms for its wars against its population.

Mr. Speaker, countless people have spoken out against the tragedy taking place in Darfur, but now it is time for elected leaders to demand that action be taken to end this genocide in Darfur. If we fail to take action it is likely that future generations will view our inaction as complicity. I am hoping that our government will do everything in its power to stop this genocide. Additionally, it is my strong desire that the international community, including China, do everything in its power to end this genocide as well.

H. Res. 422 calls on the People's Republic of China to acknowledge and condemn the violence taking place in Darfur, cease all military

arms and equipments sales to Sudan, and suspend economic ties to Sudan until the Government of Sudan stops attacking civilians, complies with UN Security Council resolutions, and enters into peace negotiations with rebel groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 422, a resolution calling on the government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
CLARENCE KEATON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn resident Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton. Reverend Dr. Keaton was born to parents Clarence Keaton Sr. and Mary F. Keaton. Dr. Keaton is the fourth of seven children.

Reverend Dr. Keaton, affectionately known as Pastor of Pastors (POP) by his congregants and "Pastor Teacher" by his peers, has marked himself as a leader of change both in the clergy and throughout his community. The Reverend Dr. Keaton's path to the church was nearly derailed when during his youth, he became a gang leader. It was during that time Reverend Dr. Keaton received his divine calling going from leading gangs in the street to leading gangs to the church.

Reverend Dr. Keaton joined the ministry of Free Mission Apostolic Church under the tutelage of Pester Walter L. Dunlap. It was here Reverend Dr. Keaton taught for nearly a decade as a biblical instructor. In 1983, Reverend Dr. Keaton was ordained and blessed to establish the True Worship Church, and in 1985, Reverend Dr. Keaton's ministry grew at such a rapid pace that by September 21, 2001 he managed to build a new Cathedral on the property.

Reverend Dr. Keaton brings his divine wisdom to the community in a way which fosters growth and brotherhood. He is a leader who recognizes the plight of troubled youth and offers mentoring, guidance, and an outlet in prayer. His ministry truly meets the need of the people offering Computer Literacy classes, Deaf Ministry, Day Care Services, a Church news letter entitled, "The Voice of worship", and a Web site which keeps both the members and the community abroad informed of upcoming events and services.

Reverend Dr. Keaton has been recognized for his great contributions to the community, in an honorary doctorate of Divinity degree from Jesus Saves Bible Institute; citations for outstanding community service from former Councilwoman Pricilla Woolen, former Brooklyn borough president Howard Golden and current Borough president Marty Markowitz. Among his greatest honors are his wife Eartha Keaton, his four loving children; Tersha, Shawn, Tiffany, and Clearance III and amazing grandson, Kamari.

Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton continues to serve as pastor and overseer of True Worship Church as the Presiding Bishop and founder of the True Worship Church Worldwide Ministries.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Dr. Keaton's tremendous contribution to his congregants and the community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man and his tireless contribution which is a testament to the American spirit.

IN HONOR OF DR. KWAME
NKURUMAH AND THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF GHANA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of the late Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, which is being recognized and celebrated this year. Kwame Nkrumah is the father of his nation, Ghana, and its anniversary of independence is an appropriate time for us to recognize his contribution. I introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from CaribNews by Michael D. Roberts.

Dr. Nkrumah was born on September 21, 1909 in Ghana, the same country he led to liberation from Great Britain and was elected as Prime Minister in 1960. He attended college in the United States, studied philosophy, and developed an interest in the ideas of Marcus Garvey. Realizing the need for self government, he served as General Secretary of the United Coast Gold Convention, a political party interested in Ghana's independence. Involvement in this movement was unconventional and by all means unpopular. Despite the lack of popularity, Dr. Nkrumah, had a vision not only for Ghana, but for all African countries. His leadership inspired 23 other African nations to gain independence in just 3 years after his election.

In addition to inspiring African countries to gain independence, Dr. Nkrumah envisioned unity. His vision to unite African countries was embodied with his influence in founding the Organization of African unity, established on May 25, 1963. The organization focused on ways to unify African nations and to speak with one continental voice. The organization changed over the years and was replaced with the African Union in 2001.

On March 6, 2007, Ghana celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence. Celebrations were held all over the country and attended by world leaders. I pay honor and homage to Kwame Nkrumah for dedicating his life to Ghana democracy and working towards unifying African nations. His legacy and work still lives on with the celebration of Ghana's independence 50 years ago.

[From CaribNews]

KWAME NKURUMAH: THE MAN AND HIS TIMES—GHANAIAN POLITICAL VISIONARY, PAN-AFRICANIST AND ADVOCATE OF AFRICAN UNITY

(By Michael D. Roberts)

The African Antecedent: Setting the Stage for Africa's Independence

"Our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent." Kwame Nkrumah, Accra 1957.

Those words were uttered 6 years before the formation of the Organization of African

Unity (OAD) on the 25th May 1963. It was an organization formed with the express purpose of uniting all of Africa but from the onset those leaders who signed this historic document in Ethiopia, were divided by insularity and a profound lack of vision. That is all of them except one.

Today his vision has been realized and modified, perhaps for better or worse—no one knows—in the development of the African Union (AU) that came into being in 2001. This new organization replaced the OAU that many felt had done its time and served its purpose but was unrealistic and lacked any new mechanism for dealing with the vagaries of modern, emerging Africa and the rest of the world.

But his vision and steadfast belief in African Glory has made him a legend in his lifetime and clearly one of the great sons of Africa. Today, he stands tall for his contribution to African political consciousness and African unity. He was a man whose ideas were far advanced for the era in which he served. In 2007 Africa needs to revisit his life and times. His name was Kwame Nkrumah. As Ghana's leader he had developed a reputation of total commitment to the improvement of not only the people of Ghana, but all of Africa. In a very real way the building blocks for today's modern Africa is the sacrifice and vision of leaders like Nkrumah. Observe that on the eve of the signing of the document that would formally ratify the OAU this was the warning that Nkrumah gave to African leaders about the powerful forces lined up against the continent:

"Our essential bulwark against the sinister threats and other multifarious designs of the neocolonialists is in our political union. If we are to remain free, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of Africa's rich resources, we must unite to plan for total defense and the full exploitation of our material and human means, in the full interests of all our peoples. To go it alone will limit our horizons, curtail our expectations, and threaten our liberty . . . Unless we meet the obvious and very powerful neocolonialists' threats with a unified African front, based upon a common economic and defense policy, the strategy will be to pick us off and destroy us one by one."

Nkrumah's prophetic and visionary words were based on his profound study of how Europe colonized Africa and his experiences abroad. His study of Garveyism, the ideology of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, lent his thoughts and actions a sense of African pride and independence. But more than that Nkrumah demonstrated selfless leadership and completely dedicated himself to the emancipation of his people.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
STEPHEN TOWNLEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's finest, Mr. Stephen Townley, upon his retirement from the public service system. May 9, 2007 marked Townley's 30th year of duty under the United States Judicial Branch.

After graduation from the University of South Carolina in 1973, Townley began his career as a probation officer in Milton, Florida. Advancing rapidly, Townley was appointed a United States Probation Officer in 1977 then was promoted 8 years later to United States

Probation Officer in the Northern District of Florida.

At the request of District Judge William Wilkins, the first Chairman of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Townley aided the development of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines. In this position, Townley worked to guide fair criminal sentencing, ensuring just punishment and the safety of his community. Later, Townley served on the Probation Officers Advisory Group to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

In 1990, Townley was named Supervising U.S. Probation Officer and was promoted 2 years later becoming the Northern District's first Deputy Chief Probation Officer. During his last 8 years of service, Townley held the position of Chief Probation Officer of the Northern District of Florida. To his community, he embodies the epitome of loyalty, as he strove daily to keep danger away from the public.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Stephen Townley on his 30th anniversary in serving the public. For the past 30 years, he has dedicated himself towards helping the residents of Northwest Florida and for that we will be forever grateful. I wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN
PETER J. BOYNTON

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a committed and respected serviceman, retiring Coast Guard Captain Peter J. Boynton, for his distinguished career.

Captain Boynton has much to be proud of in his 28 year long career with the U.S. Coast Guard. Serving 10 years at sea aboard six different cutters, his experience and commitment is not easily matched; and in June 2004, Boynton accepted the Commander position of the Long Island Sound sector.

As commander, he led 490 active duty military and civilians, 180 uniformed reservists, and 1,800 volunteers with the Coast Guard Auxiliary at 16 operational units. From his command, Captain Boynton oversaw a number of issues and missions involving coastal Connecticut, the Long Island Sound, Long Island, and offshore up to 200 miles. These included life-saving rescues, pollution responses, security enhancements, ice breaking missions, and counter narcotics enforcement operations.

Captain Boynton also served as White House Director of Global Affairs on the National Security Council and at the Department of State as coordinator of international Coast Guard operations. In addition, he has served as Chief of Intelligence for a multi-agency drug task force.

Captain Boynton's successor for the Commander position had this to say: "Captain Boynton has been an outstanding Sector Commander who has selflessly served the people of Connecticut and Long Island for these past 3 years. I understand I have some big shoes to fill following his retirement and I will work my hardest to continue Sector Long Island Sound's track record of exemplary service to the maritime community".

Captain Boynton will retire to Connecticut with his wife Susan, and their three children. Madam Speaker, I thank and congratulate Captain Boynton for his outstanding service and a highly distinguished career. We wish him and his family continued success and a bright future in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS J.
SCANLON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas J. Scanlon as the 2007 recipient of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni of the Year Award. His ongoing support of the School, as well as commitment to the community, has made him a worthy recipient.

Since his graduation from Cleveland-Marshall in 1963, Tom has dedicated his efforts to making Cleveland-Marshall a premier institution for the study of jurisprudence. He has served as president of the Alumni Association, and currently serves as a member of the Dean's Committee. Tom has also devoted his time and energies to improving the health and vibrancy of the Northeast Ohio community. Tom has served, and still serves, as a trustee for numerous organizations, such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, West Side Ecumenical Ministry, and the Irish-American Association, just to name a few.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Thomas J. Scanlon for his tireless dedication to Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and Northeast Ohio. May his service and hard work serve as an example for us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CONGRESSMAN PARREN MITCHELL

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the life of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell who died on May 28, 2007. Parren J. Mitchell, was a civil rights leader and a dynamic former U.S. congressman who helped to establish the Congressional Black Caucus. Congressman Mitchell was elected to the House of Representatives from Baltimore in 1970 and was Maryland's first black congressman. This great public leader from the state of Maryland served eight terms before stepping down in 1986.

Born in Baltimore, MD in 1922, Mr. Mitchell was a graduate of Morgan State College and earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland. Mitchell had to sue the then-segregated University of Maryland for admission to the graduate school, and won. Additionally, he served as an officer in the 92nd Infantry Division during World War II, during which time he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. Prior to his election to Congress, Mitchell worked in the administrations of Baltimore mayors Theodore R. McKeldin and Thomas J. D'Alesandro III and Governor J. Millard

Tawes. While active in state politics he was known as a passionate defender of minority and civil rights. Congressman Mitchell was also the brother of the late Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., who was head of the NAACP's Washington office, and was one of Lyndon Johnson's chief advisors in the civil rights movement.

As a congressman, Mitchell fought for legislation requiring local governments to set aside 10 percent of federal grants to hire minority contractors. Congressman Mitchell was a crusader for minority economic rights and pushed forth to make economic empowerment a reality for minority-owned companies.

Congressman Mitchell dedicated his life to the ideal of public service. He served his country, his community, and his government with the determination and courage that is exemplary of a true public leader. He demonstrated his courage on the battlefield while fighting for democracy abroad and he would utilize that same courage and zeal to fight for equal rights and opportunities for all Americans here in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR BOB
ROVNER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Rovner—the 2007 recipient of The Spirit of Life Award from City of Hope. Mr. Rovner is being recognized by this outstanding organization for achievements in his field and his exceptional service to our community.

To be honored by a group with such a noble cause is a great distinction, one for which Mr. Rovner is certainly worthy. For years, City of Hope has been committed to the kind of medical research that has brought hope to millions of people living with a lifethreatening disease. Madam Speaker, Bob Rovner represents the type of spirit and dedication that make organizations like City of Hope as successful as they are. He has spent years championing worthy causes, helping to publicly guide our community in a positive direction.

Mr. Rovner has spent his life performing an inspiring array of accomplishments in public service. Mr. Rovner began his career as an assistant district attorney under Sen. ARLEN SPECTER and alongside Gov. Ed Rendell. He was then elected as the youngest ever member of Pennsylvania's State Senate, where he sponsored the Lottery Bill to direct all of lottery's profits to benefit senior citizens. Mr. Rovner went on to a successful business career and became highly involved in the community, serving on the board of trustees for Temple University and hosting several popular radio shows.

Beyond his impressive resume and his reputation for public service, I can say from personal experience that Bob Rovner has affected many lives for the better. Madam Speaker, Mr. Rovner's influence on the community has been undeniable and his continued work will shape the future of our region.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Rovner for this award, but I am more honored to consider Bob Rovner a colleague and a friend, and I would like to thank him on behalf of those whose lives he has touched.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BILL
AND SUE LANDSKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this time to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of two of Northwest Indiana's finest public servants, Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Sue Landske of Cedar Lake, Indiana. For years, Bill and Sue have been fully committed to the citizens they serve, with Bill serving on the Cedar Lake Town Council and Sue serving as a State Senator for over 23 years. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their lifelong service and also congratulate them on their 50 years of devotion to each other.

Sue's service to her community extends far beyond her elected position. A veteran of the National Guard Reserve, Sue was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1984. Senator Landske has remained fully committed to her constituents, and she has even remained an active member of several community organizations. For her efforts, Sue has received many accolades, including the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash in 1980 and 1983. She has also been named Outstanding Republican Senator, Business and Professional Woman of the Year, Lake County Republican of the Year, and Jaycees' Citizen of the Year.

Not to be outdone, Bill Landske has been a constant fixture in his community for many years. In recent years, Bill has extended his service to the people of Cedar Lake as an elected official, where he has taken on the role of Cedar Lake Town Council member. His resolve to improve the quality of life for his constituents has been apparent since he took office, and he has served his constituents with complete dedication and professionalism.

Bill and Sue have shared many wonderful years together. They have epitomized true devotion and unwavering commitment. However, while they have remained fully dedicated to the people they serve, Bill and Sue's greatest source of pride is their family, which includes four daughters, Cathy (Don) Jones, Jackie (Jeffrey) Basilotta, Pam (Charles) Snyder, and Cheryl (Pete) Boisson, and one son, Eric. Bill and Sue have also been blessed with eight grandchildren: Matthew Jones; Leslie Stoops; Jeff Basilotta; Caitlin, Jenny, and Kim Snyder; and Patrick and Daniel Boisson. Bill and Sue's commitment to improving the future for their community and all of Northwest Indiana is surely an extension of their commitment to their grandchildren, whom they truly adore.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Councilman Bill Landske and State Senator Sue Landske as they celebrate a remarkable milestone, their 50th wedding anniversary. While their years of service to the citizens of Northwest Indiana are to be commended, it is their unselfish and lifelong devotion to each other that is worthy of our deepest admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, while I was absent from the House of Representatives last week due to the birth of my son, I would like to state how I would have voted on the following pieces of legislation if I had been able to be present: Rollcall No. 406—"yea"; rollcall No. 407—"yea"; rollcall No. 408—"yea"; rollcall No. 409—"nay"; rollcall No. 415—"nay"; rollcall No. 416—"nay"; rollcall No. 417—"nay"; rollcall No. 418—"nay"; rollcall No. 419—"yea"; rollcall No. 420—"yea"; rollcall No. 421—"nay"; rollcall No. 422—"yea"; rollcall No. 423—"yea"; rollcall No. 424—"yea"; rollcall No. 425—"yea."

URGING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
TO SUPPORT CARICOM SUMMIT
TALKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the *CaribNews* newspaper the week of May 17, 2007 titled "Caribbean Aims to Cash in on Face Time with Bush". This article expresses the importance of the CARICOM Summit meetings to be held in Washington, D.C. from June 19–21, 2007.

The heads of states of the 15 nations that comprise the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will be in Washington meeting with the Administration, as well as members of Congress. During their meetings in Washington, they wish to discuss U.S.-Caribbean trade relations, cooperation in education and security initiatives, immigration, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and other issues arising from our important relationships with our Southern neighbors.

A Summit of this magnitude and with the full leadership of CARICOM represents the first of its kind under the Bush Administration. I commend the Administration's initiative in establishing stronger and more consistent relationships with island states whose strategic importance has been recognized by their designation by former Secretary of State Colin Powell as our "third border."

This Summit comes at an important time for the American people as we celebrate the contribution of millions of Caribbean-Americans during Caribbean American Heritage Month. It is estimated that over 2.6 million Caribbean-Americans currently live in the United States. People from the Caribbean have contributed to the building of this great nation as the earliest and largest source of Black immigrants to the U.S.

It is important to recognize the Caribbean as strategically significant to the U.S. in terms of security, international trade, and education initiatives. Members of CARICOM serve as crossroads for major air and sea routes between North America, Africa, Europe and Asia. It is in our country's national security interests

to make certain that the issues of poverty, illiteracy and HIV/AIDS in the region are addressed.

An unprecedented threat to the economic and social development of the Caribbean Community is HIV/AIDS. With a rate of 1.2 percent in 2006, Caribbean nations are second only to sub-Saharan Africa in adult HIV/AIDS prevalence. AIDS is one of the leading causes of death among adults aged 15–44 in the Caribbean, which threatens the Community's ability to achieve sustainable development. Migration from the Caribbean can contribute to the risk of HIV in the U.S., as acknowledged in USAID Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo Franco's testimony in 2005, citing statistics that Caribbean immigrants account for 46 percent of all immigrants testing HIV positive in New York City. High mobility in the region necessitates a regional approach in combating the epidemic. By supporting legislation that will include all the CARICOM nations in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we can expand our reach in fighting HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean and at home.

Although CARICOM countries receive preferential trade treatment under agreements such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), CARICOM views its existing trading arrangements with the U.S. as no longer adequate. The CBI preferences are set to expire in October 2008, which could jeopardize an annual \$8 billion worth of trade. The current CBI also includes only eight of the 15 countries that comprise CARICOM, further emphasizing the need to establish a new trading relationship. Serving as a backdrop to the Summit this month is the establishment of a CARICOM Single Market in 2006 and plans for full economic integration in 2008. In terms of trade with the U.S., the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) serves as an opportunity to strengthen ties and better prepare the region for a free-trade agreement (FTA) with the United States.

In addition to U.S.-Caribbean trade revisions, there is also a need to create a framework to manage the negative impact of the deportation process on the CARICOM nations. Caribbean governments assert that rising crime rates in some Caribbean nations can be attributed in part to the large number of criminal deportees they receive from the United States, with over 5,000 being sent from the U.S. to the Caribbean between October 2005 and October 2006. High rates of crime and violence in the Caribbean are undermining growth and investment, threatening human welfare, and impeding social development.

Our national security is also threatened by a failure to manage the deportation process. When deportees are sent to the Caribbean—many of whom acquire assets and connections in the United States—they are often sent empty-handed without a family support network in the Caribbean. This situation breeds poverty among deportees, which can make weak States vulnerable to terrorist networks and drug cartels within their borders. According to the World Bank, murder rates in the Caribbean are higher than in any other region of the world, and assault rates are significantly above the world average. These challenges compounded by narcotics trafficking, which is at the core of these high rates, transcend national boundaries, threaten America's national security, and require a coordinated regional response.

As Members of Congress, we have a significant opportunity to respond to the economic and political challenges facing the nations of the Caribbean, by encouraging educational exchange programs, promoting trade and supporting legislation that provides funding to address the HIV/AIDS situation in the region.

The issues I outlined today provide the foundation for a rich dialogue between the U.S. and the Caribbean Heads of State. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to play a significant role in fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with our friends of the Caribbean Community by supporting and participating in the CARICOM events that will be taking place on the Hill from June 19 through June 21.

CARIBBEAN AIMS TO CASH IN ON FACE TIME
WITH BUSH

(GEORGETOWN)

On Jun. 20, Caribbean leaders will sit down with George W. Bush for the first full summit meeting with a U.S. President in a decade, and from all indications, they have a plethora of issues to put on the table, chief among them trade and disaster preparedness.

Since Democratic President Bill Clinton flew to the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados for a day in May 1997, the two sides have not met for any length of time at the Heads of Government or state level, though they have formalized annual and sometimes twice yearly meetings with secretaries of state and other high-level officials.

Analysts say the June summit comes at a time of serious anxieties for the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM), 10 of which form a free trade bloc that has functioned smoothly over the years save for the odd row over some members' protectionist policies. High-ranking CARICOM officials like Assistant Secretary-General Colin Granderson and others agree that the region would be remiss if leaders do not jump at the chance of reinforcing their geopolitical importance to the United States, being right in its backyard.

For one thing, the Ronald Reagan era Caribbean Basin Initiative and its offshoot, the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, governing trade with the U.S., are now subject to annual unanimous approvals by each member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a development Governments say makes them feel very insecure. Washington has also expressed its discomfort with the fact that it has to ask every single country to say yes to renewing the preferential trade deal, which expires in two years.

Caribbean leaders and foreign ministers argue that trade worth an annual average of eight billion dollars is operating at the whims of WTO members and should have some formal, more structured cover.

They are considering asking Washington to negotiate and sign a U.S.-Caribbean free trade agreement, since it has become clear that efforts to forge a hemispheric umbrella agreement have collapsed under the weight of objections from regional Latin American powerhouses like Brazil and Venezuela, among others.

The region's Central American neighbors have already negotiated their own deal with the U.S., but a definitive position on the Caribbean may well emerge in the days leading up to the summit.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE SEAN
C. GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Sean C. Gallagher as the 2007 recipient of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni of the Year Award, and to celebrate his efforts to make a safer and more just Northeast Ohio.

For over 25 years, Judge Gallagher has served the people of Northeast Ohio with dedication and distinction. Whether a juvenile probation officer, a prosecuting attorney, a court bailiff, a municipal court judge, or an Ohio Court of Appeals judge, he has always had the concerns and the safety of the community at hand. He has also dedicated his time to numerous boards and associations to ensure that the legal profession maintains its integrity and continues to produce thoughtful and dedicated young attorneys.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Sean C. Gallagher as the 2007 Alumni Award recipient. May Cleveland continue to benefit from his leadership and vision.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the history of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Springfield, Massachusetts, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is the focal point of the Italian-American community in Springfield. I would like to take time today to acknowledge this important anniversary and to extend to the communicants of the Mount Carmel Church my best wishes for a strong and prosperous future.

THE CENTENNIAL 1907-2007 HISTORY OF OUR
LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH

In the late 1800s, the Italian community in greater Springfield, Mass., held religious services in the basement chapel of St. Michael Cathedral. A separate church in the South End, where most of the immigrants had settled, was an increasing need. Bishop Thomas Beaven placed this hope in the hands of the Stigmatine Congregation of Verona, Italy. Frs. Anthony Dalla Porta, first pastor, and Alfred Ballestrazzi came to the United States in May 1906. In 1907, a new Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was named. The building, seating 500 worshippers, cost \$35,000. It opened on December 24, 1911. Nearly 1,000 families were members of the infant parish. In 1919, five religious sisters, Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, arrived from Savona, Italy. They opened a day nursery, sewing classes, and children's catechism instruction. The church building was expanded in 1932.

Stigmatine Fathers William Ludessi, Erminio Lona, Charles Zanotti, Peter

Toretta, Paul Zanini, Camillo Santini, Carmen Russo, Richard Scioli, and currently Robert White, have served as pastors.

Mt. Carmel Church survived the Great Depression, the flood waters of 1936, and the hurricane of 1938. Church societies' fund-raising liquidated all debt by 1946. An elementary school, staffed by the sisters, opened in 1948. In 1959, a second major renovation of the church took place. The parish entered its Diamond years with hope and pride in the future.

Weekly St. Anthony devotion remains steadfast. In 1991, the new position of Pastoral Minister, open to a qualified non-ordained person, was filled by Sister of St. Joseph Elizabeth Matuszek. The quality of education, which the Daughters of Mercy established, has kept the school open as one of five Catholic schools left in Springfield. Its first lay principal was Mrs. Claire Cote, who in 2002, achieved the maximum ten-year accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and opened a Preschool, an after-school program, and a computer laboratory. Mrs. Carol Raffaele succeeded Mrs. Cote in 2003, completing its interim evaluation for accreditation. The computer lab went state-of-the-art wireless. Library cataloging was computerized, and offices were connected to the Internet. The school developed a web page, www.mountcarmelschool.org. OLMC graduates consistently score in the top percentile in standardized tests. They thrive in high school, college, and beyond.

In Religious Education for our public school students, 26 CCD volunteers have been awarded the diocesan St. Pius X Medal, every year since the inception of this honor. Intergenerational Religious Education began with this Centennial Year Generations of Faith. Families with children, and adult households, came together for religious formation sessions.

Lay ministry has expanded far beyond our worthy list of certified lectors, special ministers of the Eucharist, choir, and ushers. Women and girls have joined men and boys as altar servers. Qualified laity help prepare candidates for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, and Marriage.

Members continue fundraising efforts in this age of rapidly escalating expenses. Bingo was a lucrative source of funds from 1967 to 1997. The October Taste of Italy became a new social focus and important fundraiser, first held in 1992. "Bring your best Italian foods to serve at least 100" was the request. Participants respond to the zealous leadership of Chairperson Rosemarie Costa. Hundreds come to affirm and enjoy the culinary achievements of dozens of Italian cooks.

Clerical tasks have become computerized. Clubs and Societies remain a consistent base of spiritual, social, and economic vitality. The Women's Guild is an important body of support for the parish. The Ministry of Caring of St. Vincent DePaul extends the Works of Mercy to and beyond our parish parameters. The Men's Retreat League continues its annual weekend at Holy Family Retreat Center in E. Hartford, CT. The parish Knights of Columbus are St. Gaspar Bertoni Council 5037. The Holy Name Society hosted the last of its coffee hours in 1999. Youth Ministry proudly donated a \$700 replacement tree to the church, and sent a contingent to the Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis in 1996. They donated half their treasury to the Centennial Renovation Fund.

For the 90th anniversary in 1997, a \$300,000 capital campaign restored the slate roof and stained glass and alabaster windows. New entrance doors were installed.

Centennial plans began in 2002, for spiritual renewal, communications, and a \$1.6

million capital campaign for physical renovations. Peter Zorzi of Studio One Architects, of our South End parish neighborhood, said, "I can't count how many Sundays I sat at 8:30 Mass imagining what I would do to restore this church!" With well-established competence and experience, Studio One brought us an enduring enthusiasm and a church of renewed beauty. Our gratitude for their services is beyond measure.

We installed the Verdin Singing Tower Carillon from nearby St. Joseph Church which closed. Its seasonal hymns resound throughout the South End three times daily. All pews were removed for restoration and resizing. Artists Salvatore Degli Atti and Salvatore Rossi of Italy achieved the acclaimed renovations. From St. Polycarp Church in Somerville, which closed, we purchased marble altars and other appointments. Architects redesigned the sanctuary space, completing handicap accessibility.

Fifty travelers journeyed to Italy in honor of the Centennial. The Communications Committee reached out to our most senior members, inviting those 80 years of age and older to submit memories and photos for the Anniversary Book. 101 responded.

A Mass of Thanksgiving for the Centennial was celebrated in the renewed church on June 10, 2007. Principal Celebrant and Homilist was Most Reverend Timothy A. McDonnell, Bishop of Springfield. A dinner for 700 followed at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee.

Since the 1907 South End origin of the parish, Interstate highway configuration has dispersed members to many surrounding cities and towns. Blessed with their heritage of Catholic faith, a festive Italo-American spirit, and strong and extended family, Mt. Carmel parishioners remain a vibrant and proud witness to their heritage and faith in Springfield's South End.

2007 FARM BILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, the 2007 farm bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation this House will consider this year. From such varied topics as rural development to nutrition to conservation to energy to research to disaster assistance, the farm bill will impact all of these issues and many, many more. In my district, Missouri's sixth, we have a lot of farmers diversified in different row crops and livestock. Many of my fellow farmers in Northwest Missouri are soybean producers, so it is with this in mind that I would like to draw this distinguished body's attention to a letter I have recently received from the United Soybean Board, an organization responsible for administering the soybean research and promotion programs of the soybean checkoff program. We've heard a lot about checkoff programs over the years, and I hope my colleagues will find the following correspondence useful as we move forward with the 2007 farm bill.

MAY 24, 2007.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GRAVES: Thank you for your letter of May 10, 2007, regarding the soybean research and promotion efforts of the soybean checkoff program. I very much welcome the opportunity now and in the fu-

ture to provide you, other members of Congress, and the soybean farmers of Missouri's Sixth District and in other parts of our country, information about our soybean checkoff.

As you know, at the urging of the nation's soybean farmers, Congress created the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act in 1990. Since that time, the United Soybean Board (USB), of which I serve as Chairman, and 29 Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs), have invested soybean checkoff funds to provide profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers.

Keeping in mind your suggestion for brevity, I am pleased to provide answers to the specific questions you posed in your letter about the accomplishments of the soybean checkoff:

1. Recently, biodiesel seems to receive a lot of news coverage. What role, if any, has the checkoff, national or state, played in the development or marketing of this product and what is the relationship of USB to the National Biodiesel Board?

Simply put, America's soybean farmers, through our soybean checkoff, established the biodiesel industry in the United States. The Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC), a Qualified State Soybean Board (QSSB), funded the first significant biodiesel research back in 1990. The USB, MSMC and other QSSBs helped establish the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) in 1992. The soybean checkoff continues to fund most of the NBB-coordinated research and promotion that has made biodiesel one of the fastest-growing renewable fuels in the United States. According to NBB, biodiesel production in the U.S. has increased from an estimated 500,000 gallons in 1999 to 225 million gallons in 2006. Our biannual soybean farmer attitudes survey showed only 23 percent of all soybean farmers used biodiesel in 2002. Our latest survey shows more than 50 percent of all U.S. soybean farmers now use biodiesel in their operations.

2. I know that export markets for American agricultural products are very important to our nation's trade balance. How involved have USB or the QSSBs been, if at all, in developing these markets?

Since Congress established the national soybean checkoff program in 1990, U.S. soybean exports have doubled. U.S. Department of Agriculture figures show we exported 557 million bushels of U.S. soybeans in 1990. Last year, we exported a record 1.1 billion bushels of U.S. soybeans.

The growth of U.S. soy exports to China serves as an example of the kind of export development work accomplished by the soybean checkoff. State soybean checkoff programs funded the early reverse marketing activities in China to change the country from an exporter into an importer of soy. Shortly after Congress created the national soybean checkoff, USB also contributed to those efforts, such as providing technical information and support to China's poultry, livestock and aquaculture industries on how to use soy as a valuable protein source in animal feed. In 1995, these efforts, funded with soybean checkoff dollars and market development funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, helped turn China from being a soy competitor into a U.S. soy customer. China is now the biggest export customer of U.S. soy. Most recently, working with soybean checkoff farmer-leaders and staff, a group of Chinese buyers signed contracts in the United States to purchase 211 million bushels of U.S. soybeans, worth more than \$2 billion. USDA projects when the marketing year ends later this year, China will buy over 400 million bushels of U.S. soy. In addition to building markets for U.S. soy in China, the soybean checkoff funds U.S. soy market de-

velopment efforts in 80 countries around the world.

3. As a nation, we are becoming increasingly health conscious, and I know that soy is regarded as having positive health benefits. What has the checkoff program done to help document these health benefits if at all? In addition, we are all aware of the issue of trans fats in the foods we eat. Is this an issue for soybeans and if so, what has been done to address it?

The soybean checkoff has been instrumental in funding the necessary research to document the health benefits of soy. Early on, state and national soybean checkoff organizations funded the scientific research that helped lead to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's health claim in 1998 linking the benefits of soy to reducing the risk of heart disease. Also, USB's Soy Health Research Program has invested about \$500,000 to assist scientists in submitting soy-related research grant applications, which has helped secure more than \$12 million in research funds from the National Institutes of Health. This 24-1 return on soy research investments seeks to document how soy's role in a healthy diet can reduce the risk of such diseases as breast cancer, prostate cancer and osteoporosis.

Second, in the late 1990s, USB identified trans fat as an issue that could have a major impact on the future utilization of soybean oil. The checkoff established an initiative to determine food industry trends and needs, which eventually led to the creation of QUALISOY in 2004. This collaborative U.S. soybean industry-wide effort helped accelerate the development of new soybean varieties with oil that requires little or no hydrogenation and, therefore, is free of trans fats and ultimately lower in saturated fats. This year, U.S. soybean farmers are expected to plant up to 1.75 million acres of these new varieties, which also provide additional profit opportunities to U.S. soybean farmers.

4. We are also aware of the threat of Asian Soybean Rust to the American soybean farmer. I am pleased that USDA so quickly responded with specific programs to counter this threat. How, if at all, were checkoff funds used to assist this effort? How else, if at all, have either state or national checkoff funds been used to benefit soybean production, either by increasing yields or dealing with pests?

Similar to our efforts to increase soybean exports, the challenge to minimize the impact of Asian Soybean Rust provides a good example of how checkoff investments made by soybean farmers can be leveraged with federal government dollars to benefit us—and ultimately all consumers—with a safe, abundant supply of soy. Beginning in 2005, the soybean checkoff helped coordinate and fund an early-warning system for soybean rust through a cooperative effort with USDA. The system includes an extensive series of sentinel plots planted to soybeans that receive regular monitoring for rust and other plant pests and diseases. This system keeps us well informed about the spread of rust and helps us scout, monitor and manage our crops to prevent or minimize yield loss from this potentially devastating disease.

More broadly, finding solutions to soybean yield-robbing pests and diseases traditionally has ranked as USB's second largest investment area. For example, in 2001, USB-funded researchers published breakthrough research identifying specific genes in the Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN), the leading cause of soybean yield loss from plant diseases. This helped serve as basis for more durable SCN resistance in soybean varieties. Just last year, researchers funded by the soybean checkoff published genetic markers for two rust-resistant genes. This allows soybean breeders to incorporate these genes into

breeding programs without laborious testing against the harmful disease. We expect this to lead to new rust-resistant varieties in the next four to five years. These are just a few examples of how the soybean checkoff has helped me and other U.S. soybean farmers prevent or reduce soybean yield loss from harmful plant pests and diseases. No doubt, these efforts have helped U.S. soybean production grow from 1.98 billion bushels in 1991 to a record 3.18 billion bushels in 2006.

5. I know that soy products have been featured in the federal government's bioproducts support program. Are you aware of what soy products have been featured in this effort and if so, could you elaborate on how, if at all, national or state checkoff funds have been utilized to develop any of these products?

This is an area of special interest to me since I served three terms as chair of USB's New Uses program and one year as team lead of our Biobased Products Initiative. Our surveys show U.S. soybean farmers believe developing new soy uses, such as soy-based inks, plastics, lubricants, adhesives and solvents, should be a top priority of our checkoff. The most notable new industrial uses for soy developed by the soybean checkoff include soy biodiesel and soy ink. But hundreds of soy-based products, many developed with the help of soybean checkoff-funded research, now also fill our ever-growing Soy Products Guide, a catalog of soy-based bioproducts we publish annually. Recognizing the purchasing power of the federal government, the soybean checkoff has taken the lead in familiarizing federal purchasing officials with the availability and benefits of these products through workshops held in the nation's capital. Last year, USDA finalized its list of the first six categories of biobased items that would be awarded purchasing preference under the federal bioproducts support program. USB has funded research and marketing efforts with companies that make up three of the six categories, which include soy-based mobile hydraulic fluids, roof coatings and penetrating lubricants. Late last year, USDA proposed that more items be designated for preferred federal purchasing. When finalized, we anticipate that more soy-based bioproducts developed with the help of the soybean checkoff, such as spray foam insulation, carpet backing, electric transformer fluids, engine oils, cleaners and other solvents, will receive preferred purchasing designation.

6. The Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, as passed in 1990, called for regular ROI studies to evaluate the return to soybean farmers on their investment in the checkoff. Have those studies been undertaken, and if so, what were the results? If these studies do not reflect the additional funds that may have been leveraged through the use of checkoff funds, please expand on that point as well. In this same context, what evidence, if any, do you have that soybean farmers continue to support the checkoff?

Evaluation remains a cornerstone of every soybean checkoff-funded program. All USB-funded programs must have an evaluation component. As required by law, the soybean checkoff has also conducted regular return-on-investment (ROI) studies. An independent study, conducted in 1998 by Texas A&M, found that for every checkoff dollar invested, U.S. soybean farmers earned an additional eight dollars in net revenue. A similar study, conducted in 2003 by World Perspectives and AgriLogic, found a 6:1 ROI. USB's next regular ROI study will be conducted next year.

In addition to those noted above, numerous examples exist of how we maximize checkoff investments by achieving outside, matching

funds to benefit all U.S. soybean farmers. For example, state and national soybean checkoff international marketing investments, which this year total \$11.3 million, achieved a matching investment of \$14.2 million in Foreign Market Development and Market Access Program funds through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. USB funding of the development of the soybean genome map and development of genetic markers helped lead to a nearly \$5 million dollar grant for soybean genomics research conducted by the National Science Foundation. Soybean checkoff-funded genome research also positioned soy to be chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute as the next plant genome to be sequenced, a project valued at \$11 million.

The federal law that created the soybean checkoff requires that U.S. soybean farmers have an opportunity every five years to request a referendum on continuation of the program. In 1999, less than 3 percent of eligible soybean producers requested a referendum on the soybean checkoff. In 2004, less than half of 1 percent of all eligible soybean producers requested a referendum. USB conducted its first statistically valid, biannual soybean farmer attitudes survey in 1997. At that time, 65 percent of soybean farmers surveyed indicated they supported the soybean checkoff. The most recent survey conducted earlier this year showed 73 percent of U.S. soybean farmers support the soybean checkoff.

7. And even though it is not directly related to the role of the United Soybean Board, what, if any, role has it played in the broader soybean or agricultural industry that members of Congress should know about?

The 64 farmer-directors who serve voluntarily on USB believe it's also our responsibility to help lead the U.S. soybean industry. Since 2002, USB has brought together state and national soybean checkoff and association leaders and staff for CONNECTIONS, a joint planning meeting to help establish our research and promotion priorities and strategies for the following three to five years. Last year, USB took the process a step further by engaging all players in the U.S. soybean value chain to actively take part in Soy 2020. This U.S. soybean industry-wide effort created a vision for the future of U.S. soybeans for the next twelve years. It focuses on four key stages: a comprehensive environmental scan that identified key areas of emphasis; analysis of different possible scenarios for the U.S. soybean industry; development of the vision and strategies to support each scenario; and a formal launch, which took place earlier this year.

Aside from this formal joint planning meeting, the farmer-directors of USB have also committed to a leading cause in U.S. agriculture—supporting the livestock and poultry industries. The animal agriculture industry is inherently important to the soybean industry, as it is our number one customer, consuming nearly all of the domestically used soybean meal. The USB-led Animal Agriculture Initiative is an effort to build support among soybean farmers and leading agriculture organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Animal Agriculture Alliance, and other checkoff organizations such as the National Pork Board. This combined, concentrated support will not only help protect the domestic livestock and poultry industries from unnecessary criticism and ridicule, but will also help protect our number one market for soybean meal.

I am confident this information will help you and other members of Congress understand how our self-help research and promotion program has created new U.S. soy-

bean demand and profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information for you and your colleagues.

The 64 volunteer soybean farmer-leaders who make up our board truly believe we have an effective, efficient and farmer-driven soybean checkoff.

Respectfully yours,
ERIC NIEMANN,
Chairman, United Soybean Board (USB).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 5, 2007:

Rollcall vote 426, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 397—Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 427, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 422—Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 428, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 430—Calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 429, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 451—Directing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to respond to the indictment of, or the filing of charges of criminal conduct in a court of the United States or any State against, any Member of the House of Representatives by empaneling an investigative subcommittee to review the allegations, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 430, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Resolution H. Res. 452—Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS, AMERICAN
LEGION AUXILIARY OF
SIKESTON, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary of Sikeston, Missouri, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary. Every year in the eight decades of the American Legion's existence in Sikeston, this group of patriotic Americans annually makes multiple investments of time, talent and treasure in our southern Missouri community.

The congressional district I represent would not be such a wonderful place without organizations such as this one, many of which are inspired by the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary. Most notably, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary takes a keen interest in enriching the lives of young people. By sponsoring participants in Missouri Girls State and contributing to programs like Sikeston's Teacher Appreciation Week and the YMCA, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary makes a profound investment in our future leaders. Neither does the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary forget those who served, supporting efforts at the Missouri Veterans Home, the John J. Pershing Veterans Hospital, the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery, and conducting an annual drive to benefit local disabled veterans. There are so many other ways in which the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary lends its support to our community, they are too numerous to list today.

Ultimately, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary embodies the virtues of service. They are an active organization which is well-known throughout the region for its year-in, year-out commitment to the care, enrichment and betterment of the Sikeston community.

As a way of recognizing and honoring the important contributions of the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary, I am proud to commend them for 80 years of philanthropy in the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri and to wish them all the best as they continue to endeavor in the charitable service of our community.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RETIREMENT OF
ALETTE LUNDEBERG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions and well-deserved retirement of Ms. Alette Lundeborg. Alette has served the County of Santa Clara for 23 years, and has worked tirelessly for decades as an advocate for poor and indigent peoples, founding numerous programs for the underserved population in the community. Alette has been a leading figure on welfare and refugee issues at the local, state, and national levels.

Alette Lundeborg began demonstrating her leadership ability through teaching in the 1970s as an instructor at San Jose State University and De Anza College in Cupertino. She taught a graduate-level social science course focusing on public service. In addition to teaching, Alette worked as the Community School Director for the Sunnyside Elementary School District, where she established city-wide community education programs for women.

From 1977 to 1979, Alette worked in the County Executive's Office of Santa Clara as an Associate Management Analyst. She investigated and mediated complaints of discrimination, analyzed legislation, and prepared funding proposals.

In the 1980s, Alette started working with the Social Services Agency's Refugee program. She was responsible for the \$16 million dollar annual budget and managed 130 staff mem-

bers while collaborating with local counties and states on legislation issues.

In the late 1990s, Alette was appointed as Administrator of Benefit Services for the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency. She has been responsible for the Agency's Employment Support Initiative, which has been the planning arena for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, a welfare program that assists California families through services and cash aid. Aside from working as the Administrator of Benefit Services, Alette has also been a Board Member for numerous local community groups including the San Jose Development Corporation, Planned Parenthood of Santa Clara County, and Asian Americans for Community Involvement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor this wonderful role model and mentor: Alette was my teacher on women's issues. Alette has spent countless years enriching the community through her leadership and dedication. Alette Lundeborg's work has been inspirational to many in the community and I offer her my best wishes for her much deserved retirement and thank her once again for her work serving the people of Santa Clara County.

HONORING GEORGE E. STEPP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George E. Stepp for 38 years of dedicated service to the youth of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Stepp began his career in 1969 as a social studies teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools. He quickly and eagerly made the transition to the administrative side when he was promoted to become assistant principal at Falls Church High School. Mr. Stepp went on to serve as principal at West Springfield High School for 6 years and Lake Braddock Secondary School for 3 years. In 1989, he became the superintendent of schools for area IV in the Fairfax County Public School system. He served in this position until he retired to become superintendent of schools for the city of Fairfax.

Over his career, Mr. Stepp has demonstrated an interest in his students, a desire to help them succeed, and the ability to put these aspirations into policies that create positive tangible outcomes. All students, faculty and parents who have been through one of his school's have expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the tireless work he has undertaken on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. George E. Stepp for all of his accomplishments. His legacy of success is found in each and every student who has traveled through his halls, taken his tests, and is now a contributing member of our community. While he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding George for these past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

HONORING ARIZONA'S WILD HORSES

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arizona's wild horses living in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The residents of the State of Arizona deeply value these magnificent wild horses.

These beautiful wild horses are truly the "Living Symbols of the West," as described by the Wild Horse and Burro Act passed by Congress in 1971 to protect the wild horses of the United States.

The Rim Country wild horses date back to mounts brought by Father Eusebio Kino, who began his 1653 mission to eastern Arizona by setting out from the lands of my constituency in southern Arizona and traveling across our State northeast to the "borders of the lands of the Apacheria which border on New Mexico."

These original Spanish horses are the great ancestors of the Mogollon Rim country wild horses. They were the mighty Andalusian war horse, whose origins go back more than 28,000 years to the original Iberian horse; the magnificent Spanish Barb; and the graceful and fluid Spanish Jennet, the mount of many of the great kings of Europe; and the strong bloodlines of these original horses appear almost unchanged in our Rim wild horses 400 years later.

Our Arizona Rim wild horses are the direct descendants of the Spanish horses prized by the conquistadors so highly that the foals were carried in hammocks to protect their legs until they were old enough to travel on the forced marches; and prized by the early cattlemen for their endurance and heart and were the very mounts of the U.S. Cavalry as they rode to protect and expand the American west.

The Arizona Rim Country wild horses living in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are a most precious natural resource to be preserved for our children and grandchildren who will be able to see them for generations to come.

THE PGA OF AMERICA/DISABLED SPORTS USA MILITARY GOLF PROGRAM

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an excellent new project to improve the lives of American soldiers who were wounded serving our country: the Disabled Sports USA Military Golf Program. The Wounded Warrior Project, Disabled Sports USA, America Supports You and the PGA of America have created a new program that aims to help rehabilitate veterans severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. By instructing these wounded warriors how to play golf, the PGA and Disabled Sports USA teaches our disabled veterans a fulfilling recreation pursuit.

These organizations provide invaluable services to our veterans. Wounded Warriors

offer programs nationwide that offer our severely injured soldiers opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Disabled Sports USA, established in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to serve the war injured, has expanded to provide rehabilitative sports programs to anyone with a permanent disability.

America Supports You was launched in November, 2004, by the Department of Defense, and built a network of supporters that writes letters, sends care packages and helps the wounded when they return home.

And the PGA, America's largest working sports organization, comprised of 28,000 men and women dedicated to growing, teaching and managing the game of golf, has throughout its 91-year history provided instruction and equipment to the military and employment opportunities to veterans.

I am proud to recognize these four organizations that are doing so much to aid our honored veterans. I hope my fellow members of Congress share my passion for the Military Golf Program. The program, and its purpose of giving back to those who so nobly served our country, is worthy of our praise.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, February 5th, the Department of Defense made a request for the resources and flexibility required to successfully prosecute the Global War on Terror. For 3½ months Congress has failed in this fundamental, constitutional responsibility. Today, I am pleased to finally support H.R. 2206, the FY 2007 Iraq and Afghanistan War Supplemental Appropriations bill. I believe this legislation strikes the right balance of unfettered access to resources by our military and the establishment of guiding benchmarks for the new Iraqi government. In addition, I applaud the inclusion of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, and an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for their hard work on this legislation. Putting aside political grandstanding and maneuvering, we have finally come together to produce legislation that provides our soldiers with the funding they need, while providing the flexibility our commanders in Iraq require—showing the commitment of this Congress to success in Iraq and the broader War on Terror.

Our Soldiers and Marines are in desperate need of funding for essential procurement items, operations and maintenance, and military paychecks and benefits. Among other things, this legislation will fuel our trucks, feed our soldiers, provide imminent danger pay, and arm them against our nation's enemies. This funding comes without unrealistic and dangerous strings that could have placed lives of our servicemen and women in jeopardy.

This Congress is finally showing its commitment to success in the Global War on Terror.

We must never forget that this war was started by Muslim extremists and has been waged against the United States and its citizens since the 1970s. However, almost every skirmish and battle prior to the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 found the United States on the defensive and on the losing side. Does this House remember the killing of 241 Marines in Beirut in 1983? The U.S. Embassy bombing in Lisbon in 1986? The first World Trade Center bombing in 1993? The Khobar Towers bombing in 1996? The bombing of our U.S. Embassies in Africa in 1998? Or the bombing of the USS *Cole* in 2000? Our ignorance of these events culminated in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Each one of these was a battle in this war we now face. I hope this House finally understands we cannot win this war on the defensive.

The terrorists took the fight to us for decades; now we must take the fight to the terrorists. I do not want this war. But rest assured—this war will happen regardless of our presence in Iraq or Afghanistan. The question is, "Does this fight happen on the streets of Baghdad or the streets of New York City or Wichita, Kansas?" We must take the fight to the enemy. We must stay on the offense. Fortunately, this legislation now allows the United States to stay on the offensive in this global struggle.

In addition to providing critical funding for our military, this legislation provides \$40 million of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, which was completely destroyed during a recent tornado. The most devastating natural disaster to strike Kansas in years, Greensburg is a city without schools, businesses, or houses. However, the people of Greensburg have a passion and vision to rebuild their town, and I am pleased that this Congress is committing the resources required to begin that process.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for working with me and the Kansas delegation to include this funding for Greensburg. The tornado took away so much from this community, but it did not take away the Kansas spirit of big dreams and hard work. Greensburg will be rebuilt, and the funding provided here today will help make that happen.

Not only do the people of Greensburg receive support in this legislation, but the workers in Wichita and around the country will receive a well-deserved pay raise. I stand in support of raising the Federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour in conjunction with providing associated tax relief for small businesses.

However, when dealing with the minimum wage, it is imperative that small businesses be provided with associated tax relief. When small and family-owned businesses are forced to shoulder increased costs, they have no choice but to hire fewer workers, reduce current worker benefits, and pass along the costs to consumers in the form of higher prices. Therefore, providing associated tax relief will allow the workers we intend to help keep their jobs. I applaud this bill for providing the minimum wage increase with the associated tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing great challenges from fighting the Global War on Terror to rebuilding communities devastated by natural disasters. By working together in a bipartisan approach, Congress can do the right

thing. This Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations bill provides our troops the resources they need, helps rebuild Greensburg, and gives a well-deserved raise to \$5.6 million people. For that, I am pleased to offer my support.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN
EDWARD HARDMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Edward Hardeman and The Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit at Centennial High School in Las Vegas, NV for being named the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding Unit in the nation.

Captain Hardeman oversees 215 cadets along with Senior Chief Tom Borders and Petty Office Gail Johnson. The Naval JROTC Unit is in its sixth year at Centennial High School which received 7th overall in the nation at the NJROTC National Drill, Physical Fitness, and Academics Championships in Florida this past April. They were also awarded the Captain Jim Harvey Best School Sportsmanship/Spirit Award for the third time in four years; a feat no other school in the nation has ever accomplished.

Centennial High School's Naval JROTC Unit has been awarded the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding (Best) Unit in the nation by the National Navy League, and is only the second unit in the nation to have been unanimously selected for this honor. The NJROTC program has 625 units throughout the world, including schools in Japan, Guam, and Spain.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Edward Hardeman and the Naval JROTC Unit at Centennial High School for their tremendous achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 6, 2007, as I was in my district on personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

Suspension bills: "Yea," H.R. 1051, National STEM Scholarship Database Act; "Yea," H.R. 2559, Higher Education Act Extension Act of 2007; "Yea," H. Res. 421, honoring the trailblazing accomplishments of the "Mercury 13" women, whose efforts in the early 1960s demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space; "Yea," H. Res. 446, honoring the life and accomplishments of Astronaut Walter Marty Schirra and expressing condolences on his passing; "Yea," H.R. 1467, 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act; "Yea," H.R. 1716, Green Energy Education Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 632, H-Prize Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 964, Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act; "Yea," H.R. 2560, Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2007.

"Yea," H. Res. 453, rule providing consideration of H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Act of 2007.

Amendments to H.R. 2446: "Yea," Lantos; "Yea," Ackerman; "Yea," Costa; "Yea," Franks; "Yea," Jackson-Lee: technical assistance; "Yea," Jackson-Lee: women legislators; "Yea," Kirk; "Yea," Kucinich; "Yea," Terry; "Yea," Van Hollen.

"Yea," H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007 (final passage).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 5, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for a rollcall vote on that day. Had I been present I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 426 for passage of H. Res. 397, condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY
ABROAD FOUNDATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1469, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007, legislation which establishes an educational foundation to increase the number of students studying overseas in developing countries and non-traditional areas.

The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation would provide a national competition for student fellowships and also provide funds directly to colleges and universities to support their study abroad programs, enabling over one million American students to study abroad annually.

This program was first envisioned by my friend and mentor, the late Senator Paul Simon. Senator Simon had a bold vision for American renewal driven in part by international education. His vision included an understanding of diverse cultures, direct exposure to foreign languages, and increased interaction with the peoples of other nations as achieved through study abroad.

As with his other initiatives, Senator Simon worked diligently to bring his vision of international education to life. H.R. 1469 continues this legacy of education and understanding by completing that vision.

Senator Paul Simon had a life-long commitment and passion for education. As the founder and Director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Senator Simon taught classes in journalism, political science, and history. As a scholar, he authored several books investigating the history and politics of Illinois. As a Senator, he was passionate about expanding educational opportunities to

America's youth. I am proud to have worked for Senator Simon years ago, and I am proud that we are continuing his legacy here today.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides excellent educational opportunities to America's students, strengthens our international relations, and promotes good will throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these laudable goals by voting in favor of H.R. 1469, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007.

VETERAN'S DAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, this poem is in tribute to Veteran's Day.

I think of your valor,
In being willing to take a stand for liberty,
I am speechless,
In light of your bravery,
I know your type,
Is not charmed, by show-offs, in the ranks,
Nonetheless
Please, lower your guard for a moment,
And hear a grateful nation's thanks,
It's not the battles you fight, it's signing the
line, saying you will.

HONORING DANIEL O. BERNSTINE

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Oregon's great higher education leaders. Daniel O. Bernstine, president of Portland State University, which is located in my district, will soon leave Oregon to become the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Law School Admissions Council.

During his ten years as president of Oregon's largest and most diverse university, Portland State University has achieved many milestones. While many refer to Dan as a builder, a fundraiser, and an inspiring leader, I know Dan to be a student-oriented university president and someone who has always worked to provide greater opportunities for people through access to higher education.

As a president who walks his talk, Dan has opened the doors of higher education to literally thousands of students. Over the past ten years, enrollment at PSU grew from 14,000 students to over 24,000 students.

Another of President Bernstine's legacies at Portland State will be the growth in faculty research. During his tenure, the University has established several national research centers, including the Center for Electron Microscopy and Nanofabrication, the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Center, and the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs. As a result of Dan's dedication to enhancing the research programs that relate directly to the economic needs of the Portland metropolitan region, Portland State's faculty research funding has grown from \$17 million in 1997 to over \$40 million this year. I think it is safe to say that Dan Bernstine has helped generate one of the largest business enterprises, through university research, in the Portland area.

Finally, I want to speak to the partnerships that President Bernstine has fostered. Chief among them is his work to connect Portland State University to the area's community colleges. He has been so successful in building connections with the community colleges that I modeled legislation (HR. 596) after the work that was done to provide students with co-enrollment in Portland State and their local community college. Again, this is another example of the incredible commitment Dan Bernstine has to ensuring student success in higher education.

Daniel O. Bernstine came to Portland, Oregon in 1997 having served as Dean of the Law School at the University of Wisconsin. I first met Dan informally—before he had formally started at Portland State. I was having dinner in Portland and overheard a conversation—Dan was excitedly describing the various wonders and attributes of Portland State and the region to his dinner guest. I later found out that he was convincing, successfully, one of his staff from the University of Wisconsin to join him at Portland State. Even before he had started his first day, he was already a tireless advocate for Portland State and the region. Since that time he has been a visionary leader for Portland State and an active member of the community. One of his most significant volunteer efforts involved chairing the Urban League where he stabilized the organization and brought fiscal accountability to the operations.

Dan Bernstine will be missed—for his work at Portland State, for his enduring leadership in the community, and for his passion for opening the doors of higher education to the community. I hope our friendship and our yearly banter over the Stanford/Berkeley games will continue when he moves to Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dan Bernstine for his contributions and in wishing him well in his new leadership opportunity.

CONGRATULATING THE PLATTSBURGH STATE WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM UPON WINNING THE 2007 DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State University of New York at Plattsburgh (Plattsburgh State) Lady Cardinals upon winning the 2007 NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey National Championship, their first national championship and the third won by Plattsburgh State in a team sport.

On March 17, 2007, Plattsburgh State, which is located in my Congressional District, won the Division III National Championship when it defeated the Middlebury College Lady Panthers by a score of 2 to 1 at the Ronald B. Stafford Ice Arena in Plattsburgh, New York. In that game, Lindsay Brown and Shay Bywater scored goals for Plattsburgh State, Assistant Captain Danielle Blanchard and Lindsay Littman both added two assists, and goaltender Bree Doyle made 28 saves. Blanchard, Bywater, and Doyle and were all

named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team and Blanchard, Assistant Captain Julie Devereux, and Doyle earned All-American accolades.

Of note, Doyle, a two-time All American from Ogdensburg, New York, ended her collegiate career with the Lady Cardinals with a 50–4–3 record in 58 games and as the program's all-time leader in winning percentage (.904), goals against average (1.26), and save percentage (.936). She also is the Lady Cardinals' single season-leader in victories (23), games played (27), minutes played (1604.16), saves (520), and save percentage (.937), all of which she set during her junior year.

The Lady Cardinals team also included coaches Kevin Houle and Erin O'Brien as well as the following players: Danielle Beattie, Laurie Bowler, Ainsley Brien, Elise Campbell, Amber Ellis, Tiarra Garrow, Sandra Grant, Gina Kozar, Assistant Captain Keltie Jones, Tara Kahn, Kayla McDougall, Sam Menton, Lesley Ann Mitchell, Stephanie Moberg, Captain Jessica Moreau, Claire O'Connor, Sarah Samson, Sharis Smith, and Valen Timmons.

The Lady Cardinals completed the 2007 season as the first NCAA all-Divisions undefeated women's team with a record of 27–0–2 and just the fourth undefeated NCAA hockey team in history. They were ranked No. 1 in the U.S. College Hockey Online poll for the last 13 weeks, unanimous on 12 occasions, and set or tied NCAA Division III records for winning percentage (.966), home wins (18), and overall victories. Moreover, their coach, Kevin Houle, who has a 96–16–6 (.839) record in his four seasons at the helm, won the 2007 NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year. Houle was also named the NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year in 2006.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the Plattsburgh State Lady Cardinals ice hockey team for their accomplishments. Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the entire Lady Cardinals hockey team for their remarkable season.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HEATHER
WILDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Heather Wilder a recent recipient of the 12th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award from Nevada in 2007.

Heather Wilder is currently in the seventh grade at Ernest Becker Middle School. Heather is being recognized for writing a series of 10 booklets to help foster children cope with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty that often affect foster children. These informative booklets are based on Heather's own experiences in the foster services. She wrote the "ABCs" of foster care, and then with a grant from the City of Las Vegas, she was able to print these booklets which were distributed to orphanages, counseling centers, mental health hospitals and the Department of Child and Family Services.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Heather Wilder and her achievements in pro-

viding hope and understanding in foster care situations. I wish Heather continued success in her efforts.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LAWRENCE T.
GERATY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Geraty is one of these individuals. On June 7, 2007, he will be honored as the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce's Citizen of the Year at a celebration dinner.

Dr. Larry Geraty has led an impressive and interesting life. As a child he traveled with his missionary family who lived and worked in China, Burma, Hong Kong, Lebanon, England, Germany, France, Israel, California, Maryland, Michigan and Massachusetts. After his young travels, he obtained his bachelors degree from Pacific Union College and went on to the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Larry served as a pastor before being invited to join the Andrews Theological Seminary faculty. He studied Hebrew Bible and biblical archaeology at Harvard where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree. Dr. Geraty then returned to Andrews Theological Seminary as Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity where he taught for 13 years. He also led a series of major archaeological expeditions to the Middle East.

In his distinguished academic career, Dr. Geraty has received many honors including a Fulbright Fellowship and serving as advisor on archaeology to former Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Dr. Geraty has served as a leader on several societies such as the Vice President of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. He has lectured all over the world and is a contributing author to several publications.

In 1985, Dr. Geraty became President of the Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, where he earned the reputation as a progressive academic administrator. For over 14 years, Dr. Geraty has served as President and Professor of Archeology at La Sierra University in Riverside, California. During his time in Riverside, Dr. Geraty has become a staple of the community through his leadership and generosity. He served on several boards including the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, United Way of the Inland Valleys, Mayors Higher Education/Business Council, Raincross Club, Monday Morning Group, World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California, Riverside Arts Council and the Riverside Youth Action Executive Policy Board.

In 2000, Dr. Geraty received the P.E. MacAllister Award for Excellence in Field Archeology from the American Schools of Oriental research, and in 2001, he received the Charles Elliott Weniger Award for Excellence at Pacific Union College.

In light of all Dr. Geraty has done for the community of Riverside, including serving as the 2006–2007 Chairman of the Board, the Riverside Chambers of Commerce has named Dr. Geraty their Citizen of the Year. Dr. Geraty's tireless passion for community service, education and faith has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA
ROMEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to recognize the outstanding work of a constituent of mine, Mrs. Barbara Romey, who was recently named an Outstanding History Educator by The History Channel for her commitment to history and her students.

Mrs. Romey teaches Social Studies at Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama. She is known for teaching history in a way that helps students connect and engage with current national and local issues. Throughout her career, Mrs. Romey has helped shape her students into successful and contributing members of the Phenix City community.

I congratulate Mrs. Romey for receiving this award, for her commitment to excellence in teaching, and for her dedication to helping better the lives of her students.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHAL MIZE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marshal Mize from my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as he retires from the Board of Directors of the Enterprise Center. Mr. Mize has been an outstanding leader in our business and civic communities. Now that he will be devoting more time to his family, I want to take a moment to recognize his tremendous accomplishments and thank him for all he has done in Chattanooga.

Marshal is a graduate of Georgia Southern University and served his country honorably, achieving the rank of Captain in the U.S. Air Force. After his military service, he went to work for the Ford Motor Company, eventually starting his own dealership in Chattanooga where he received countless awards for his leadership in sales and customer service. Mr. Mize is currently the president, chief manager and owner of Chandler LLC, a diversified company with interest in land, commercial real estate, businesses and airplanes.

Marshal has served in numerous civic endeavors. His term as President of the Chattanooga Rotary Club and member of the

Board of Directors of The Enterprise Center will both be fulfilled in June. He has been active in the Chamber of Commerce, public television, Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the 10-Year Major Giving Award by the American Cancer Society. He serves as an elder and deacon of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Marshal Mize is a shining example of integrity, loyalty and outstanding leadership, and I am proud to recognize him today.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY P. JONES III

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend Henry P. Jones III. Henry is the Past President and CEO of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and has served the organization since January 1, 1981.

Under his leadership at the Chamber, Jonesboro has become Arkansas' fastest growing city and is home to more than 100 industrial plants and facilities. Henry has been involved in organizational management for over 45 years and was the driving force behind Jonesboro's many economic successes.

Henry Jones has a long list of accomplishments and distinctions. He has been the past president of the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Executives, the Arkansas Association of Development Districts and the Economic Developers of Arkansas and is a past member of the Board of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. In 1989, he was presented a Distinguished Service Award by the College of Business at ASU. In 1993, he was awarded a Pioneer Award by the Economic Developers of Arkansas. In 2002, the EDA presented him with the Outstanding Economic Developer Award. In 2004, the ASU College of Business Alumni Association named him the Business Executive of the Year.

Henry Jones has an impressive lifelong resume dedicated to public service. I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in recognizing Henry Jones III for his tremendous contribution to Arkansas and our country.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO STOP GENOCIDE
AND VIOLENCE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 422, offered by my good friend from California, Ms. LEE. This resolution urges the People's Republic of China to use its influence and economic leverage to stop the genocide in Darfur.

I recently returned from a congressional delegation to China. I understand Beijing's unique economic and diplomatic ability to pressure the Government of Sudan. For example, China has invested in Sudan's oil industry and imports Sudan's oil. China's potential veto power at the U.N. Security Council gives China important influence over the issue. Finally, as revealed in media reports, China provides military assistance to Sudan. In light of these facts, China's condemnation of the atrocities in Darfur is simply not enough. For years, despite strong condemnation from the international community, the Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed allies continue to murder innocent civilians with impunity.

China must not only acknowledge and condemn the atrocities in Darfur, it must cease all military arms and related sales to the Sudan. During my trip to China, I was told that China is taking numerous steps to press Sudan to resolve the crisis in Darfur and that the international community should not link the 2008 Olympic Games with what is occurring in the Sudan. That is why I was startled to learn a month ago of news reports claiming that arms were freely flowing from China to Sudan, including reports of Chinese jet fighters in Darfur. For example, Amnesty International has reported that Sudan imported \$24 million worth of arms and ammunition, nearly \$57 million worth of parts and aircraft equipment, and \$2 million worth of parts for helicopters and aircraft from China. Such reports are definitely more than the "limited" assistance that Chinese officials claim is taking place.

I understand that China has taken some constructive steps and is deeply concerned about what is occurring in Sudan. I applaud China's efforts in using diplomatic means to

resolve the conflict, such as the April 2007 trip of Zhai Jun to Sudan to push the Sudanese Government to accept a United Nations peacekeeping force. These steps are necessary, but in a conflict in which at least 200,000 people—some say as many as 400,000—have died and 2.5 million have been displaced, it is crucial to cut off the supply of war machinery which fuels the conflict. On my visit to China, I worked strenuously to convey that we all live together in the spirit of cooperation and friendship. As the host of the 2008 Olympics, I know the Chinese hold this belief and hope that they will continue to work together with the international community to end the violence in Darfur.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MOLLIE
SINGER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mollie Singer a recent recipient of 12th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award from Nevada in 2007.

Mollie Singer is currently a senior attending Nevada State High School. At the age of 4, she was diagnosed with diabetes and now it is her goal to vigorously raise money and promote awareness of the disease. Each year Mollie organizes a team to participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Walk to Cure Diabetes, her efforts have raised over \$100,000 for the foundation. Mollie also organizes luncheons, picnics and other events to collect money for medical research.

In addition to her efforts on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Mollie has educated the public by co-authoring a booklet called "The Road to a Cure", produced a video diary, and made public announcements. She has also formed a support group for those diagnosed with the disease. For her efforts, Mollie will receive a \$1,000 award along with a silver medallion and a trip to Washington D.C. for her dedication to volunteering for this very worthy cause.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mollie Singer. Her efforts to raise awareness and find a cure for Diabetes are commendable. I wish Mollie continued success in her efforts.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael J. Burns, of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Vice Admiral Eric T. Olson, USN, for appointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Special Operations Command, Thomas P. D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy, and Michael G. Vickers, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the Universal Service Fund, focusing on as-

sessing the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the health effects of asbestos, focusing on methods of mitigating such impacts.

SD-406

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of the Foreign Assistance Reform, focusing on successes, failures, and the next steps; to be followed immediately by a full committee hearing to examine the nomination of the Reuben Jeffery III, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing telework policies and initiatives in the federal government.

SD-562

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine terrorist ideology.

SH-216

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider original bills entitled "The Higher Education

Access Reconciliation Act" and "The Higher Education Amendments of 2007", and other pending calendar business.

SD-628

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Woods Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Joseph Adam Ereli, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

SD-419

JUNE 14

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine public safety and competition issues, focusing on the 700MHz auction.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to mark up pending legislation.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 12

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States trade relations with China.

SR-253