

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.