

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOUTHWESTERN RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL—OUR MOST VALUABLE TEAM

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to personally congratulate the Southwestern Randolph High School varsity softball team on its win at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A softball championship. On June 2, 2007, the Southwestern Randolph Cougars accomplished a phenomenal feat in completing the season with an almost perfect record of 31–1. Even more remarkably, the team finished the season with no losses to other 3-A schools and was able to claim the first state championship for the school since 2001.

Congratulations are in order for Anna Maness who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, not only because of her accomplishments on the field, but also because of her attitude about the game. In fact, Maness told the Asheboro Courier-Tribune, "I couldn't have done it without defense; I couldn't have done it without the offense. It should say Most Valuable Team." It is this kind of teamwork that makes the entire Southwestern Randolph team special. Maness should also be commended on her impressive efforts during the tournament, striking out 16 batters and allowing no runs.

Looking at the roster, it is easy to see that the most noteworthy thing about this group of young women is their ability to work together. The seniors on the team: Valerie Campbell, Brittany York, Jessica Hogan, Natalie Haithcox, Ashley Seawell, and Kendra Cox finished their four years together on the team with an impressive 110–13 record, making it to the final tournament every year but one. Cougars Head Coach Steve Taylor told the Asheboro Courier-Tribune that he credited the success of the seniors to the fact that, "all their work ethics were positive toward reaching their goals."

The entire roster contributed to Southwestern Randolph's latest softball triumph. The other members of the team included: Brittany Marsh, Stacy McCaskill, Ashley Jones, Nicole England, Kristen Simmons, Dalton Brower, Brittany Garren, Amelia Frye, Holly Berry, Katheryn Auman, Cynthia Hayes, Hannah Hughes, and Erin Billups.

Those who didn't wear a uniform, but contributed in so many other ways, can equally share the accolades coming to Southwestern Randolph's champions. We start with Head Coach Steve Taylor, Assistant Coaches Lee McCaskill, Danny Campbell, and Wendel Seawell, Athletic Director Gary Leach, and Principal Dr. Chris Vecchione. Congratulations are also in order for the faculty, staff, students, and families of Southwestern Randolph High School on another outstanding athletic season.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of the Sixth District of North Carolina in congratulating everyone involved in this outstanding athletic achievement. I am glad to see that these young athletes were able to see their hard work and determination lead to a state championship.

JOHN HAYDEN CHIAVETTA MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Bryan and Rebekah Sparrow Chiavetta on the birth of their second child, John Hayden Chiavetta. John was born on Thursday, May 24, 2007 and weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces. My wife Faye joins me in wishing John and Rebekah and their daughter, Charlotte, great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that John and Rebekah feel at this special time. And I know that Charlotte is excited to have a brother with whom she can share the wonders of childhood. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I know the Chiavettas look forward to the changes and challenges that their new son will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young John into the world and wish John and Rebekah all the best as they raise him.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION ACT, 2008

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as we consider the FY 2008 Military Constructions Appropriations Act, I am concerned that we are significantly under funding our commitment to clean up communities impacted by base closures in the past. There is an estimated \$3.5 billion backlog of environmental cleanup at bases closed during the previous BRAC rounds. Unfortunately, the funding levels in this bill are not enough to make a dent in cleaning up bases closed in previous BRAC rounds.

The bill does include significant funding to deal with cleanup at bases closed in the 2005 BRAC round. The irony is that the new round of BRAC has so much money appropriated that current outlays will spend less than 10%

in the upcoming fiscal year of its budget authority while in the same vein the Legacy BRAC account will be spending nearly half of its budget authority in the same fiscal year. I appreciate that there is an increase above the President's budget for this effort, but it is simply not enough to make up for past years of Congress abrogating its responsibility of environmental restoration of past BRAC rounds.

Communities across the nation have waited decades for remediation and at the current levels of funding will have to wait for over 40 years before the job is done. In order to address this problem, I am submitting the following amendment with my colleague Congresswoman BROWN-WAITE in order to properly finish the job of environmental clean up at former military bases before we can fully address a new round of cleanup.

The amendment I am offering decreases by \$201,000,000 the Base Realignment and Closure Account 2005 account and increases the Base Realignment and Closure Account 1990 by \$50,000,000 in order to work towards this goal. CBO has scored this amendment as outlay neutral.

CENTRAL DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL—OUR PERFECT SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, pitching a perfect game is certainly an amazing feat on its own. Pitching a perfect game in the championship, however, is something particularly special. Words cannot describe just how rare this feat is. So, please allow me to brag for just a bit about the remarkable achievements of Chelsea Leonard and the rest of the North Carolina State High School Athletic Association 2-A softball champion Central Davidson High School Spartans.

On June 2, 2007, Ms. Leonard pitched Central Davidson to a resounding 4–0 victory over South Brunswick High School, while not allowing a single hit. She also struck out 18 of 21 batters. And on her way to winning MVP of the tournament, she tallied an impressive 53 strikeouts while compiling a 3–0 record. What's more, she didn't allow a single run or even a hit for 19 innings. Folks, these numbers are simply off the charts.

And while Chelsea—a sophomore no less—performed spectacularly throughout the state tournament, the rest of the team was equally impressive. In the run-up to the Spartans' second consecutive year in the state softball finals, every member of the team contributed to a sparkling 32–1 record. So, please allow me to recognize every member of this fine team: Ashley Hulin, Tess Swing, Carrie Jernigan, Whitney Lohr, Heather Lanier, Nicole Perry, Lindsay Thore, Hannah Buie, Allison Lohr, Erin Cole, Gina Antonucci, and

• 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.

Haley Hanes all contributed to this special season with their pitching, hitting, base running, and fine defense.

Accolades are also in order for the talented coaching staff, including, of course, Head Coach and Athletic Director Gene Poindexter who brought his team back to the finals after a difficult loss in that game last year. His hard work over the past 8 years has been instrumental to the Spartans' success. The assistant coaches—Steve Hayes, Brian Starnes, Jim Welborn, Greg Leonard, Richard Cid, Sterling Charles, Mike Pickett, and Jordan Stogner—all deserve special recognition. This sensational season would not have been possible without their help or without the support of Principal Kevin Firquin. And I cannot forget to mention the terrific fans who supported the team throughout the entire season and who came out in force to cheer on the Spartans in the state tournament.

Madam Speaker, this was a spectacular season for the Central Davidson High School softball team. I am sure that everyone in the Sixth District of North Carolina will join me in congratulating all of these fine athletes and the rest of the Central Davidson High School community on their outstanding achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID BYRON CHAPEL AS A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

### HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Byron Chapel, a constituent from Parma, Michigan who has been named a member of the 43rd Class of Presidential Scholars. The Presidential Scholarship was established in 1964 to honor our country's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Only 144 high school seniors are offered the title of a Presidential Scholar, and I am proud to honor David Byron Chapel as one of Michigan's two Presidential Scholars.

Mr. Chapel's work has spanned all areas of community service; from mission trips with his youth group, local service projects, peer tutoring and his church music program. David has touched the lives of many with his service.

Highlights of Mr. Chapel's volunteer work include a center for underprivileged children, summer Vacation Bible School, fundraising projects for his school's Academic Boosters Club, frequent visits to his local nursing home to spend time with the elderly, and service as a substitute Church pianist. In addition, David has spent numerous weekends helping with Church maintenance, local landscaping and yard work, as well as operating his own small-scale lawn care business.

David's academic achievements are exemplified through the numerous scholarships he has already been awarded. He has received such awards as the Marsh Family Scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship for exemplary academic performances throughout his high school career. In addition to these prestigious awards, David has received numerous other recognitions.

These are not the first awards Mr. Chapel has received to honor his achievements. David has been named a National Merit Finalist, Student of the Month, Big 10 Drum Major and Best Supporting Actor in his high school drama program. He has also worked diligently to receive his Academic Letter and Pin, the Community Service award all four years of high school, Honor Roll and All A's Award's each semester.

I offer the congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives to Mr. David Byron Chapel for his leadership, dedication to community service, and being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND JOAN SHAMP

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great couple who are a wonderful example of what is right with America. John and Joan Shamp just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Sadly, in America, it has become a rare thing for two people to stay together this long.

They are the proud parents of five children and very involved in the lives of their grandchildren. They exemplify achieving the American dream through hard work, and they demonstrate the love of a strong family who are there to help each other and others daily. I wish them many more happy years!

HONORING UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDER WILLIAM J. QUIGLEY

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding career of William J. Quigley, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Coast Guard.

Commander William J. Quigley is the Prospective Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Group. He assumed his current duties as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Commander, Naval Security Group, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in 2004. Immediately prior to this assignment, he served as Chief, Intelligence Resource Management Office, Intelligence Directorate, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Commander Quigley was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and grew up in Hudson, New Hampshire. A 1984 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, Commander Quigley began his career as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) ALERT (WMEC-630) in Cape May, New Jersey. Commander Quigley's service included numerous afloat assignments and is a qualified Coast Guard Cutterman.

Commander Quigley's shore side assignments include duty as a Watch Officer at the Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center in Washington, D.C.; the supervisor of the Coast Guard Detachment at the Navy Operational Intelligence Center in Suitland, Maryland; the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Department of State in Washington, D.C. and Chief, Operational Analysis and Planning Division, Office of Operations Strategic and Business Planning, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

Commander Quigley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence (MSSI), earned at the Joint Military Intelligence College, Washington, DC. Individual military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Coast Guard Commendation Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Commander Quigley is married to the former Paula May Harris of Hampden, Massachusetts. They currently reside in Millersville, Maryland with their two sons, Kyle and Connor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring Commander William J. Quigley, a man whose deep commitment to the United States and the United States Coast Guard has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to our great country.

IN PRAISE OF ARMY SGT MATTHEW SOPER

### HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise Sergeant Matthew Soper, a constituent of mine who died while serving his country in Iraq; Sgt. Soper's truck was hit by an IED in Iraq on June 6, 2007.

SGT Soper of Jackson was 25-years-old. Sergeant Matthew Soper served in the Michigan Army National Guard's 1461st Transportation Company based in Jackson. Sergeant Soper was courageous as he manned the front vehicle gun in his company.

SGT Soper's family has said the military changed their son and brother. His sister stated he joined the military to "call something his own," and to make people proud. Nothing serves as greater evidence to the heart of this young man than his selflessness in volunteering for a second tour of duty in Iraq. SGT Soper's first tour was in 2004 and 2005. I stand here today to tell the country and SGT Soper's family how proud of him I am.

The country mourns the loss of a soldier and we celebrate his life. My thoughts and prayers are with Matthew's family. I thank them for their beloved sons' dedicated service to the United States. May God be with them.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 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 12, 2007

Rollcall vote 461, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

JUNE 13, 2007

Rollcall vote 462, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 463, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 464, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall vote 465, on motion that the committee rise and leave as unfinished business—H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008—I would have voted “aye.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPHINE  
ELIZABETH SEATON FRANKLIN

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to Dr. Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Franklin. This remarkable woman is celebrating her 80th birthday July 1, 2007. As a founding member and first president of Theta Rho Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Sorority, Dr. Foster has had a monumental role in the Chapter's scholarship work and community service.

Through the Josephine Elizabeth Seaton Foundation, the Theta Rho Omega Chapter has provided funds for academic scholarships. The Chapter has given more than \$90,000 to scholars and community service projects. Dr. Franklin is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and holds a master degree and doctorate degree in education. Throughout her lengthy career, Dr. Franklin has continued to demonstrate a love of education. She has taught in Virginia, Michigan and Chicago. Dr. Franklin's steadfast commitment to others undoubtedly exemplifies her generosity of spirit and dedication to countless educational and humanitarian causes.

Dr. Franklin's birthday on July 1st is special because this gracious and admirable woman has devoted herself magnanimously to helping others. She is recognized by her community, her friends, and her loved ones as a pillar of

strength and compassion. Dr. Franklin's effort to make the world a better place is truly admirable.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO DIRECT THE OCCUPATIONAL  
SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINIS-  
TRATION TO ISSUE A STANDARD  
REGULATING WORKER EXPO-  
SURE TO DIACETYL

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency interim final standard, and after 2 years, a final standard to protect workers against a butter flavoring chemical called diacetyl. Exposure to diacetyl has been found to cause a devastating lung disease known as bronchiolitis obliterans, or “popcorn lung.” Diacetyl has been described by NIOSH as causing “astonishingly grotesque” effects in workers' lungs—often in a very short time period.

Dozens of workers at microwave popcorn factories or factories where flavors are produced have become sick, and several have died. Others are awaiting lung transplants. Thousands more workers are exposed at factories that make or use flavorings throughout the country. The Workplace Protections Subcommittee held a hearing in April on OSHA's failure to issue health and safety standards. Eric Peoples, a former employee of a Missouri popcorn plant who is awaiting a double lung transplant, testified that he was never informed of the hazards of diacetyl while working at the plant. “I played by the rules. I worked to support my family. This unregulated industry virtually destroyed my life. Don't let it destroy the lives of others,” Peoples asked the committee.

The interim final standard will apply to the food flavorings industry and the microwave popcorn production and packaging industry. This bill will also require OSHA to issue a final diacetyl standard within 2 years of issuing the interim final standard. The final standard will apply to all locations where diacetyl is processed or used. Although we are expecting OSHA to follow the normal administrative procedures for issuing the final standard, we expect the agency to do whatever is necessary and allowed by the various procedural laws and regulations to ensure that the final standard can be issued within the 2-year deadline. In any case, the interim final standard will remain in effect until the final standard is issued.

It is with some reluctance that I offer this legislation. Over 35 years ago, Congress gave OSHA the authority to address workplace hazards, and gave the agency the ability to issue emergency standards. But OSHA has not acted. OSHA has known that diacetyl causes bronchiolitis obliterans or popcorn lung for over 5 years ever since the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health published evidence in 2002 linking diacetyl to bronchiolitis obliterans, yet OSHA has not even issued an information bulletin. Last year, House Democrats urged the Labor Department to address this serious health hazard.

OSHA has not responded. Also last year, two labor unions, supported by a letter signed by 42 of the Nation's leading occupational health scientists and physicians, petitioned the agency for an emergency standard. OSHA has still not responded to that petition.

The measures required by the bill are feasible and affordable. In fact, they are the same measures already recommended by the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, the main industry association for the flavorings industry, in 2004. The association has voted to support this legislation and the issuance of an OSHA standard.

The measures mandated by this bill are also consistent with recommendations from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, and we expect OSHA to work closely with NIOSH to ensure that the final standard is fully protective and completed by the deadline set by this bill.

It is clear that an emergency exists and that this hazard presents a grave danger and significant risk of life-threatening illness to exposed workers. If OSHA will not act, then Congress must act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN  
CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to once again introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Currently, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any non-citizen who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable and is far from what our Founders intended when they drafted our Constitution. It undermines the very concept of citizenship as enshrined in the United States Constitution: to be constitutionally entitled to U.S. citizenship one must be “born . . . in the United States” and “subject to the jurisdiction thereof.” This second, and most important, part means that in order to gain U.S. citizenship one must owe and actively express allegiance to the United States in addition to the act of being born on United States soil.

Practically, what the current state of affairs does is cheapen citizenship. Rather than impart all the obligations and responsibilities of being an American, it becomes merely a ticket to welfare and other Federal benefits. The history of the United States is that of immigrants, but previously individuals from diverse backgrounds accepted the obligations of citizenship in exchange for the great benefits of living in the United States as Americans.

This proposed constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It

cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state. I hope my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

**SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT  
AND DEMOCRATIC KOSOVO**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from official travel as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission to several locations in Europe and the Middle East. One stop was Kosovo, which is presently high on the international agenda.

As we all know, the Special Envoy for the UN Secretary-General, former Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari, has submitted a comprehensive proposal for settling the status of Kosovo. If adopted, the proposal would end the eight years of limbo in which Kosovo has found itself since the NATO intervention ended a long period of brutality and repression by Serbian authorities under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic. Nevertheless, some countries represented on the UN Security Council have problems with the Ahtisaari plan, and Russian opposition, based at least in part on issues having little if anything to do with Kosovo and the Balkans, would doom action at the United Nations. Last week's G-8 summit failed to break the impasse within the international community.

During my stay in Kosovo, I was thoroughly briefed by the U.S. Office in Pristina, led by Tina Kaidanow, as well as by Brigadier General Douglas Earhart of the 29th Infantry Division, who commands U.S. forces in Kosovo as well as multinational task force located in the southeast portion of Kosovo. The head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, German Ambassador Werner Wnendt, provided the perspective of one of the international missions in the field. I also had the opportunity to meet the Kosovo Prime Minister, the Minister for Communities and Returns and representatives of the Kosovo "Unity Team." I traveled to Mitrovica where I also met representatives of the Serb community, and I visited areas at different locations where housing has been built to accommodate the return of those Serbs and Roma displaced by violence.

Based on my observations, I support the Ahtisaari proposal. It provides for independence for Kosovo, which I believe can be justified on grounds of what happened in Kosovo under Serbian rule as well as the right of self-determination, a right included in the Helsinki Final Act. The overwhelming majority of the people of Kosovo want independence, and the United Nations made it a credible possibility in Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted at the end of the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

At the same time, and perhaps more important, the Ahtisaari proposal contains provisions regarding the decentralization of powers to Serb-majority municipalities, numerous human rights protections for ethnic communities, and the protection of religious and cultural heritage sites so important to the Serb community. If implemented, these provisions offer a good possibility for the Serb and other non-Albanian communities to survive in what would be a multi-ethnic Kosovo. Independence would be

supervised by the international community, to ensure both a smooth transfer of authority and full implementation of the proposal.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remain naturally concerned about the human rights situation in Kosovo. My priority is a Kosovo where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, and where democracy, tolerance and the rule of law are established, regardless of the course or outcome of deliberations on Kosovo's status. Such a Kosovo does not yet exist; many problems remain. I do believe, however, that in a situation where no answers are easily found the Ahtisaari plan has the best potential to achieve these goals, and I will work to ensure that the Helsinki Commission encourages their achievement even after status is determined.

I wish to conclude my remarks, Madam Speaker, by announcing my intention to cosponsor House Resolution 309, expressing the sense of the House that the United States should support independence for Kosovo. Some of the concerns expressed in an alternative piece of legislation, House Resolution 445, are ones that I share, but continued delay on this issue helps nobody on the ground. The Ahtisaari proposal, in addition to addressing status, provides a means for securing the return and sustainability of the Serb and other ethnic communities in Kosovo, and I believe the people of the region would be best served by trying to make its provisions a reality.

**HONORING MSGT RICHARD J.  
BRULE UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Richard J. Brule, as he retires from the United States Air Force. MSgt Brule hails from Colorado Springs, CO and enlisted in the USAF on May 14th, 1987. During his tenure, he has consistently shown leadership and motivational skills in training other personnel in various skills.

MSgt. Brule began his Air Force career as an experienced mechanic and while at Nellis A1C, helped to establish a "Self Help" bay by building, supplying and mounting a tool shadow board in the minor maintenance section. This project enabled local organizations to perform their own minor maintenance which helped to clear the work order backlog, often returning vehicles to service within the same day. Continuing his exemplary service, Brule was selected as "Airman of the Quarter" while stationed at RAF Bentwaters in the UK. During operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Brule played a key role in preparing and deploying 120 vehicles to the AOR.

Shortly after arriving at Aviano AFB in Italy in 1992, Brule was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His mechanical knowledge and management skills led to his selection as NCOIC of the Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Center. In 1996, SSgt Brule was assigned to F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming and was selected as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the 90th Security Forces Squadron Vehicle Repair Station, where he was responsible for the maintenance of 125 rapid response vehi-

cles. Within a year of arriving at Sembach Annex, Germany, SSgt Brule was again promoted, this time to Technical Sergeant, where he assumed a great deal of responsibility. Finally, in 2006, MSgt Brule arrived at the 1st Detachment, 345th Training Squadron at Naval Base Ventura County, in my Congressional District. MSgt. Brule is currently teaching the gas phase and pipeline.

It is my pleasure to submit this to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, recognizing the character and dedication of MSgt Brule, upon his retirement.

**HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE DAN  
MONTGOMERY**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Chief of Police Dan Montgomery, of Westminster, Colorado.

Chief Montgomery's retirement was news in my district, and I believe it is fitting to honor his public service in the Denver metropolitan area for nearly four decades. Chief Montgomery has served as the Chief of Police in Westminster for more than 24 years. Such a life-long commitment to public safety is deserving of special recognition.

Dan Montgomery is passionate about protecting the public and realized early in his life that his calling was to serve in the police force. From his first job as a campus police officer, to his leadership as a police chief for one of Colorado's fastest growing suburban communities, Chief Montgomery has demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding law and order in our society. As a field officer, he will be remembered for his work on the Leeora Rose Looney case in Lakewood, Colorado, in 1971. Chief Montgomery leaves a professional legacy as a law enforcement official who always "supported his troops."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Police Chief Montgomery, and others in the law enforcement community just like him, for their steadfast commitment to justice and public safety. We also recognize Chief Dan Montgomery's leadership and fortitude. I am also proud to acknowledge Police Chief Montgomery's accomplishments as noted in the following article published by the Westminster Window on May 24, 2007.

**POLICE CHIEF SET TO CAP CAREER**

(By Rachel Ceccarelli)

Westminster Police Chief Dan Montgomery says he is ready to finish his 45-year career in law enforcement.

Montgomery will retire as Chief of Police on June 1, and Deputy Chief Lee Birk will take the lead.

"It just dawned on me one day that I have been married to my wife Bonnie for 46 years and been a police officer for 45," Montgomery said. "It was just time."

Montgomery says he decided it was time to retire and devote more time to his wife, grown children and granddaughter.

Nonetheless, he plans to continue doing some part-time police consulting.

Montgomery has been the Westminster Police Chief for more than 24 years.

His career began in the 1960s as a police officer in Los Gatos, California. After years of working in California, he moved to Colorado to work with the Lakewood Police Department.

It was at this job that Montgomery encountered what he considers his most memorable and difficult case.

"I haven't forgotten about Leeora Rose after all these years," Montgomery said.

Leeora Rose was a 20-year-old waitress at a Lakewood doughnut shop who disappeared on Aug. 20, 1971. Police found her raped and killed three days after her disappearance.

Montgomery said after months of investigations, a single fingerprint on a coffee cup left behind by a suspect solved the case. The fingerprint matched that of a man named Carl Taylor. After his arrest, he and his partner in crime, Sherman McCray, admitted to 15 homicides across the United States. They were sentenced to life in prison.

Montgomery said as far as he knows, Taylor is still in prison, and McCray committed suicide in 1988.

"I didn't like the carnage left behind by criminals, so I decided to do something about it," said Montgomery on why he chose a career in law enforcement. "That was my calling."

Montgomery said as he continued his police work in Westminster, he knew that he wanted to be a chief that supported officers.

"My motto is support me and I'll support you," said Montgomery, adding that he doesn't mean blindly agreeing with everything his officers do but supporting them when it's needed.

Birk said Montgomery was an excellent chief to work with at the department.

"Dan has been a great role model and mentor," said Birk, adding that Montgomery's leadership has set him in the right direction to take over as police chief.

Public support for police officers is one thing Montgomery said was his career highlight along with the passage of the public safety tax in 2003. Montgomery said the fact that City Council and residents voted to pass the ballot issue was integral to the operation of the police department.

"It's my crowning moment of glory," Montgomery said. "It really was a team effort, and I don't know where we would be if it hadn't passed."

Montgomery said he knows the police department will be left in good hands with Birk replacing him and the public safety tax in place.

In his spare time, Montgomery plans to golf and spend time with his family.

What Montgomery said he would miss the most is the relationships he has created with city staff and members of the police department.

He will also miss fighting crime.

"I'm going to miss putting punks, perverts and predators in jail," Montgomery said.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE,  
MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICT  
"COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' NA-  
TIONAL AWARD FOR EXCEL-  
LENCE"

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achieve-

ment of the Independence, Missouri school district on winning the Coalition for Community Schools' Award for Excellence.

Every year the Coalition for Community Schools honors communities and schools that are dedicated to the goal of the Coalition of bringing together the expertise of schools and their communities to help students succeed. Independence, Missouri is being recognized this year for their outstanding core principles. They are result-oriented, address real student and family needs, and engage students and school and community leaders.

The Coalition for Community Schools will honor Independence along with 2 other communities and 3 schools with a breakfast on Capitol Hill on June 14th.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking the members of Independence, Missouri. Their dedication to the education of our youth is a credit to our Nation, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

### TRIBUTE TO STERLING INTERNATIONAL, INC.

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sterling International Incorporated for celebrating 25 years in business. Since inception, the core focus of Sterling's business has been to build and sell highly effective and environmentally responsible pest control products that are safe for the consumer, easy to use, and reasonably priced. In the past 25 years, Sterling has steadily grown its business and is the leader in its market niche.

Company founder and President Rod Schneidmiller developed Sterling's first product, a reusable fly trap, by experimenting in his kitchen and later began selling it throughout eastern Washington in 1982. Ace Hardware was the first retailer to buy Sterling's product on a national level in the mid-1980s, which resulted in a huge breakthrough in awareness and acceptance of the insect trap category. Today, Mr. Schneidmiller's innovations include a disposable trap for flies and a reusable trap for yellow jackets.

Twenty-five years after the company's humble start, Sterling International sells its line of fly traps, along with yellow jacket and Japanese Beetle traps, throughout the U.S. in retailers such as Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware and True Value Hardware. The company also distributes its product internationally, to customers in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

With a world-class insect research laboratory as part of its headquarters in Spokane, Washington, Sterling will soon release even more ground-breaking consumer products that will make pest control smarter.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rod Schneidmiller and Sterling International Incorporated for their outstanding accomplishments. I invite my colleagues to join

me in celebrating 25 years of service from Mr. Schneidmiller and Sterling International Incorporated.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote No. 453 on June 12, 2007.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 453, Crowley Amendment on Homeland Security Appropriations to increase terrorism prevention funding in urban areas by \$50 million and decrease funding for the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management by \$15 million and the Office of the Under Secretary of Management by \$35 million, "nay."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, from 6:00 p.m. until the end of the legislative day, I traveled home due to an unexpected medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"No" on the Crowley Amendment No. 21 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 453).

"Aye" on the Campbell (CA) Amendment No. 43 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 454).

"Aye" on the Reichert Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 455).

"Aye" on the King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 456).

"Aye" on the Lamborn Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 457).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 458).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 459).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 460).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 461).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 462).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 463).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 464).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 465).

HONORING OFFICER ROBERT HODGES FOR HIS VALLANT SERVICE TO THE SOUTHLAKE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude and praise to Officer Robert Hodges of the Southlake Department of Public Safety for his invaluable contributions to his community and for his bravery in times of turmoil.

Officer Hodges has loyally served as a police officer for more than 18 years. He began his career with a five-year stint at the Lake Worth Police Department, worked shortly for the Sansom Park Police Department and has spent his last 12 years with Southlake DPS.

In 1997 Hodges obtained his Instructor certification and began teaching other officers the skills necessary to be a Motorcycle Traffic Officer. Over the past 10 years, Officer Hodges has taught many of the Traffic Officers throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area such skills and his dedication has affected the lives of many officers in the region.

Throughout his career, Officer Hodges has also touched lives in many other roles. In 2003 he initiated the first-ever police "Motorcycle Rodeo" to raise funds for Special Olympics. Through Officer Hodges' efforts and the Motorcycle Rodeo, more than \$12,000 was donated to the Special Olympics. The following year, Hodges organized a second Motorcycle Rodeo and managed to raise another \$7,000 for the cause. And 5 years ago, Officer Hodges was awarded the department's Life Saving Award and is credited for saving the life of a two-year-old child. In the incident, Hodges responded to a drowning call involving the small child who had been retrieved from a pool and was non-responsive. Officer Hodges cleared the child's airway and began administering CPR. Through his quick actions, he revived the child and kept her stable until medical help arrived.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Officer Robert Hodges. I would also like to recognize his wife, Beth Hodges, and his son, Bobby Hodges, for their immense courage during difficult circumstances. It is a privilege to represent the Hodges family in the 24th District of Texas and I pray for God's blessings upon them.

FREEDOM FOR LÁZARO JOAQUÍN ALONSO ROMÁN

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lázaro Joaquín Alonso Román, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Alonso Román is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires freedom for the peo-

ple of Cuba. His dream is that all Cubans be allowed to freely exercise their fundamental human rights. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the totalitarian dictatorship specifically targets those courageous men and women who bravely risk their lives and the safety of their families to shed light on the realities of totalitarian Cuba.

On July 13, 2005, Mr. Alonso Román was shamefully arrested while participating in a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Havana honoring the victims of the "13 of March" tugboat massacre of 1994 in which 72 men, women and children were chased down and attacked by the regime's security thugs for attempting to flee the dictatorship in search of freedom. More than half of the unarmed refugees on the tugboat were systematically drowned at the direct order of the tyrant while they struggled to stay alive in the ocean waters.

After serving 21 months of a two-year "sentence" for "public disorder, rebellion and reckless endangerment", Mr. Alonso Román was released from the infernal dungeons on April 24, 2007. On May 19, less than a month later, Mr. Alonso Román was thrown back in the dictatorship's hellish gulag for expressing concern over why the regime's gangster thugs were deliberately harassing him and demanding to see his identification papers. According to his wife, Juana Delma Ruiz, his mere questions were enough for the regime's thugs to brutally handcuff and shove her husband into a police car and drag him to Dragones Prison in Havana.

Once in the irons of Dragones Mr. Alonso Román was informed that he would be "tried" on trumped-up charges of "resisting arrest and contempt" which would lead to more undeserved misery and suffering of the confines of a totalitarian dungeon. Let me be clear, Mr. Alonso Román is being caged simply for questioning the injustice with which he is treated.

An injustice anywhere is an affront to justice everywhere, said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Alonso Román is representative of the longing for freedom of the Cuban people and their rejection of the brutality, depravity and oppression of the totalitarian regime. It is reprehensible that thousands of men and women like Mr. Alonso Román are languishing in hellish conditions because they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful Cubans are locked in a tyrant's dungeons for believing in a free Cuba. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, including those who live under the vicious and unforgiving darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lázaro Joaquín Alonso Román and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2007*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 65, the Lumbee Rec-

ognition Act, and I commend my esteemed colleague from North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, for his leadership on behalf of the Lumbee Tribe to gain Federal recognition which I believe is long overdue for the Lumbees.

More than a century ago, the State of North Carolina had come to terms with a tribe of Native Americans descended by the historic Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking tribe located on Drowning Creek in North Carolina. In 1885, along with State recognition of the Lumbee Tribe came the establishment of a separate school system for Lumbee children to help preserve and respect both tribal ancestry and cultural practices. Shortly after State recognition, the Lumbee Tribe sought to attain Federal Recognition.

The issue of Lumbee recognition before this Congress, which began in the late 1800's, is both voluminous and lengthy. What has been made explicitly clear, however, is that the Lumbee Tribe is a distinct self-governing Indian community. Yet for reasons that have been either fiscal in nature or contrary to Federal Indian policy Congress has failed to act. Again, however, the Congressional record is abundantly and overwhelmingly clear that the Lumbee Tribe meet a threshold for Congress to bestow it Federal recognition without prohibitions.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 65.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS ALLEN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis Allen, and to celebrate over 35 years of service to northeast Ohio's children. As Dennis retires from service, I join the chorus of thousands that have been touched by his guidance.

Since 1971, when he began his career as a teacher, Dennis has demonstrated an unflagging commitment to the children of northeast Ohio. After 5 years as a teacher, Dennis moved into a career as an administrator, acting as a principal and later as superintendent. He has spent the last 12 years as the superintendent of Rocky River School District, stewarding the district through an unprecedented period of growth and accomplishment.

Dennis has been the recipient of numerous awards, and has been called upon frequently to share his expertise and wisdom. Northeast Ohio has been the beneficiary for over 30 years, and I am grateful for his unmatched contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dennis Allen for his service to northeast Ohio. Throughout his career, Dennis has held fast to his conviction that a strong foundation for a child and a community begins with a quality education. May future generations of educators draw inspiration from his efforts.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Federal Aviation Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2007. I am joined by BART GORDON, Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, as an original cosponsor of the Act.

This legislation is focused on ensuring the FAA will have the tools that it will need to keep the Nation's air transportation system safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly. To that end, the act reauthorizes a range of important R&D activities at the FAA, starts up new initiatives in some key areas, and contains provisions aimed at strengthening the interagency Joint Planning and Development Office, JPDO, which has the responsibility of planning and developing the Next Generation Air Transportation System, NextGen.

With respect to the JPDO, the act responds to the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office, GAO, as well as other expert witnesses that the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee heard from at our recent hearings by including provisions aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the JPDO. These include such things as: (1) strengthening the authority of the JPDO Director; (2) requiring each participating agency or department to identify a senior official to be in charge of its activities in support of the NextGen initiative; (3) requiring an integrated plan with date-specific timetables for implementation of NextGen capabilities; (4) requiring the JPDO's Senior Policy Committee to meet at least four times per year; (5) having OMB coordinate each agency or department's budget in support of the NextGen initiative; (6) directing JPDO to develop contingency plans for dealing with degradation of the NextGen system due to a natural disaster, major equipment failure, or act of terrorism; (7) requiring the JPDO to establish noise, emissions, and energy consumption requirements for the NextGen system; (8) directing JPDO to develop an R&D roadmap for the integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the national airspace system; (9) having GAO carry out annual reviews of JPDO's effectiveness.

As important as the JPDO and the NextGen initiative are, the act recognizes that the FAA, in coordination with other agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, has a critical role to play in supporting other important aviation R&D activities, a number of which have been underfunded in recent years according to the testimony of the GAO and FAA's own R&E advisory committee. To that end, the act augments the President's funding requests for human factors research, weather research, unmanned aircraft systems research, and energy- and environment-related research.

In addition, recent announcements from Europe regarding the potential imposition of emissions penalties on aircraft operations in the next decade have made it clear that the United States needs to better understand the

impact of aviation on the climate as well as what might be done to mitigate that impact. This legislation takes the first step in that direction by directing the FAA, in coordination with NASA and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program to develop a plan for such research and then having the National Research Council carry out an independent assessment of that research plan.

The Nation's colleges and universities have an important role to play in carrying out research in support of the Nation's future air transportation system. At the same time, that research is a critical means of helping to train the next generation of scientists, engineers, and aviation specialists that we will need over the coming decades. Thus, this act establishes a research grants program involving undergraduate students. It also contains provisions aimed at strengthening FAA's Centers of Excellence program.

The act also contains R&D provisions to continue engine research, in coordination with NASA, that has the goal of enabling existing general aviation aircraft to operate with unleaded aviation fuel. In addition, the legislation continues the Airport Cooperative Research Program and also establishes a runway research program that should benefit both general aviation and commercial air carrier airports.

Finally, in view of the increased importance of space weather to aviation, especially with the increased incidence of flight operations over the polar regions, the act establishes a multi-agency research program to conduct research on the impacts of space weather on aviation and air passengers.

Madam Speaker, air transportation is central to the Nation's economic well-being, our international competitiveness, and our quality of life. FAA's R&D programs play an important role in ensuring the continued safety and efficiency of America's air transportation system, and I believe that the Federal Aviation Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2007 will keep FAA's R&D enterprise healthy and productive.

CELEBRATING THE POST, TEXAS, CENTENNIAL

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, It was an honor to join the residents of Post, TX, on June 3, 2007 to celebrate the community's centennial.

As the Congressman for the 19th district, I often travel back and forth from Lubbock to the southern part of the district around Abilene. One of my favorite parts of the trip up and down U.S. Route 84 is approaching Post and looking across the caprock in the distance.

During my trips to each of the district's 27 counties, I also have developed an even deeper appreciation for many of the other qualities that make west Texas so special. Our region is home to the best people in the world who are always ready to welcome you into their hometowns.

Another quality that makes west Texas special is the strong sense of patriotism that so

many West Texans possess. We see this patriotism in the great numbers of young people who volunteer to defend freedom and protect American citizens by serving in the United States military.

This tradition continues on today. It continues in the form of young men and women like Colter Creech from Post. Colter—who has the distinction of being accepted into two military service academies—will attend the United States Air Force Academy beginning this summer.

Colter is a fine example of the type of young people that come from Post and towns like it across west Texas. He is smart, patriotic, and understands the importance of serving his country. Our freedom and the freedoms of millions across the globe will depend on fine young Americans like Colter.

As the residents of Post reflect on and celebrate their history, they can also look forward to a promising future knowing that the west Texas values that have sustained their community through the years continue to do so today.

ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, let us give praise to the longevity of Zion Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Tennessee as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of their founding. Many churches are often the social center for the communities they serve. Zion has long been ministering to the spiritual needs of Maury Countians and striving to provide a better life to those living abroad during their many mission trips.

Founded in 1807 by descendants of Scottish and Scott-Irish Presbyterians, the first house of worship was erected in the center of the 5,120 acres of land they purchased from the heirs of General Nathaniel Greene. With a strong commitment to God and their faith in the human spirit, may Zion Presbyterian Church continue their outreach and ministry.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL AIR PATROL  
CADET TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
CHRISTINE SPECHT FOR PLACING  
SECOND IN THE CAP 2007 NATIONAL  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION  
POSTER CONTEST

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Technical Sergeant Christine Specht for placing second in the CAP 2007 National Drug Demand Reduction Poster Contest.

Since 1994, the CAP has hosted the Drug Demand Reduction Program to promote and support education, community involvement, social responsibility, and respect for others. This year, the competition was sponsored by

the National Headquarters of the CAP at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, and open to distinguished members of the Cadet Program from all fifty states and two territories.

Cadet Technical Sergeant Specht entered the contest inspired by the CAP core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence and Respect and by her desire to instill those values in her subordinate cadets. As a staunch opponent of any form of drug abuse, Cadet Technical Sergeant Specht believes we should all do our best to live up to these core values.

I could not agree more.

Madam Speaker, on March 26, 2007, she was awarded the CAP's second place honors for her extraordinary ability to impart those values through artwork. Today, in honor of her legendary dedication to bettering the citizens of Michigan and of her contributions to the CAP, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet Technical Sergeant Christine Specht for her loyal and selfless service to our community and our country.

HONORING REVEREND DR.  
SAMUEL SIMPSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. Samuel Simpson, Pastor of the Bronx Baptist and Wake Eden community Baptist Churches in the Bronx was born in Jamaica West Indies. He relocated to the United States in the early sixties. He and his wife Lola Campbell have three children and five grandchildren. He is well known in the Bronx and the West Indian communities throughout the State and beyond.

In addition to leading the Bronx and Wake Eden congregations, Rev. Simpson has been instrumental in starting the Honeywell Baptist Chapel, and a newer mission in the Spring Valley area. Grace Baptist Chapel in the northern section of the Bronx is an offshoot of Bronx Baptist Church. Rev. Simpson also communicates his strong belief in helping people via the media, and writes a weekly column for the Carib News. Periodically he is heard on Family Radio and has been the subject of three books: "What God did for Me," "Sam Simpson, Architect of Hope," and his most recent "To Dream the Impossible Dream."

He serves in many capacities in the Baptist denomination. Among his leadership roles has been President—Baptist Convention of New York for two terms, and Moderator—Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Other areas of service were: President and Board Chairman of Protestant Council of Churches of New York, President, Bronx division of Council of Churches, Chairman of the Board and President, Bronx Shepherds Restoration, and Board Member, Northeastern Bible College. Rev. Dr. Simpson is a true man of God and a firm believer in serving the total person. He has worked tirelessly for his community both within and outside the Bronx seeking to improve the temporal and spiritual aspects of his congregation and his community.

We are a stronger, better community for his work.

CONGRATULATING THE INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Independence, Missouri School District for receiving a 2007 Community Schools National Award for Excellence. This prestigious award is bestowed upon only two other areas in our nation by the Coalition for Community Schools, honoring communities that demonstrate a commitment to creating community schools.

The Independence School District has worked tirelessly through its "Inspiring Greatness Initiative" to put public schools at the center of a connected community. To do this, the Independence School District has initiated programs that serve children, families, and the community before, during, and after school. In this way, the public schools become a hub for the larger community, connecting families and resources.

The "Inspiring Greatness Initiative" has had many successes. "Kids' Safari," the school district's before and after school program, which has been studied by Yale University, has resulted in increased classroom performance; greater self-reliance and task completion; and better school attendance, with students in the program attending significantly more days of school per year than those not in the program. In addition, the Independence School District is reaching out to families, providing over 17,000 home visits by social workers in 3 years, and running programs that result in 80 percent of children having contact with the school district before Kindergarten.

The Independence School District is a model of community participation in our schools. Each school has a Site Council, bringing together parents, teachers, students, and community members to assess and address the needs of the school and the neighborhood. In turn, the schools actively give back to the community, providing countless volunteer hours. With the help of the Local Investment Commission, the Independence School District has created a web of partnerships between government, business, and families, with community schools at the center. These partnerships are renewing community involvement and participation.

Madam Speaker, please join me on this wonderful occasion in congratulating the Independence School District; its dedicated staff, students and parents; its outstanding Superintendent, Dr. Jim Hinson, who recently received the distinguished 2007 Robert L. Pearce Award from the Missouri Association of School Administrators; and its superb Board of Education. Their hard work and unwavering commitment are a source of pride to the Fifth District of Missouri, and I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing sincere congratulations to the Independence School District for this remarkable achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA M. TOY, FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER SERVING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished career of Laura M. Toy, former Michigan State Senator representing the 6th District of Wayne County.

Throughout her career, Senator Toy improved the lives of countless citizens. Born on December 22, 1951, Senator Toy was raised in Livonia, Michigan, where she still resides today. After graduating from Livonia's Bentley High School, where she was president of her graduating class, she earned an Associate of Arts degree from Schoolcraft College, and thereafter a Bachelor of General Studies Degree from the University of Michigan.

Senator Toy began serving her community at a young age. A longtime small business owner, as a child she first sold pot holders to the neighbors to purchase clothes for her sister, Carol. She also sold penny candy to neighborhood children out of her garage, and was a member of the local Girl Scouts council. Later in her career, Senator Toy became a 28 year co-owner of Cardwell Florist in Livonia and a 7 year member of the Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees. With tireless devotion, she dedicated her time to improving the community as a Livonia City Council member for 8 years, the Livonia City Treasurer for 3 years, and as the 19th District Michigan State Representative for 4 years.

Thereafter, on November 7, 2002, Senator Toy was elected to the Michigan State Senate. During her tenure, Senator Toy served as Chair of the Local, Urban and State Affairs, Senior Citizens and Veteran Affairs Committees, and Vice Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee; and previously as Vice Chair of the Technology and Energy Committee. The sponsor of 22 Public Acts, she championed efforts to enhance Michigan's educational system, strengthen small businesses, and promote the rights of people with disabilities.

For her unwavering commitment to excellence, she has earned a number of prestigious awards, including: the Livonia Women of the Year and Outstanding Young Women of America awards, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Athena Award, the YMCA Honorable Legislator Award, the University of Michigan Alumni Community Service of the Year Award, and the Schoolcraft College Alumnus of the Year Award. The Association of the Retarded Citizen also recognized her efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities in 2000 with the Legislator of the Year award.

Senator Toy attributes her inspiration to the loved ones around her, including: her mother, Eileen Toy, who passed away in April of 2006, disabled brother Glen, who also passed away in 1998, sister Carol, brother Bruce, niece Corrin, nephew Christopher, and long-time business partner, Colleen Siembor. In return, her compassion, dedication, and loyalty continues to inspire all who know her.

Madam Speaker, during her distinguished career, Senator Toy has bettered the lives of

countless Michiganders. As she embarks upon the next chapter of her life, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding her legendary leadership, and in thanking her for her unfaltering service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLMESBURG BRANCH OF THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Holmesburg Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on celebrating its 100th Anniversary. I am proud that the Holmesburg Library has served the people of my district as a lending library since June 26, 1907.

The Holmesburg Library was named for Thomas Holme, who was granted the land that eventually became the Mayfair section of Philadelphia, in payment for his services as Surveyor General to William Penn. The Holmesburg Library began its development in the late 1800's, first as a subscription library and then becoming a free library in 1899 upon entering into an agreement with the Free Library of Philadelphia. In 1906, Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, donated funds for a new library building which opened on June 26, 1907. Andrew Carnegie's philosophy was that education is the key to life and that all people should have access to information through free local libraries.

The red brick library building sits on the main commercial avenue that defines the Mayfair neighborhood. Built in the Carnegie style with front steps leading up to a decorative and welcoming entrance, both the main and children's reading rooms maintain the integrity of the original architectural design to this day.

The Holmesburg librarians and staff work diligently to maintain the library as a hub of learning and community activity. Currently housing a collection of over 35,000 books and media as well as computers with Internet access for public use, the library has year-round programs that engage children and adults in lifelong learning pursuits, some in cooperation with local corporations and civic groups. Programs for youth include homework assistance, computer literacy, library skills, multicultural enrichment, and "Science in the Summer." Adult programming includes reading enjoyment, how-to seminars on gardening, and other topics of interest. Family programming includes movie nights for everyone's enjoyment.

The volunteer Friends of Holmesburg Library sustain outreach, advocacy and fundraising activities to strengthen the library's presence in the community. Their most recent venture is the planting of a Children's Reading Garden to be dedicated at the Library's 100th birthday celebration on June 20, 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Holmesburg Library's 100th anniversary milestone, and wish them many more years of community enrichment and service.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM HOLUB MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate four students from Holub Middle School in Houston, Texas.

Nicholas Chan, Andrew Ngo, Emily Tat and Eleanor Haack were among only 22 out of thousands of students selected to present their National History Day projects at the Smithsonian Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC.

Young history scholars were selected from Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin to present their work reflecting this year's National History Day theme "Triumph and Tragedy in History." The National History Day program annually engages more than half a million students in grades 6–12 across the country.

I believe that behind every promising student is a dedicated and committed teacher. In addition to commending the accomplishment of these students, I would also like to recognize their teachers, Cindi Payne and Doni King, for their dedication to fostering an appreciation for American history among the students at Holub Middle School.

The history of our great nation is full of lessons that transcend generations. By learning from our past, we ensure a brighter future. Programs like National History Day help to highlight this important connection and encourage teachers and students to rise above what is written in text books by bringing history to life.

HONORING FAITH AND HARRY FEDER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, health care has never been more important, or more complex, in the United States than it is today. An efficiently functioning health care system requires many contributors, perhaps especially evaluation and quality improvement.

Harry Feder is a senior vice president and chief operating officer of IPRO, one of the Nation's largest and most experienced health care evaluation and quality improvement organizations, and the man responsible for ensuring that necessary and appropriate care is provided across the continuum of care.

Faith Feder is well known for her commitment to education, her abiding concern for the elderly and the care of the needy. As part of her commitment to education, she has served as both the Treasurer and President of the SAR Academy, where she led a parent body of its 600 children. In addition, she has been involved in numerous communal causes that treat the uninsured and assist the elderly. She is a founder and treasurer of Foremost Home Care.

Harry has in-depth knowledge of processes and issues surrounding the monitoring and as-

essment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. He has extensive knowledge and a national perspective on programs dealing with Utilization Review, Quality Improvement, Managed Care, Long-Term Care, Fraud and Abuse, and Independent Review of Appeals.

He was awarded a Masters Degree in Public Administration from New York University Graduate School of Public Administration and is a lecturer in the Department of Health and Epidemiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine as well as on the faculty of the New York University School of Continuing Education.

Those are some of Harry's and Faith's accomplishments and just a few of the reasons that they are being honored by the Riverdale Jewish Center. For me, however, it is not only these accomplishments, but their being my close and dear friends for so many years that makes them so special.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE SERGEANT DAVID G. WURTZ, UPON RECEIVING THE 2007 NATIONAL MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S AWARD

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Detective Sergeant David G. Wurtz of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office upon receiving the 2007 National Missing and Exploited Children's Award for outstanding work in the case concerning Genevieve Nielson.

For nearly three decades, Detective Sergeant Wurtz has strived to better our community. Since joining the Oakland County Sheriff's Department in May of 1979, he has served in numerous Units, including the Road Patrol Unit, the Marine Division, the Protective Services Division, the Corrective Services Division, and in the Technical Services Division. In September of 1989, due to his superior investigative ability, Detective Sergeant Wurtz was promoted to Sergeant, and he currently serves in the Special Investigations Unit and as a hostage and crisis negotiator.

During his career, Detective Sergeant Wurtz has earned the recognition and admiration of his co-workers and community for his thorough investigations and criminal prosecutions. Recently, he teamed up with the United States Marshalls Service to investigate the kidnapping of Genevieve Nielson, the 21-month old infant who went missing during Mother's Day weekend in 1976. Detective Sergeant Wurtz has headed the case since 1990 and has a large box of files dedicated to Genevieve. Finally, after years of searching, his commitment to justice in the joint investigation led to Genevieve's discovery in Arizona.

Madam Speaker, Detective Sergeant Wurtz's uncanny ability to collect critical crime scene evidence, sort through complex information, and coordinate the efforts of dozens of investigators has resulted in the apprehension of Oakland County's most vicious criminals. For his unfaltering dedication to the people of Oakland County and for his leadership in the case of Genevieve Nielson, Detective Sergeant David G. Wurtz has been recognized

with the 2007 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Award. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Detective Wurtz for his relentless pursuit of dangerous criminals and legendary service to our community and our country.

**BAY PINES VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM RECEIVES GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL**

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to report to my colleagues that the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, which I have the privilege to represent, has just been awarded The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for meeting rigorous national standards for health care quality and safety.

This award in particular honors the staff, volunteers, and management team at Bay Pines for its Behavioral Health Care, Home Care, Long Term Care and Hospital programs. The Joint Commission is the Nation's oldest and largest health care standards-setting and accrediting body. The Gold Seal is the result of The Commission's unannounced, on-site evaluation of Bay Pines from April 10th to the 13th.

Following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues more information about this award and the standards to which its recipients are held.

Madam Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wallace M. Hopkins, the Director of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, the doctors, the nurses, and the volunteers at Bay Pines who are dedicated to caring for our Nation's veterans in a way befitting their brave and selfless service to our Nation and to the cause of freedom.

**BAY PINES VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AWARDED ACCREDITATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION**

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ for its Behavioral Health Care, Home Care, Long Term Care and Hospital programs.

"We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to safety and quality care," says Wallace M. Hopkins, FACHE, Director. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Darlene Christiansen, executive director, Hospital Accreditation Program, Joint Commission. "The community should be proud that Bay Pines VA Healthcare System is focusing on the most challenging goal—to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

Hopkins spoke of his pride in a staff whose members ask what needs to be done to be accredited by The Joint Commission. "In addition, they appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the team of surveyors."

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Bay Pines VA Healthcare System on April 10-13, 2007. The accreditation award recognizes Bay Pines VA Healthcare System's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, The Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

**CONGRATULATING THE HARLINGEN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM**

**HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the mighty Harlingen South High School Hawks, who last Saturday represented the City of Harlingen and the entire Rio Grande Valley of South Texas in the 2007 State Class 5A High School Baseball Championship. Harlingen South was first victorious over Midland Lee, 4-2, in its state semifinal game. The Hawks (38-6) then advanced to the state championship where they were defeated 6-1 by Houston Cypress Fairbanks (32-7). However, their performance in 2007 was nothing less than spectacular.

The Rio Grande Valley is a Texas region with a long tradition of great high school sports successes, with state titles in football and soccer. The Hawks were one win away from adding a baseball state title to our impressive history of victories.

When any high school team approaches the pinnacle of high school sports—state championship glory—the entire region comes together to cheer on that team. That was the case this year as the Hawks advanced one win at a time. This past Saturday, all of Harlingen and every city in South Texas watched on the edge of their chairs and on their feet. All high school rivalries in the Valley ceased and were united behind the Hawks as they faced their formidable opponent.

The Hawks have reminded all of us that with outstanding players, solid coaches, hard work, disciplined training, and supportive parents and school districts, more state titles are in our future. Thank you, Mighty Hawks, for representing your school and the Rio Grande Valley so admirably for all the State of Texas to see.

As their Congressman, I am so proud of the Harlingen South High School Hawks from Har-

lingen, Texas for their outstanding wins on the baseball field and for playing their heart out throughout the season and in their fight for the state crown. Please join me in applauding the coaches and each and every one of the Hawks:

Coach, Tony Leal; Assistant Coaches, Jesse Landeros, Rolando Ruiz, and Ignacio Medina; Joey Reyna, Junior, Outfield/Pitcher; Randy Cavazos, Senior, Outfield; Peter Maldonado, Junior, Outfield; Logan Brown, Senior, Shortstop/Pitcher; Michael Johnson, Senior, Third Base; Javier Torres, Senior, Outfield/Pitcher; Sean Messick, Junior, Outfield/Pitcher; Joey Garcia, Senior, Third Base/Outfield; Danny Gidora, Senior, Pitcher/First Base/Catcher; Andrew Huerta, Senior, Shortstop; Kaleb Bryan, Senior, Second Base; Adrian Ramon, Senior, Catcher/pitcher; Josh Martinez, Senior, Outfield; Jonathan Salas, Junior, Second Base; Steven Mata, Sophomore, Shortstop; Jonathan Lopez, Senior, Outfield; Daniel Cardenas, Junior, First Base; and Cody Thompson, Senior, First Base.

Again, congratulations to the Hawks and their families, Harlingen South High School, the City of Harlingen, and the Rio Grande Valley.

**TRUTH IN CALLER ID ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, and want to thank its sponsor, Mr. ENGEL, as well as Chairmen DINGELL and MARKEY for working with me on an amendment that was added to the bill during the full committee mark-up.

Caller ID is a great benefit to millions of Americans by giving them more control over their telephones and who and when they talk on the phone.

Like many technological advances, caller ID is a benefit, but bad actors can take advantage of it and turn the technology against the people it is supposed to help.

The amendment accepted during full committee clarifies that the standard in this bill—"intent to cause defraud or harm"—covers dirty political tricks that use caller ID spoofing.

Using fake caller ID info to commit identity theft or stalk or harass someone is wrong and should be prohibited.

Using fake caller ID to falsely pretend to be calling from the Democratic Party or the Republican Party or any candidate for office is also wrong and should be prohibited.

We are not limiting anyone's speech, but we are saying that if you choose to contact thousands of people by phone through robocalls, Americans deserve accurate information on where you are calling from.

We are focusing on pre-recorded robocalls because there is no other way besides caller ID to know where they came from since there is no real person on the other end.

Current law requires commercial telemarketers to transmit accurate caller ID, but there is a loophole for non-commercial calls.

We are closing this loophole for non-commercial robocalls which includes political robocalls.

If you are going to send out thousands of robocalls, there is no justification for using false caller ID, regardless of whether you meet the underlying standard in this bill.

Again, I thank the bill's sponsor for working with me to solidify this through my amendment in committee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to stand before this chamber and introduce the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007. This bill was first introduced in the Senate by my friend and fellow Virginia colleague, Senator JIM WEBB, earlier this year.

Not since Pearl Harbor has a single event so shaped a generation until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Like Pearl Harbor, September 11th became a call to arms for many Americans to join the Armed Forces.

For the 15 million veterans who returned home from World War II, Congress passed the first G.I. Bill of Rights of 1944. The first G.I. Bill helped veterans readjust to civilian life and afforded them the opportunity to do something that many had missed out on—getting a college education. That first G.I. Bill paid for veterans' tuition, books, fees, room and board, and even provided them a monthly stipend. Approximately 7.8 million World War II veterans used the benefits in the G.I. Bill of 1944 to increase their quality of life through education.

After World War II, Congress passed several other G.I. Bills to provide educational benefits for veterans returning home from the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Since the Vietnam War, Congress passed two G.I. Bills that established peacetime educational benefits for members of the all volunteer Armed Services. Although the current Montgomery G.I. Bill of 1985 provides peacetime educational benefits, the current program was not designed to meet the needs of our current global situation—a situation in which several hundred thousand men and woman in uniform are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have strained our entire all-volunteer military, forc-

ing many of our Reservist and National Guard units into extended tours of duty. Many of our men and women in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and the Marine Corps have served more than one tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With hundreds of thousands of our brave men and woman currently fighting overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, we need a new G.I. Bill to honor these veterans when they all finally return home. The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 is designed to expand the educational benefits that our nation offers to our brave men and women who have served us so honorably and who have sacrificed so much since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The bill that I am introducing today is designed to give this generation, who took it upon themselves to enlist after 9/11, benefits very similar to those provided to the veterans of World War II.

Madam Speaker, the bill that I am introducing today would specifically increase educational benefits to members of the military who have served at least 2 years of active duty, with at least some period of active duty time served beginning on or after September 11, 2001. Veterans will be eligible to receive these benefits for no more than 36 months or 4 academic years and would have 15 years to exercise these benefits. The version of this legislation that I am introducing today limits benefit payments to the cost of the most expensive public institution in the state in which the veteran is enrolled. If the veteran chooses to attend a private institution, the veteran must pay the difference between the cost of the college of his or her choice and the most expensive public institution of the state in which the veteran is enrolled. Like the G.I. Bill of 1944, the Post-9/11 G.I. bill will pay for tuition, books, fees, room and board, and provide a monthly stipend of \$1,000.

Madam Speaker, while in law school, I was privileged to serve in the Massachusetts National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves. I fortunately was never called into active duty, but the circumstances of our global situation today have pulled thousands of Guard and Reservists out of college into active duty. I am proud to represent the Third Congressional District of Virginia which is home to thousands of military personnel. You can't go very far in my district without running into a military installation or a member of our Armed Forces. I see the sacrifices of our men and women and their families each and every time I return home.

Madam Speaker, it is time that we pass a G.I. Bill on the same scale of the first G.I. Bill that was passed at the end of World War II to

meet the sacrifices of this generation. I am pleased to join Senator WEBB by introducing the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 in the House today and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CHRISTINE "CHRIS" TORRES, UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2007 SUBURBAN REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S TRIBUTE TO WOMEN AWARD

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Ms. Christine "Chris" Torres, upon her receipt of the 2007 Suburban Republican Women's Tribute to Women Award.

Since 1983, Chris has been actively involved in promoting the conservative principles of the Republican Party in Michigan. She supported Ronald Reagan's historic campaign for the Presidency and, later, became a precinct delegate by walking through Redford neighborhoods with her children and their friends, all the while dropping off literature and obtaining signatures for legislative proposals. In the years since, she also dedicated herself to the Bush-Cheney campaigns of 2000 and 2004, the gubernatorial campaigns of Dick Posthumus and Richard Devos, and the reelection campaigns of Mike Cox for Attorney General and Laura Toy for state Senate.

In 2004, she became a member of the Suburban Republican Women's Club where she serves as Chairman of Hospitality and as Chaplain. As the proud wife of Juan Manuel Torres for 30 years and the mother of six outstanding children, Chris is a deserving recipient of the Suburban Republican Women's Club's highest honor, the 2007 Tribute to Women Award. Importantly, Chris has also dedicated her time to the Michigan Right to Life organization by participating in annual benefits dinners in the southeastern district.

Madam Speaker, Chris's leadership and courage of convictions are an inspiration to her peers in the Suburban Republican Women's Club and our entire community. Thus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christine Torres for her selfless service to our community and our country.

## 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 14, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

June 19

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the federal government, focusing on a model public-private partnership accelerating research toward a cure.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of June Carter Perry, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Frederick B. Cook, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Robert B. Nolan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, and Maurice S. Parker, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the passport backlog and the Department of State's response to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

SD-419

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

SD-106

4 p.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-124

June 20

9:30 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

10 a.m.

Judiciary

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

SD-226

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Hope VI Program.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine foreign aviation repair stations.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

3 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 Erel, 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 21

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John L. Withers II, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Charles Lewis English, of New York, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameron Munter, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Roderick W. Moore, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Montenegro, and J. Christian Kennedy, of Indiana, to be Amba-

sador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine energy efficiency technologies and programs.

SR-253

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

June 26

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the preparedness of the federal land management agencies for the 2007 wildfire season and efforts to contain the costs of wildfire management activities.

SD-366

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending executive nomination.

SD-226

June 27

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Constitution Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the federal death penalty.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation; to be immediately followed by a full committee hearing to examine the nomination of Charles L. Hopkins, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Preparedness, Security and Law Enforcement).

SD-562

June 28

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SR-253

July 11

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans Affairs health care funding.

SD-562

July 25

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense education issues.

SD-562