

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to introduce a resolution to establish a National 9-1-1 Education Month.

Forty years ago President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and Justice recommended that a single, nationwide telephone number be established for reporting emergencies—9-1-1. Since then, 9-1-1 has been used by millions of people across the country to quickly and efficiently contact their local fire and police departments, as well as report emergencies in their communities. Over 200 million emergency calls are made each year through 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points serving more than 3,000 counties.

As the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the U.S., 9-1-1 answering points are often the first to know of emergencies caused by natural disasters to national security threats, making 9-1-1 a vital homeland security asset.

Educating people of all ages and backgrounds about 9-1-1 is crucial to the effectiveness of our emergency response system. It is especially important for vulnerable populations . . . children, the deaf and hard of hearing, and those with limited English skills . . . to understand and feel comfortable with using 9-1-1.

A National 9-1-1 Education Month will encourage the development of public awareness events, advertising to the public, targeted outreach to schools, and training activities for parents and teachers. The deaf and hard of hearing are increasingly using text, video and instant messaging to access 9-1-1 operators. With such an effective and comprehensive emergency network, everyone deserves to learn how to access it.

As co-chairs of the E9-1-1 Caucus, Mr. SHIMKUS and I understand the importance of the 9-1-1 emergency network to the public safety and security of our country and this resolution will help to ensure that all Americans can access these critical services in an emergency. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a National 9-1-1 Education Month.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to voice my support for a very important program to Eastern Washington, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.

The PILT program is essential for the livelihood of our rural communities in Eastern Washington. Ferry County is 86 percent publicly owned. The PILT funding that Ferry County receives accounts for nearly two thirds of their budget to provide essential services.

The government owns 73 percent of Okanogan County. More impressive is the amount of land owned by the public—over one and a half million acres. According to the Okanogan County Assessor, the loss in property taxes amounts to more than \$4.5 million every year. That's a loss of funding for police, search and rescue, and emergency management.

I could continue to list additional examples since all 12 counties I represent receive funding from this program, but I want to describe the importance from someone who is on the ground and impacted by these decisions, Stevens County Treasurer Sue Harnasch.

She wrote, "The Federal Government has long recognized and accepted that Federal land holdings are a burden on local governments and that funding is necessary to provide services needed to access and use those lands. County taxpayers have been left to fend for themselves, subsidizing public services on Federal land with local property taxes."

Let's stop placing the burden on local communities and start keeping our promise.

HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S VARSITY CREW TEAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Men's Varsity Eight Crew team, who represented the United States in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in England on July 4, 2007.

I had the honor of meeting these tremendous students on May 12, 2007, after they won the Virginia Scholastic Championship, the first of their many victories during their outstanding season. The Thomas Jefferson Colonials' Varsity Eight earned an invitation to the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup after finishing a flawless season with a gold medal at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America National Championships in Camden, New Jersey. The TJ Crew Team also added the prestigious Statesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia to their list of victories after finishing first

among 850 boats from 177 schools in the world's largest high school rowing event.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was established in 1985 as a Virginia Governor's School for Math, Science and Technology. Thomas Jefferson leads the Nation in SAT scores, National Merit Semifinalists, and advance placement credits earned. This highly selective program serves over 1,800 students from Fairfax and surrounding counties in Northern Virginia. No student is selected on the basis of athletic ability, and no one on the dynastical crew had even rowed before coming to T.J. Despite the State's longest school day and most demanding science and mathematics program, the TJ varsity men's crew practice diligently every afternoon at Sandy Run Regional Park on the Occoquan River.

Even with all their athletic success, the team's eight seniors have a truly impressive academic record with five National Merit Finalists, two Eagle Scouts, and one INTEL Science Fair Semi-Finalist. For their exemplary academic and athletic achievements, I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Ben Ranard, Dan Muir, Tom DellaFera, Lee Rumpf, Ty Otto, Marcos Carzolio, Christian Klein, Will Zeng, Raja Goel and Colin Haas. These young men are led by the varsity coach Jim Granger and assistant coach Andrew Fiebig.

After concluding a remarkable season in the U.S., the TJ Crew team ventured into international waters this summer to compete for the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at the annual Henley Royal Regatta in Oxfordshire, England. In a championship dominated by British schools, TJ aimed to become America's first public high school to win the international title in over 38 years. The TJ Crew team got off to a strong start in the first round and continued to gain momentum as they upset England's Winchester College to break through to the "elite" eight. Despite their best efforts, TJ's bid for the Princess Elizabeth Cup fell short after a heart-rending defeat to Brentwood College School, the Canadian national champions.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Thomas Jefferson High School Men's Varsity Eight Crew for their remarkable success this season.

RECOGNIZING DELLA E. MOSES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Della E. Moses of Elmo, Missouri. Della celebrated her 99th birthday on July 10, 2007 and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone. Della is a fine citizen of Missouri and the Elmo community. It is an honor to represent Della in the

• 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.

United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

HONORING AMERICA'S SECOND
HARVEST

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate America's Second Harvest of Kentucky's Heartland Food Bank, located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, for recently celebrating 25 years of charitable service to central and southern central Kentucky.

America's Second Harvest began as a small operation in the basement of Elizabethtown's Christ Episcopal Church in 1982. Founding members struggled at first to raise enough money just to reserve a post office box. Support quickly grew as the community began to understand the mission of the organization.

Over the last 25 years, America's Second Harvest has received and distributed approximately 100 million pounds of donated food and groceries to 170 charity organizations in 35 Kentucky counties.

The food bank now occupies a large warehouse in Elizabethtown, with plans under consideration to extend the facility by another 10,000 square feet. America's Second Harvest representatives are also working to expand the Backpack program, an initiative that offers bags of food to schoolchildren who are likely to go hungry on weekends.

I applaud America's Second Harvest, particularly founders Dot Hansen and Rita Jenkins, for their vision, determination, and continued cooperative efforts to assist those in need.

It is my great privilege to recognize America's Second Harvest today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. Their unique dedication to combat hunger in Kentucky communities makes them an outstanding organization worthy of our collective appreciation and respect.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT
SHAWN JOSLIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering Robert Shawn Joslin, a young man whom I knew well as a volunteer on my political campaigns. I am deeply saddened to learn of his untimely death at the age of 26. Last Saturday, Shawn was murdered at the McDonald's restaurant where he worked.

Shawn was a 2000 Lakewood High School graduate. He played the tuba in the Lakewood High School marching band. He loved sports, especially the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball and the Cleveland Indians baseball teams. He ushered at Indians games at Jacobs Field and got his 2 nieces, Ashley and Alexianna, interested in baseball.

For the last 4 years, he worked at McDonald's. For 2 years he worked at the restaurant in Westlake and for the last 2 years, he worked at the Lakewood McDonald's, closer to his home. He was up for a promotion before he was killed there.

Since his high school years, Shawn was active in civic affairs. He was a tireless campaigner on behalf of myself and other candidates for public office in the Cleveland area. Shawn was always friendly and quick to greet people he knew from the campaigns or from his other activities in sports, music, school, or work. He had a positive attitude and an infectious smile. He had many friends and family members who loved him deeply.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me and Shawn's parents, family members, and many friends in mourning the loss of this positive young man.

HOME OWNERSHIP AND
RESPONSIBLE LENDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 526, "Supporting Ownership and Responsible Lending." Home ownership plays an integral role helping this Nation's citizens realize the American Dream.

Now more than ever we must increase the awareness of risky loans to protect present and future homeowners. Home ownership is a vital part of our Nation's economy. It benefits neighborhoods by raising property values and providing economic and social capital.

Nationally, in 2006, a record setting 75,000,000 Americans owned homes. In the 7th District of Illinois, there are 238,000 housing units. Of those 238,000 units 49 percent are owner occupied and 51 percent are renter occupied. Fifty-four percent of those who rent spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

The housing boom from 2001 to 2006, lower mortgage rates and increased liquidity in the secondary mortgage market, all led to the growth of sub-prime mortgage industries. These secondary mortgage markets created home ownership opportunities for lower income families, people with little or no credit histories, and families without any access to down payments.

The downside to these newly formed opportunities would be the birth of predatory lending. This occurs when lenders hide the true cost of sub-prime loans from unsophisticated borrowers. These unfair practitioners are the main reason for the sudden wave of foreclosures. Foreclosure, when considering both legal and administrative expenses, would cost the borrower an average of \$7,200.

In Chicago alone, due to the predatory lending practices of various institutions, the rate of foreclosure on sub-prime loans is 19.2 percent; this is up 37 percent from approximately 5 years ago. From my understanding the property value surrounding the foreclosed home is devalued by \$30,000.

This would cause responsible lenders to lose thousand of dollars per foreclosure. An-

other negative aspect of this sudden rise in foreclosures is the costly affects that it has on local government because abandoned homes cost districts tax revenue.

By definition the lost that is suffered by the districts will have a spiraling effect throughout the community, taking funds from education and the economy.

I commend the Hon. ELIJAH CUMMINGS for introducing House Resolution 526, "Supporting Ownership and Responsible Lending." I am a firm supporter for enforcing rules that would prevent persons from falling victim to unfair practices. By enforcing rules to eliminate unfair practices in sub-prime mortgage lending, addressing appraisal and other mortgage fraud, and increasing opportunities for loan counseling, we will raise the awareness of risky loans and protect present and future homeowners.

IRELAND POWER SHARING
RESOLUTION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the House recognizes the historic achievement of a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. After decades of violence, Protestants and Catholics have come together to form a government that fairly represents both sides.

With Ian Paisley as first minister and Martin McGuinness as deputy first minister, this government will be one which both sides can respect and entrust to work toward peaceful resolution of differences.

The joint government and a police force that is admired by both sides will bring an end to the years of "troubles." Nearly 10 years ago when the Good Friday accord was signed it was still doubtful whether the two sides could come to a lasting agreement. Though there were setbacks along the way, the parties were committed to peace and at each opportunity for failure they chose to lay aside their weapons and negotiate.

The people of Northern Ireland will have a bright future if they maintain the present course. Surely, there will be disagreements but there is now a legislative process to work out such differences.

The peace process in Northern Ireland is now a shining example of how peoples in conflict can put aside long-standing grievances and learn to live in peace. Today, we properly honor and offer our support to those who are working to establish a peaceful and unified government.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE
AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR HOUSING ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Native American Economic

Development and Infrastructure for Housing Act of 2007." I am joined in this effort by my colleagues, Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Representatives DALE KILDEE, DAN BOREN, and RICK RENZI who I want to thank for their support.

This legislation will help Native Americans build stronger and better communities all across America. The demonstration project embodied in this bill will help Native Americans build not only improved neighborhoods, but the economic infrastructure to support those communities in some of the most rural and impoverished areas in America.

Currently, communities that receive direct funding from the Community Development Block Grant program may borrow or issue bonded debt for up to five times their annual CDBG allocation. This is known as the Section 108 loan guarantee program and encourages economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and large-scale physical development projects.

Title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, NAHASDA, is similar to the Section 108 statute and allows tribes to borrow or issue bonded debt for up to five times their annual NAHASDA allocation for housing purposes only. The Title VI program has been underutilized in part because the eligible projects are strictly limited to activities that do not generate sufficient income to pay back these loans.

We all know that economic development and infrastructure needs are acute in Indian Country. This legislation gives tribes the same access to vital economic and infrastructure resources that non-tribal communities currently use.

Under this program, an applicant would have to demonstrate to the Secretary that 70 percent of the benefit of the proposed project would go to "low-income Indian families on Indian reservations and other Indian areas." This is similar to the CDBG program, which requires that 70 percent of a project's benefit be for low- and moderate-income families, and ensures that proposed projects meet the need of the communities we all seek to support.

I urge my colleagues to join us in sponsoring this legislation so that we can support the efforts of local tribal communities as they work to improve their infrastructure and economies and to increase opportunities for Native American families.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT E.
SWEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Congressman Robert E. Sweeney, whose tenacious pursuit of peace, justice and equality reached not only Cleveland and Northeast Ohio, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress, Robert supported the Voting Rights Act and fought to eliminate the social problems that plagued our country. As a county commissioner, he was instrumental in creating Cuyahoga County's public defender office, and helped to develop Playhouse Square into one of the largest entertainment districts in the Nation.

As a litigator, Robert fiercely defended the public health and safety, and ensured that all people were treated equally. He was one of the first lawyers in the Nation to uncover the asbestos problem. He also became an outspoken advocate for peace in Northern Ireland, and was responsible for pushing the issue into the national spotlight.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Congressman Robert E. Sweeney for his career in public service. Robert was a dear friend whose humor and personality touched thousands of lives. May his dedication to creating a more vibrant Northeast Ohio and a more peaceful world serve as an example to us all.

COMMENDING DAN FETTE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Dan Fette of Denton, Texas on starting Dan Fette Builders, Inc.

Mr. Fette graduated from Texas A&M with a BS in Building Construction and a MS in Construction Management. He worked in the construction industry for many years before starting his own company. He set out with the goal to build a few really great houses. He wanted to be able to focus all of his attention on one house so the customer would be exceptionally pleased.

Mr. Fette is currently the chairman of the Green Building Program of the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Greater Dallas and will soon become the president of the HBA Denton Division. The goal of the HBA's Green Building Program is to bring more energy efficient and environmentally friendly homes to the Metroplex. This local effort is being supported by the Green Building Initiative (GBI) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), which will provide area builders with resources and technical support. Additionally, the Green Building Program will maintain a database of "green builders" and "green built" homes in the area for potential homebuyers.

In addition, Mr. Fette is a member of Green Built North Texas, a voluntary partnership of local home builders, industry supporters, and sponsors committed to creating awareness and interest in the construction of higher-performance, lower-impact residential homes in North Central Texas. Members of Green Built North Texas work to meet the highest standards in relation to site management, waste recycling, water efficiency, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, materials, and homeowner education.

In an age when energy conservation is at a critical point, I am honored to represent a man who is using his talents and skills in construction, to better our community. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Dan Fette for starting his own company, Dan Fette Builders, Inc. I wish him success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM AND
PEGGY RICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the Tom and Peggy Rice for being awarded the WFTW Humanitarian Award for 2007.

Radio station WFTW News Talk 1260, one of the oldest AM news and talk radio stations in Northwest Florida, has chosen Tom and Peggy Rice in recognition for their extraordinary contributions to countless local fund raising efforts.

Tom and Peggy own the Magnolia Grill, a restaurant in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Located in a historic home built in 1910, the Magnolia Grill is revered as a local gem for its true southern charm, delicious cuisine, and local historic memorabilia.

Over the past several years, Tom and Peggy have worked tirelessly to help raise funds for numerous non-profit organizations throughout the community. On Saturday mornings, they host pancake breakfast fund raisers and donate all the food, beverages, supplies, and labor for the event.

The Humanitarian Award, an antique street corner clock, sits proudly on display in the lobby of the Magnolia Grill for restaurant patrons to see. On the face of the clock, is a plaque acknowledging Tom and Peggy for their involvement within the community.

As remarkable philanthropists, the Rice's generosity and commitment to service have helped to create a better life for the citizens of Northwest Florida and have made an impression that will last a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Tom and Peggy Rice for their exemplary community service and wish them both continued success and happiness.

IN MEMORY OF RICH HERZOG

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the former Sheriff of King County, Washington, to pay tribute to one of my King County Sheriff's Office Deputies, Richard Herzog, who was senselessly killed in the line of duty five years ago this month in the City of Newcastle.

As a Sheriff's Deputy, Rich had an unwavering dedication to the community he served. He made the ultimate sacrifice on June 22, 2002, when his firearm was taken from him. He was shot while protecting the citizens around him. America lost a true hero that day and it is an honor to recognize him here today.

Until a few years ago, I was one of the 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers in this country. I am familiar with the struggles that law enforcement officers face each day—even after facing the most threatening circumstances and risking their lives, officers return to duty at the beginning of their next shift

to protect the citizens of their city, county, state and this country.

Deputy Herzog was kind and caring. He served his country not only as a law enforcement officer, but he was also a twenty-year veteran of the United States Army Special Forces.

Deputy Herzog was recently honored by the City of Newcastle at a dedication ceremony unveiling a new memorial in his honor.

The incredible loss of Rich to his wife, SunCha, and daughters, Sonja and Erika—their sacrifice—their husband and father—is still experienced every day and for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the sacrifice the service of Deputy Rich Herzog and all of our fallen officers.

IN TRIBUTE TO ELIAS AND
DOROTHY TYLER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorothy Tyler and her late husband Elias. Twenty years ago this July, they incorporated their organization, the Tyler Youth Group, Inc., which has provided years of programming and support to the children of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Their exemplary record of service to their community makes them deserving of high praise.

At the time the Tyler Youth Group, Inc. was founded in 1983, it consisted of a drill team, majorettes, pom pom girls and a drum corps. The Tylers saw the group as a way to serve an unmet need of area youths: the need for after-school programming that would provide kids with productive activities that would help them grow and develop. With a bus they purchased themselves, they took their group to activities and competitions across the region.

Time passed and as both the group and its participants grew, the Tylers added new programming and facilities to meet the needs of the children. They began offering educational and career-oriented activities, and in 1989 they took a rundown, dilapidated building and turned it into a community center for Aliquippa youths and their families. Today, the Aliquippa Tyler Community Youth Center provides a range of activities and services conducive to the healthy growth and development of the area's children.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Tylers for their tremendous record of service to their community. Their commitment to helping develop healthy, productive young citizens serves as an example to us all.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF G.
GARY LETSON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of G. Gary Letson, who recently passed away in his Los Altos home on July 4, 2007. Gary dedicated his life to edu-

cation and believed strongly in the power of teaching. His commitment to enriching science and math programs in our local schools has greatly raised the standard of education and inspired numerous students in our community.

G. Gary Letson was born on December 27, 1936 in San Diego, California to Neil Elizabeth Buck and Allen George Letson. He attended Hoover High School and then San Diego State University where he was a member of the Sigma Pi organization. As soon as he graduated, Gary began his teaching career and continued to serve his students and his community for the rest of his life.

Gary first taught high school science in the Grossmont School District in the San Diego area. He subsequently was named a Fulbright Scholar from 1964 to 1965 and traveled to Taegu University in South Korea, where he instructed biology teachers on more effective teaching methods. In 1967, he returned to the United States and settled in Santa Clara County, where he taught in numerous high schools over the next three decades.

During his 30 year tenure at the Fremont Union High School District, Gary taught mathematics and science at Sunnyvale High School, where he mentored me through my first formative teaching experience. Gary provided me with the firm foundation not only to teach the subject math, but to teach the whole child. That meant challenging the school administration on many occasions. I know today while we deal with policy his counsel still echoes in my mind saying, "Remember the whole child."

Gary went on to teach at Fremont High School and Monta Vista High School. His passion for his science and math was contagious as he motivated countless students with his innovative teaching methods and enthusiastic pedagogy. Gary treated all his students with the utmost respect and believed strongly in the potential of every young person who walked into his classroom. His sincere concern for his students was apparent in their interactions as he strived not just to teach the material but also to stimulate his students and to create a genuine interest in the subject matter he covered.

After retirement in 1996, Gary remained active in the Los Altos School District as a science aide at Almond Elementary School, a tutor at Mountain View High School and as a substitute teacher in the Mountain View and Los Altos High School Districts. Throughout his career, Gary was a strong proponent of outdoor science education programs and worked hard to introduce innovative curriculum to local high schools. His love for ecology and hands on learning reflected his focus on conservation and environmental awareness, a consciousness that he passed on to his students.

Besides his extensive work in the local school districts, Gary also faithfully served the community at large since the late 1960s through the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Sunnyvale. He played a major role in the Our Daily Bread program and also volunteered as a Vestry member and a Senior Warden. He actively assisted the Bible study and outreach programs and was a leader in overseeing church renovations. Gary diligently strove to become an "international Christian", ensuring that his every action was consistent with his beliefs. Furthermore, he was active in local community services including the League of

Women Voters. After his retirement, he regularly volunteered as a poll worker in elections.

G. Gary Letson passed away on July 4, 2007 at the age of 70. He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years Jan Letson, his son and daughter-in-law Brian and Amy Letson, and his daughter Mary Letson. Gary left a legacy of excellence in teaching and touched the lives of numerous youth. Throughout his life, he believed strongly in the capacity of youth to make a positive impact on the community and thus devoted his life to guiding future generations on the path to success. We are forever grateful for his commitment to education in the math and science departments, and his contributions will continue to benefit our community long into the future.

COMMEMORATING ARIZONA NA-
TIVE AMERICAN RIGHT TO VOTE
DAY SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Native American communities, twenty-two federally recognized Arizona tribal nations, representing more than 300,000 community members.

On June 2, 1924, the United States Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act which guaranteed certain citizenship rights to Native Americans, however in Arizona that did not guarantee their right to vote.

Yet as early as 1863, before citizenship was granted, Pima and Maricopa warriors were serving in the United States Army protecting settlers in the Arizona territory.

Additionally, while Arizona Native Americans were not considered citizens of the United States before World War I, more than 8,000 Native Americans from Arizona served our country in the United States military during World War I.

In 1928, Peter Porter, a Pima from the Gila River Indian Community, courageously filed the initial lawsuit to challenge the denial of Native Americans' right to vote yet his efforts were denied by the Arizona Supreme Court. The Court argued that Native Americans were under federal guardianship.

In 1940 this distinguished body passed the Nationality Act of 1940, reaffirming citizenship of Native Americans, inspiring more than 25,000 Native Americans to serve in our country in the United States military. Yet, they were still being denied the right to vote in Arizona.

In 1947, two brave Yavapai men, Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, filed suit to overturn the 1928 Arizona Supreme Court decision which denied Native Americans the right to vote. The acts of these courage men, members of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Indian Community, a community I am honored to serve and represent in the United States Congress, won the landmark case. On July 15, 1948, the 1928 court ruling was overturned and Arizona's Native Americans confirmed their right to vote.

Sunday, July 15, 2007, is Arizona Native America Right to Vote Day. It is with a great deal of pride that I rise today to honor our Arizona Native American community on this very special day. It is also with great resolve that

I reaffirm my commitment to our Native people, honor their sovereignty and urge the United States Congress to honor all commitments conferred with our Native American Tribal Nations.

COMPARISON AND HISTORY TEACH
US A LOT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a thoughtful comparison of U.S. military strategy in Vietnam and present-day military operations in Iraq written by Jerry Hogan, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who lives in Heath, TX, in the Fourth Congressional District. I urge my colleagues to review and reflect upon this as Congress faces critical decisions in the upcoming months on funding the war on terror.

COMPARISON AND HISTORY TEACH US A LOT

(By Jerry Hogan)

Sometimes it is important that we look at what we have done in the past to make sure we don't make the same mistakes again.

In 1950, believe it or not, the United States established a military assistance and advisory group in Vietnam to advise the French puppet government on strategy and train Vietnamese soldiers. This started America's longest war that did not end until April of 1975 with the infamous "Fall of Saigon" that we saw in our living rooms thanks to the modern miracle of television. For the almost three million of us who served in that war, those pictures on our TV sets burned holes through our heads as we saw first hand what we had done to a country and its people as we abandoned them without finishing the job we helped start.

Unfortunately there are many similarities between the U.S. involvement in Vietnam and our current involvement in Iraq. While we had advisors in Vietnam starting in 1950, our real combat role that saw the buildup of our forces go from 16,000 to 553,000, did not start until after the Gulf of Tonkin incident where, on August 2, 1964, one of our Naval ships was attacked by torpedo boats along North Vietnam's coast. Two days later, another "attack" occurred in about the same place against two more of our ships. These "attacks" led to retaliatory air strikes on our part and caused Congress to approve the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave the president power to conduct military operations in Southeast Asia without declaring war. Later it was determined that the second "attack" was questionable which caused many people to say we entered this conflict under false pretenses. Sound anything like how we got into Iraq according to the opponents of that war?

The Vietnam War is viewed by many historians as a Cold War conflict between the United States, its allies, and the Republic of Vietnam on one side, and the Soviet Union, its allies, the People's Republic of China, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on the other. Many others, particularly the vocal opponents to the U.S. involvement in this war, viewed the conflict as a civil war between communist and non communist Vietnamese factions.

Today, the War in Iraq is viewed as a battleground between the US, its allies, and the Republic of Iraq versus the Islamist Jihadis and their allies, Syria and Iran, in the International War on Terrorism. Exchange the

words "communist and non communist" with "Sunni and Shiite" and you hear the same arguments today about this war being just a civil war between two opposing religious factions in Iraq. Isn't it amazing how history seems to repeat itself with us Americans?

While actual U.S. combat operations did not start in Vietnam until 1964, U.S. forces assumed full responsibility for training the South Vietnamese Army in 1956 and President Kennedy increased our troop strength from 500 to over 16,000 when he took office. In his inaugural address, he made that famous pledge we know so well: "the U.S. will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty." Remember what President Bush continues to say about our support for Afghanistan and Iraq as they held their elections and voted for a democratic form of government and how we would stand with them in their desire for a free and elected democracy? Sounds like two of our presidents so heavily involved with two separate unpopular wars had the same views!

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. had a Draft for supplying personnel needed in the military. President Johnson refused to mobilize the Reserve units during the war as he feared a political backlash. This led to larger draft call ups and the extension of some tours of duty. It also put a heavy strain on U.S. forces committed to other parts of the world. While the military today is an all-volunteer force, the same problems face the services today; tour extensions in Iraq for the Soldiers and Marines, equipment shortages, limited capabilities in other areas of the world, repeated tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and continued pressure on families of the service men and women. Again, you might think we learned from previous mistakes.

In January of 1968, the forces of North Vietnam launched the surprise "Tet Offensive" in hopes of sparking a national uprising. While the military objectives were not achieved, the U.S. public was shocked and confused over the war as General Westmoreland, the commander in Vietnam, had just predicted "the end comes into view." The American media, which had been largely supportive of the administration, turned on President Johnson for what had become an increasing credibility gap. His approval ratings dropped from 48% to 36%; he declined to run for re-election; and the public's support for the war started a rapid decline. Any of this sound like something you may have heard recently?

In December, 1974, the Congress passed the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974, which cut off all military funding to the South Vietnamese government. The act went on to restrict the number of U.S. military personnel allowed in Vietnam to "no more than 4000 within six months of enactment and 3000 within one year." By April of 1975 only four months after the cutoff of funds and the removal of essentially all U.S. forces, the Republic of Vietnam fell to the victors from the North.

During the Vietnam War, over 250,000 South Vietnamese military were killed and about 1.2 million were wounded. It is estimated that somewhere between two and five million Vietnamese civilians were killed. 58,000 Americans lost their life while 153,000 were wounded. In Iraq today, about 3,500 Americans have been killed and about 18,000 have been wounded. Close to 350 U.S. personnel have been killed in Afghanistan. Statistics on Iraqi and Afghanistan's military and civilian casualties are not available but estimates show they are high as well.

So what does this all mean today? Clearly there are two opposing views as to what

should happen in Iraq. The President has been consistent in his view that we are fighting an International War on Terrorism and that freedom and democracy need help in the Middle East. Iraq is a fledgling democracy trying to establish itself after decades of dictatorship and after being made a main battleground by the worldwide Jihadist forces. Strong religious and political forces, both within and outside Iraq, are making the process of democracy very difficult. A military solution will not solve the problems in Iraq; it must be a political solution with a military component. Political will, as much as military might, is a decisive factor in this outcome.

The second view being expressed daily by some of our elected officials in Washington calls for a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. In my considered military view, this outlandish stupid course of action takes us right back to the days of Vietnam and is nothing more than a political proposal that leads us once again to watching the "Fall of Saigon" in our living rooms, but this time it will be the "Fall of Baghdad." I really don't want to go through that again . . . and I hope you don't either. Let your elected officials know how you feel.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CAMPBELL SOUP ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAPOLEON OHIO MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to a special company in northwest Ohio. On July 17, 2007, the Campbell Soup Company will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the largest soup manufacturing facility in the world, located in the town of Napoleon, in the heart of northwest Ohio.

When Campbell's first came to Napoleon, the town of 5,500 was located just 16 miles from what was then the "new" Ohio turnpike alongside some of the most fertile farms in the United States. The combination of abundant resources, a strong transportation network and a terrific work force all helped bring Campbell's to value northwest Ohio.

Few would dispute that the growth of Napoleon to a city of more than 9,000 citizens is tied to the progress of the Campbell's facility. Only 50 years ago, the first cans of Chicken and Rice Soup came off the Napoleon assembly line. With the popularity of products such as canned spaghetti and V8 juice, today the Napoleon facility manufactures nearly 100 million individual products from almost 500 different varieties, ranging from Prego sauces to Swanson broth, and Campbell's full offering of beverage and soup items.

With 65 acres under roof, including more than 2 million square feet to manufacture Campbell's trademark soups, the Napoleon facility remains among Campbell's and the food processing industry's most modern and sophisticated facilities. In almost every year since 1957, Campbell's has invested in new technology at Napoleon that has helped to reach the heights of efficient, quality production that it is legendary for today, from vegetable sorting machines in 1960 to a new plastic bottle expansion in 2004.

Campbell's hasn't just been Napoleon's biggest employer, but also a terrific neighbor and friend to the community and all of northwest Ohio. It started in 1957 with a \$100,000 contribution by Campbell's to expand the local hospital, the first of many such donations by Campbell's to improve the community over these past five decades.

Madam Speaker, the real success of Napoleon's Campbell Soup Facility comes not only from its products, but from its people. I have walked this plant, sat in the break room, greeted employees working the lines, and even had a V8 or two. I can tell you firsthand that what makes the Campbell's Soup plant in Napoleon special are its dedicated employees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of Campbell's Napoleon facility. Campbell's Napoleon facility has a rich and storied history of contributions made by thousands of Ohioans who have made their careers there. We're proud to have such a terrific company like Campbell's in northwest Ohio and look forward to many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 609, on a motion to suspend the rules and adopt H. Res. 526—Supporting Home Ownership and Responsible Lending, I am recorded as a “no” vote. Having intended to vote “yes,” I would like the RECORD to reflect my support for adoption of this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES-ROMANIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Romanian Caucus, I rise today to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the launch of the United States-Romanian strategic partnership.

In 1997 the United States and Romania established a strategic partnership resulting in close cooperation and consultations on all issues of common interest, particularly: NATO policies; promoting stability and security in Southeastern Europe, combating non-traditional threats; military and economic reforms in Romania and its region.

After ten years, we look back at the remarkable vision that inspired this unprecedented course in the development of the relations between the United States and Romania.

With utmost determination and U.S. support, Romania has since grown to what is today a trustworthy ally of the United States and one the most respectable and reliable contributors to global security. Romania is a member of NATO and of the European Union, an active player in the Organization for Security and Co-

operation in Europe (OSCE) and a significant voice at the UN and in other international and regional organizations at the Black Sea and in Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Romania has committed to a wide scale set of reforms internally, in its economic, social, justice and administrative sectors. Romania's achievements over the past ten years in its comprehensive internal reforms not only have prompted the country to NATO and EU membership, but serves as a great example of successful transformation to modernity and progress.

This transformation has yielded significant benefits mostly to the Romanian people but also to the Western community and to the transatlantic alliance. Next year in April, Romania will be the host of the NATO Summit, an event of critical importance to the alliance's shape and future. Romania has proved its capability to sustain long term commitments, along with its Western allies, in the fight against terrorism and organized crime.

At the same time, Romania has been an active promoter of tolerance and understanding among ethnic and religious communities. The recent OSCE high level conference on combating discrimination and other forms of intolerance, in Bucharest last June, has had a significant impact on maintaining the public commitment to respecting the most profound human values at the OSCE level. Romania also has taken meaningful steps towards assuming its own painful past through public education about, and remembrance of, the Holocaust.

We must all be proud of these accomplishments that were in large part inspired by the vision of a partnership laid out ten years ago. We also must affirm our duty to continue to build on this growing relation. It is this kind of partnership that continues to give us the power to overcome global challenges.

At this anniversary moment, we must acknowledge the indispensable contribution of the citizens of Romania, and of the Romanian American community to the successful development of our partnership. I congratulate the Romanian people and all its political leaders for their unwavering commitment to building such a strong mutual relation with the United States of America.

HONORING SKYLAND CAMP FOR GIRLS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, 90 years ago, the Skyland Camp for Girls was born with the auctioneer's call, “Sold to the lady in the apron.” With \$3,000, Susan Courtney Harris saved the hotel she loved in Clyde, North Carolina, and created a sanctuary for five generations of young women.

Four generations of the Harris family have kept the camp true to its purpose of building lifelong relationships founded in camaraderie and learning from one another. Mrs. Harris ran the camp until her daughters, Francis Brown and Helen Harris, took over and ran the camp until 1973. Bunny Brown, bride of Mrs. Harris' grandson Timothy, owns the camp today, and it is run by her daughter Sherry.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Skyland Camp for Girls and the generations of vibrant young female leaders it has helped raise in North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW SCOTT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share an article written about a young man who serves as a member of the city council—guiding and planning for a city that the Dallas News pointed out last February to be in the county seat of the fastest growing county in the United States. I wish to place this article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to highlight the service of one unusually well-qualified young family man who finds time to also guide the destiny of my hometown of Rockwall, Texas, as it sheds its rural status and grows into the city of tomorrow. The article speaks for itself as set out in a recent issue of “Texas Super Lawyers 2007 Rising Stars Edition.”

GREAT SCOTT

By Paul Sweeney

Why is Matthew Scott, a 39-year-old Dallas attorney, so often described as “a go-to guy”?

Just ask Greg Supan, a former law partner and colleague at the Dallas firm of Bell Nunnally & Martin. Not long ago, Supan got a last-minute, out-of-the-blue telephone call: An old fraternity brother from the University of Texas was relocating his oral surgery practice from Houston to Dallas. He urgently needed help in structuring an employment agreement between him and his new dentistry group.

Unfortunately, the attorney who assured Supan he could handle the assignment called back three days later and announced he was going on vacation. “He told me that I didn't tell him it was time-sensitive,” Supan recalls, exasperation creeping into his voice.

So he turned to Scott, all 6 feet 6 inches of him. The former basketball player at the University of Iowa has, over the last decade, become an avid Texan—so much so that he won election to the city council in the bedroom community of Rockwall.

“At that point we had 24 hours to get the assignment done,” Supan says, “and Matt, an expert in employment law, dropped everything to help out. He ended up doing a great job on what was actually a very complicated partnership. The client was thrilled.” Supan adds: “When you're down by two, you pass the ball to him. He's a real buzzer-beater.”

Amid the book-lined suite of offices at Bell Nunnally one hears similar stories, not just about Scott's dependability but also about his work ethic. Sherri Alexander, who heads the litigation section at the firm, says, “At our business-development meetings, where the partners get together to talk about work, and about which new clients have been contacted recently, Matt's always willing to participate.” Praising his sense of timing, she adds, “Not too much—but not too little either.”

“And when I have to go out of town on business,” she says, “I can always trust him to deal directly with a client and handle things well in my absence.”

The bottom line? “He has his own docket,” she says, “plus the city council. But if somebody needs help, he always goes the extra mile.”

The only son of a union printer and his Iowa farm wife, Scott grew up in Des Moines, where his childhood had its rough patches. He was bused to schools across town, an experience that put him in contact with a tough crowd. The experience helped teach him how to get along with people from different backgrounds, an ability that he inherited from his mother, who set an example of unpretentiousness.

Scott attributes his work ethic to his father, a veteran of World War II who saw plenty of action—and bloodshed—in the Pacific. He describes his father (both of his parents are deceased) as someone who insisted on order and neatness, took pride in his work, seldom missed a day on the job in 44 years and was always straight with people. "Dad was the most honest person I've ever known," he says. "And loyal, too."

Those loyalties extended to his employer, his co-workers and his labor union. But there was never any question that his son would have a different kind of life. His father often lamented the fact that he had not taken advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the GI Bill, Scott says, "and it was always very clear that I was going to college."

He majored in psychology and played basketball as a walk-on shooting guard. He didn't get a lot of playing time; yet his coach, Tom Davis, hails him as an important asset to a team that sent several players to the NBA.

"I remember Matt Scott as a motivated and aggressive athlete, a good team player who fit in well," says Davis, now the head coach at Drake University in Des Moines—where Scott graduated from law school. "And he was also coachable, someone who could accept criticism and was willing to make changes that would help the team."

"Maybe he was the 10th man on the team when we could only play five," the coach adds. "But I recall what a good teammate Matt was. He was somebody people liked to be with, and practice with, and travel with—and he had a great work ethic."

Some 40 minutes east of Dallas, such comments are echoed by colleagues in the chambers at the spanking-new city hall in Rockwall, seat of Rockwall County, the fastest-growing county in Texas. Scott, who describes himself as a staunch Republican, nonetheless works well with all members of the seven-person council, including dyed-in-the-wool Democrat Margo Nielsen.

"He's brash and he's smart and he's passionate about the issues," says Nielsen, executive director of Rockwall County Helping Hands, a nonprofit social services agency. "And as a lawyer" she adds, "he's trained to think holistically and broadly."

Nielsen sings Scott's praises for his efforts to bring city services to Lake Rockwall Estates. Despite its impressive name, the "estates" is actually a dilapidated mobile-home park that had long been ignored by the city. But, thanks largely to Scott's efforts, Nielsen says, the city is in the process of annexing the unincorporated area and will soon provide, among other things, water and sewer services, trash pickup and improved roads.

"It's not the kind of issue that most city leaders look for," Nielsen says. "There are no political rewards. But under Matt's leadership, it's getting done."

Although he is still in his first term on the council, Scott has also won the confidence of Rockwall's mayor, Bill Cecil, a retired contract-director with the Department of Defense. "He's my mayor pro tem," Cecil says, bragging about Scott the way the famous outlaw Butch Cassidy might say: "That's my sidekick, 'The Sundance Kid.'"

Together, Scott and Cecil share a keen interest in economic development, typified by

\$20 million in public spending that the city is lavishing on a new harbor at nearby Lake Ray Hubbard. Replete with fountains, pools, a waterfall and even a "mini-riverwalk," the public-works project is luring private-sector financing for lakeside condominiums, retail stores and office space. On a tour of the Mediterranean-style construction that is under way, both men are buoyant. "This will be a big economic engine for the city," says Scott.

In junior high school, Scott says, he visited Texas during a winter break and played tennis in shorts and a T-shirt while several inches of snow blanketed the ground back in Des Moines. He vowed that he would someday make balmy Texas his home—a pledge that he kept soon after he completed law school. Staying on a friend's sofa in Dallas, he studied for—and passed—the Lone Star State bar exam.

Newly married and with his ticket punched for practicing law, Scott and his wife pulled up stakes and set out for Texas. Arriving in Dallas, neither had a job lined up. "We had two cars, the stuff in our apartment, and a couple of thousand dollars in wedding money," he says. "That was it."

After honeymooning in Cancun, the couple job-hunted in earnest. His wife found work as a legal secretary and Scott worked as a contract attorney. Ever the walk-on, he landed a job at Cooper, Aldous & Scully in the same way that he made the team at Iowa: by being aggressive.

He met one of the partners, Dallas lawyer Charla Aldous, during a deposition. "I asked her if she was hiring," he recalls, "and she said 'maybe' and I pulled out a résumé and then I got an interview."

He got hired and moved to Bell Nunnally in June 1999.

At Bell Nunnally, Scott has been making a name for himself handling the full panoply of employment law, including discrimination, workers' compensation and sexual harassment cases. His expertise was ratified when District Judge Martin Feldman in Louisiana selected him to chair the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' draft of the pattern jury charges for employment law. It took more than three years of effort getting the seven-member committee to find common ground.

His skill at being a team player came in handy there as well. One of his law partners, Thomas Case, lauds Scott for his ability to build bridges between the plaintiff and defense attorneys who were evenly represented—and divided—on the committee. "The way he ran [the committee] was by trying to reach consensus," Case says. "When they couldn't reach agreement, they put their differences in the footnotes" (That makes it "subject to further development by the district courts," Case adds.)

Case—who is 20 years Scott's senior and is something of a mentor to him—says that employment law cases are often "emotionally charged." He says people become so attached to their jobs—and so identified by what they do—that "trying employment cases is an awful lot like dealing with death or divorce."

Although Texas is an "employment at will" state—which means that, in the absence of a contract or labor-union agreement, termination does not require cause—juries may nonetheless feel sympathy for a plaintiff who has lost his or her job. But one of Scott's strongest suits is that "he has a good appreciation for what will or won't play with a jury," Case says. "Jurors have all been employees, and it's likely that a few of them have had an adverse experience with an employer."

One of the hardest parts of Scott's job can be convincing a client that what seems like

an obvious argument for an employee's dismissal will not only leave a jury unmoved but could be inadmissible. Scott recalls a recent case in which the owner of an apartment complex fired a maintenance worker who was not only doing sub-par work but had a criminal record.

But the employer was miffed when she learned that Scott was not willing to introduce the ex-employee's criminal record. "She was British and frustrated that someone could file a lawsuit against her but she couldn't bring up the person's criminal record," Scott says. "She wasn't familiar with the U.S. judicial system."

Despite his best efforts at negotiating a compromise, Scott says that he had to remove himself from the case. "The sticking point was what I told her I would—and wouldn't—do," he says. "She thought we could use [the plaintiff's criminal record] to make the lawsuit just go away," he adds. "Smaller clients get frustrated and don't understand that the process takes time."

In a state known for its flamboyant trial attorneys, Scott's colleagues cite his straightforwardness and plain speaking as a key asset in the courtroom. "He does a good job at presenting his position and of being himself," Case says. "Young lawyers don't realize that what works best is just being who they are. Juries appreciate someone like Matt who comes across as solid and sincere and prepared. Juries have a knack at seeing through an act."

Now the father of three young children, Scott has ambitions for higher office when he is finally term-limited after six years on the Rockwall City Council. "Anyone who runs for public office and says he doesn't have higher political ambitions is a liar," he says. "Sure, I have higher political ambitions. I already ran for the state House [in Iowa] when I was in law school."

"So, yes, I'd like to hold other offices. But the Texas Legislature is out because it is a part-time job that would destroy my full-time job. So I'd have to look at something that either allowed me to continue practicing law, as the city council does, or something that would be a fulltime, paying job that replaces my legal practice."

"So right now I have no idea what my ambitions are," he says. "But, yes, I do have them."

TRIBUTE TO CREDIT UNION AND
COMMUNITY LEADER RALPH
GOODWIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American and Oregonian, Mr. Ralph Goodwin, and to draw my colleagues' attention to the tremendous contributions Ralph has made to his industry and community.

Madam Speaker, this weekend I will have the honor of attending in picturesque John Day, Oregon the community celebration to commemorate Ralph Goodwin's retirement and the good he has done for his state and community.

On July 13, 2007, after 28 years of highly successful credit union leadership, Ralph will formally relinquish the reigns as CEO and president of the Old West Federal Credit Union. When Ralph assumed the top post in 1979 with what was then called the Grant

County Federal Credit Union, membership numbered 800 and assets were \$2.5 million. As Ralph enters retirement, he leaves the Old West Federal Credit Union in excellent shape with over 7,500 members in four branch offices serving eight counties in eastern Oregon and assets of over \$80 million. The positive growth under Ralph's leadership is remarkable, and a testament to how Ralph has always conducted business.

A true believer and advocate in the credit union movement, Ralph Goodwin's contribution to the communities of eastern Oregon and credit union philosophy is second to none. Through the World Council of Credit Unions, Ralph has participated in and been an indispensable part of efforts to bring credit unions and credit union philosophy to underdeveloped countries in the world, traveling to the Philippines and Uzbekistan to further this goal. Ralph's many years of civic leadership and steadfast commitment to the rural communities he has served has made a rewarding impact on many credit union members and employees that have benefited from his financial guidance and leadership example.

Throughout the credit union movement in Oregon and nationally, Ralph Goodwin is recognized as a leader and visionary whose passion and commitment to the credit union motto of people helping people is a core attitude of how credit union business is conducted. The high regard Ralph's colleagues have for him is exemplified by the service he has delivered and acknowledgment he has received on the state and national level, including being chosen as the Advocate of the Year by the Credit Union Association of Oregon as well as receiving the association's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual. Ralph is also well known and respected by many members on both sides of the political aisle in the Oregon Legislature and United States Congress as they can always rely on solid and straightforward information from him regarding credit union policy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ralph Goodwin, and delivering our thanks for the tremendous good he has fostered in the credit union movement and throughout Oregon. Ralph can now finally take a break with his lovely wife, Toni, and their seven children and 15 grandchildren.

Thank you for all that you've done, Ralph. I'm very proud to count you and Toni as my good friends, and wish you both the best over many happy years to come.

HONORING JONATHAN MICHAEL
ROSSI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor PFC Jonathan Michael Rossi, who was killed on July 1, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jonathan was part of the B Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, and was killed when his patrol encountered an insurgent attack involving an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Private Rossi personally, but by all accounts he

was a courageous young man who was devoted to serving his country and family. Jonathan grew up in Safety Harbor, Florida. Following his longtime dream and strong sense of duty to country, he joined the Army only two months after graduating from Countryside High School in 2005.

Jonathan was reserved young man who had spent much of his youth with the goal of service his country. Having lost his mother at a young age to cancer, he demonstrated a sense of courage and strength, which he brought to the battlefield.

During his short time as an Army infantryman, Jonathan earned a great deal of recognition for his service. Among his many awards and honors are a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantrymen Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Jonathan's family. He leaves behind his father, Michael, who also faithfully served his country for 20 years, and seven siblings and step-siblings. May God bless the Rossi family and continue to watch over the country that Private Rossi so loved. We shall never forget him.

ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this week the world paused to remember and reflect on the horrific acts of brutality, wanton cruelty and mass murder committed in Srebrenica a mere 12 years ago.

On Sunday, I joined a distinguished group of leaders and survivors to honor those brave Bosniaks who suffered and died—victims of the genocide.

Among those who led the solemn ceremony was Dr. Mustafa Cerić, the Reis-ul-Ulema, President of the Council of Ulema in Bosnia. Reis Cerić is an inspiring man of God and internationally recognized as a man of peace and extraordinary compassion—and a friend.

Also there was President Haris Silajdzic, a Bosnian leader I have known and deeply respected since the early 90s. Dr. Silajdzic, throughout the darkness and moral confusion of the Balkan war was a powerful, persistent, reasonable and dynamic voice for peace, human rights, the rule of law and accountability for genocide.

In my remarks, I tried to convey to our Bosnian friends that Americans and others of goodwill throughout the world again extend their deepest condolences and respect to the mothers and surviving family members who have endured unspeakable sorrow and loss that time will never abate. I assured the survivors of our earnest prayers.

Madam Speaker, the international community must recommit itself to apprehending and bringing to justice once and for all those who perpetrated these heinous crimes, including Mladić and Karadžić.

Justice is the essential prerequisite to sustainable reconciliation. No matter how long it

takes, we must never tire or grow weary in the pursuit of justice. Renewal and a further consolidation of democracy must be rooted in systemic reform, including police reform. Perhaps some of the lessons learned from successful initiatives in Northern Ireland might have application there.

Looking back, it is almost beyond comprehension that the Srebrenica genocide occurred at all.

Future historians, Madam Speaker, will be hard pressed to ever understand how a UN Security Council designated "safe area," guarded by a significant deployment of UN peacekeepers, backed up by NATO's superior air power, could have capitulated in the face of unmitigated evil and enabled one of the most despicable acts in human history.

After Bosnian Serb forces attacked elements of UNPROFOR beginning in early July 1995, a series of gross miscalculations, mistakes and betrayal quickly led to the systematic slaughter of over 8,000 Bosniaks, mostly men.

Adding unnecessary insult to injury some in the international community further exacerbated matters by employing euphemisms that masked the reality of the genocide. Somehow, they just couldn't utter the word genocide.

Nevertheless, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found "beyond any reasonable doubt that a crime of genocide was committed in Srebrenica." More recently, the verdict of the International Court of Justice that genocide occurred in Srebrenica begs the question: What are the consequences?

Two years ago, I authored a resolution that overwhelmingly passed the U.S. Congress that clearly and unambiguously condemned the Srebrenica genocide and stated in part that "all persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) should be apprehended and transferred to The Hague without further delay, and all countries should meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the ICTY at all times . . ."

Madam Speaker, the genocide would like nothing better than that we forget. And that, of course, is something we cannot do. Ever.

LINKS BETWEEN OIL, POVERTY,
AND CORRUPTION ON CON-
TINENT OF AFRICA

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the links between oil, poverty, and corruption that plague too many people on the continent of Africa.

Kensington International is a United States-based firm that is owed money by the Government of the Republic of Congo. In an effort to collect on its debts, Kensington took the Government of the Republic of Congo to Court in Hong Kong. The Government of Congo, based in Brazzaville, had claimed that, because of the poverty of their nation, that they were unable to pay their debts.

I would encourage my colleagues to examine the documents produced as evidence in this court case. They are available on the Internet at www.globalwitness.org, under the heading, "Congo: Is President's son paying for

designer shopping sprees with country's oil money?"

The documents online include:

1. Bill for credit card spending by Mr Christel (son of President, head of Cotrade) on luxury items and other apparently personal expenses.

2. Bank letter indicating that Long Beach Ltd is paying credit card bills for Mr Christel.

3. Corporate record identifying Mr Christel as the owner of Long Beach.

4. Credit card bill for Blaise Elenga, counsel to Cotrade, also indicating apparently personal expenses.

5. Bank letter indicating that E Investments Ltd is paying credit card bills for Mr Elenga.

6. Corporate record identifying Mr Elenga as the owner of E. Investments, formerly known as Elenga Investments.

7. Document indicates business relationship between Long Beach, Elenga Investments and Sphynx Bermuda, the latter a company controlled by Denis Gokana, found by the London High Court in November 2005 to be involved in selling state oil through shell companies, a facade intended to deceive Congo's creditors, from which he personally profited and at considerable cost to the Congolese Treasury.

8. Documents indicating payments to Long Beach and Elenga Investments by Pan Africa, a company involved in oil-related transactions with the Congolese state oil company.

9. Bank documents indicating payments to Elenga Investments by Africa Oil and Gas Corporation (AOGC), which was described by the London court in 2005 as a "sham company" involved in "sham transactions", the profits of which ended up in AOGC.

10. Bank documents indicating payments to Long Beach from AOGC.

11. Documents indicating that Long Beach received payments related to sales of Congolese oil by the state oil company.

These documents are important because they raise serious questions about what appears to be personal financial transactions to the benefit of public officials with funds that may derive from state oil sales. This comes at time when 70 percent of Congolese citizens earn less than a dollar a day. Because commitments to prevent conflicts of interest in the oil sector are a key condition for Congo to receive full debt relief, I am concerned that these documents show a blatant failure to comply with the commitments they made as part of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, also known as "HIPC". The Republic of Congo committed to the United States, and the international community, in March 2006, that, in return for progressing towards full HIPC debt relief, that it will carry out reforms of the oil sector including "preventing conflicts of interest in the marketing of oil [and] requiring officials of SNPC [the state oil company] to publicly declare and divest any interests in companies having a business relationship with SNPC." The context of this commitment is strong U.S. Congressional and international

concern about corruption in the oil sector in Congo. One of the conditions of the HIPC program is the completion of a diagnostic study on SNPC's marketing of oil by independent auditors, which is not yet completed. The U.S. supports the strengthening of the HIPC triggers in relation to oil sector transparency and anti-corruption measures. These concerns are particularly acute given the Congo's reputation for serious corruption.

Madam Speaker, too many African governments are unable to serve their people because of the crushing burden of international debt. Debt relief for Africa needs to be a top priority for the United States, in order to enable these governments to serve their people. But we owe it to the people of Africa to do debt relief right. We need to make sure that we are not rewarding governments that are not serving as good stewards of their citizens' national wealth. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing forward to relieve current African debt while simultaneously working to prevent the debt cycle from starting all over again.

SUPPORTING HOME OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE LENDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 526, as offered by my distinguished colleague from Maryland and fellow member of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS. This resolution seeks to recognize and support home ownership and responsible lending.

Ownership of property is an exciting prospect, especially when individuals acquire property that they can truly call "their" own. As once stated in *Essence* magazine, "ownership gives a sense of power and permanence; you are the ruler of your castle and not the pawn of a landlord." For many Americans, home ownership is an important attribute to realizing the American dream. Whether it means buying a home for the first time or refinancing, home ownership is a powerful economic stimulus, both for the individual homeowners, as well as the national economy. It benefits neighborhoods by raising property values and providing economic and social capital in previously distressed communities.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation recently experienced a housing boom from 2001 to 2006, due to historically low mortgage rates, rising home prices, and increased liquidity in the secondary mortgage market—factors that led to the growth of the sub-prime mortgage industry. In the year 2006 alone, more than

75,000,000 Americans owned homes, and the home ownership rate reached a near record high of nearly 69 percent. For non-Hispanic whites in 2006, the home ownership rate was 76 percent, while the rate for African Americans fell at only 48.2 percent. Hispanic home ownership rate was at 49.5 percent, and that of Asians, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders were at 60 percent.

The buying of a home is usually the largest purchase that most people will ever make in their lifetime. To many individuals, this is known as a "huge responsibility with great benefits." Sub-prime market has created home ownership opportunities for lower-income people, families without access to down payments and people with little or no credit histories. On the other hand, it has also created opportunities for "predatory" lending, where unscrupulous lenders hide the true cost of sub-prime loans from unsophisticated borrowers.

Higher cost sub-prime mortgage loans are most prevalent in lower income neighborhoods with high concentration of minorities. This is simply unacceptable. In the past few months, it has become increasingly clear to the American people that irresponsible sub-prime lending practices have contributed to a wave of foreclosures, which are in essence, harming our communities and disrupting housing markets. In 2005, 53 percent of African Americans and 37.8 percent of Hispanics took out sub-prime loans.

Home ownership is critical in building wealth because it signifies the accumulation of appreciable assets. It has been proven consistently that property usually constitutes one's greatest financial asset because ownership of property is one of the single largest investments that an individual can make. On the other hand, foreclosures can be detrimental to an individual, legally and administratively. The average foreclosure causes lenders to lose thousands of dollars and costs the borrower an average \$7,200 in administrative charges. For the local government, abandoned homes cost districts tax revenues.

As a public servant and a representative of the people, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 526. The time has come for us to raise awareness about the dangers of risky loans and to protect homeowners from unscrupulous lending practices from mortgage brokers and lenders. We must demand the enforcement of rules eliminating unfair and deceptive practices in sub-prime mortgage lending, as well as the establishment of clear minimum standards for mortgage originators. Among many things, H. Res. 526 would help in the reduction and elimination of abuses in prepayment penalties, as well as increase opportunities for loan counseling.

Knowledge is the remedy for fear, however knowledge is not enough. We must apply that knowledge to achieve change.