

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS JAMIE  
LANGLEY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the accomplishments of Ms. Jamie Langley, who was crowned Miss Alabama on June 10th, 2007.

Miss Langley, 23, is a senior majoring in communications at Jacksonville State University and a graduate of Wadley High School. Her parents, Jeff and Mailey Langley, reside in the community of Forester's Chapel just outside of Wadley, AL. Jamie's efforts to promote heart health and the development of healthy habits are an excellent example to her peers and the young women of Alabama.

I would like to congratulate Jamie on this memorable occasion and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING DR. NORMAN E.  
BORLAUG UPON THE AWARD OF  
HIS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD  
MEDAL

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special American; a husband, father, grandfather, agricultural pioneer, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. To his family, he's Norman Borlaug, Daddy, or Two Daddy. For us, we now add "winner of the Congressional Gold Medal" to his many titles and accolades.

Joining many of my colleagues, I was proud to support the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Act of 2006 presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Borlaug, in recognition of his enduring contributions to the United States and the world. In 1970, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his successful efforts to find a high yielding, disease-resistant wheat, which was mass produced in developing nations across the world to combat mass starvation.

It is with pleasure that I take the time to honor this great man, who, despite his unrivaled achievements maintained his humility and was always motivated by the greater good. Dr. Borlaug's agricultural achievements to combat hunger have saved countless lives and inspired others to follow in his footsteps. It is an honor to represent an American hero whose life and work has made the world a better place by elevating the human condition.

Dr. Borlaug's untiring efforts to feed the hungry stem from his college years during the Great Depression, when he earned meals by waiting tables in a restaurant. After World War

II, his research to find ways to increase wheat yields developed a shorter plant which was easier to harvest, and that gave more food to people in Mexico. Before long, Dr. Borlaug was in demand both for cultivating the land and in consulting with world leaders.

Dr. Borlaug once said there is no magic in high-yielding seed, that people just have to know how to grow, when to plant, how to control weeds and how to manage water. He may be right about that, but Dr. Borlaug's almost magical ability to bring people together to learn how to produce food has been a blessing to millions. With humble thanks, I congratulate Dr. Borlaug on the occasion of the Congressional Gold Medal, an honor well-deserved for his scientific advancements that have reshaped the world for the better.

DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

Known as the father of the Green Revolution, Norman Ernest Borlaug was born in 1914 on a farm near Cresco, Iowa. After completing his early education in his hometown, he went on to study forestry and plant pathology at the University of Minnesota, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees and completed his doctorate in 1942. After two years as a microbiologist with the DuPont de Nemours Foundation, he took on the challenge of leading the wheat improvement efforts of the Cooperative Mexican Agricultural Program, sponsored by the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation.

In Mexico, Dr. Borlaug's scientific knowledge found expression in a humanitarian mission: developing improved grain varieties to feed the hungry people of the world. A practical, energetic, hands-on researcher, Dr. Borlaug worked in the fields alongside farm workers, students, and interns, sharing his knowledge as well as the labor of producing food crops. During his twenty years in Mexico, Dr. Borlaug and his colleagues perfected a dwarf wheat variety that could produce large amounts of grain, resist diseases, and resist lodging—the bending and breaking of the stalk that often occurs in high-yielding grains. Under Dr. Borlaug's guidance, this new wheat was planted with great success, not only in Mexico, but also in India and Pakistan. In subsequent years, the wheat was planted in nations in Central and South America, the Near and Middle East, and Africa.

In 1964, Dr. Borlaug was appointed director of the Wheat Research and Production Program at the then newly established International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) near Mexico City. This position allowed him to expand his teaching mission. He shared his immense knowledge of research and production methods with thousands of young scientists from all over the world, "seeding" agricultural production in their home countries with new ideas and new productivity.

Despite having received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970—and, over the years, multitudinous honors and recognitions from universities, governments, and organizations worldwide—Dr. Borlaug remains a deeply humble

and practical man who has been as productive after winning this major honor as he was before.

He came to Texas A&M University in 1984 as Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture and has continued to teach and inspire young scientists at Texas A&M and at CIMMYT. Hailed as having saved more lives than anyone else in the history of mankind, Dr. Borlaug cites as one of his most prized tributes the naming of a street in his honor in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico—the site of some of his earliest research projects.

STRIKING TIAHRT AMENDMENT—  
SUPPORT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support striking the Tiaht Amendment and to enter into the record an editorial from today's Washington Post, "Follow the Guns—It's time for Congress to free up the data on firearms."

I serve as a co-chair for the Congressional Task Force Against Illegal Guns. This bipartisan group was formed to support the Mayors Against Illegal Guns, whose current primary focus is striking the Tiaht Amendment. The Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which is also a bipartisan group has over 220 members and the support of several local and national police organizations.

I strongly agree that action is needed now to address the issue with the trafficking of illegal guns and striking the Tiaht Amendment is a good step. At the heart of this issue, is the gun trace data that is maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Not too long ago, back in 2002 to be exact, ATF released gun trace data which helped law enforcement identify illegal gun dealers. That all changed, and now the police agencies in this country that work so hard every day to investigate crimes can't fully do their jobs. This does not make any sense. The police agencies need gun trace data information and Congress needs to ensure that they get it.

Some would argue that this is a Second Amendment issue. It simply is not. This issue is solely about fighting crime to protect Americans. Everyday in cities all across our great country, people are harmed and often lose their lives because criminals gained access to illegal guns.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in this crime fighting effort. I applaud the Mayors Against Illegal Guns and the police organizations who are fighting this issue to decrease crime and improve the streets of America.

[From the Washington Post, July 11, 2007]

FOLLOW THE GUNS—IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS  
TO FREE UP THE DATA ON FIREARMS

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) used to release analyses of data gained by tracing the history of

• 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.

guns used in crimes. These reports yielded valuable information for local law enforcement officials, researchers and the public. Some of the results were startling: For example, 57 percent of crime guns came from 1.2 percent of licensed dealers, the ATF estimated in 2000. The guns the bad guys use don't just come from the black market, in other words; a huge proportion come from a handful of unscrupulous vendors.

But since Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.) added a rider to the Justice Department's budget in 2003, the ATF has been prohibited from sharing such gun-trace information with the public, keeping additional insights that might be gained from the data out of public view and making it harder for local authorities to connect the dots. Every year since, the so-called Tiahrt Amendment has gotten more restrictive, narrowing the ability of local police to gain access to or apply gun-trace information. The worst iteration yet came last month, when the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a version from Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) that threatens to put police officers in prison if they use federal gun-trace data for any purpose other than to advance specific, "bona fide criminal investigations"—for proactively tracking and interdicting illicit guns, for example, or identifying problem gun sellers.

The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider a less restrictive, but still odious, provision tomorrow. The panel should remove the Tiahrt language, and the House Democratic leadership should encourage its members to do so. District Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) and New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) yesterday called for repeal at a joint news conference, and their cause is backed by more than 200 other mayors and scores of law enforcement organizations and police chiefs. Striking the Tiahrt rider is not about chipping away at Second Amendment rights. It is about empowering local authorities to do basic police work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POLISH  
AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DI-  
VISION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their many years of service to the Polish-American community in the great State of Ohio.

The Polish American Congress, since its founding in 1944, has been a symbol of the strong relationship between the United States and Poland, and a testament to the contributions of the rich Polish culture.

For many years the Polish American Congress has worked to unite and to support Americans of Polish origin in the United States, regardless of political, religious, or other affiliation. This great organization provides all Polish groups of Ohio the opportunity to express pride and celebrate their heritage and culture through educational, artistic and cultural events.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their continuing support of the Polish American people in Ohio, and for their important efforts in helping people to connect to their heritage.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KELLY  
DULLE FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Kelly Dulle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 601, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SALEM  
FOR BEING DESIGNATED A PRE-  
SERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Salem, OR for being recognized as a community proud of its heritage, proud of its history, and committed to preserving its historic resources so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come.

I was not surprised to learn that First Lady Laura Bush and the Preserve America Initiative had recognized Salem for its historic and cultural preservation efforts and had named the city a Preserve America Community. I grew up in Salem and know that it is exactly the type of community that we want to preserve.

Salem, Oregon's capital is one of Oregon's oldest communities. It grew as a pioneer settlement around the Oregon Institute that is now Willamette University, and Salem's location in the center of the fertile Willamette Valley has allowed it to play an important role in Oregon's agricultural economy since statehood.

Over the past few years, a 33-member citizens' taskforce created the Downtown Revitalization Toolbox which has sought to address vacancy and rehabilitation concerns in the Historic Downtown by providing matching grants for historic building improvement projects. Through public-private partnerships, thousands of volunteer hours have been logged and over \$8.5 million invested in Salem's Historic Downtown District.

There is a saying that good citizens are the riches of a city. Knowing the effort that has been made by the citizens of Salem to preserve historic treasures and create economic opportunities for local businesses, I can safely say that Salem is a wealthy city indeed.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Salem and the other

communities across the country that have been designated as Preserve America Communities. It is through their efforts that our collective history and culture will be secured for future generations.

NEW YORK CARIBNEWS ARTICLE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York CaribNews, for the week ending July 10, titled "President George Bush to Send U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings to Caribbean." While the Caribbean Community—CARICOM—nations were in the United States last month, they highlighted the education challenges the region is facing. The article discusses Secretary of Education Spellings' upcoming visit to the region following up on their concerns, in the hopes of developing a cooperative solution to boost CARICOM's educational systems.

The Secretary's trip will focus on the need to foster stronger tertiary educational systems throughout the region. By sharing our experiences in addressing the challenges of education, we can strengthen our efforts to reach the goal of better education for all throughout the region. Quality education for all is a recipe for growth and innovation that leads to economic and social development. Education is a way out of poverty and fosters democracy, as well as respect for human rights.

In her visit to the CARICOM nations, I also encourage her to visit the nation of Haiti. This country is the most economically vulnerable of the CARICOM states and would benefit greatly from methodologies to address their education challenges. Haiti is a nation of 9 million habitants and it is estimated that more than half of the population is unable to read and write. This trend cannot continue due to the increased interdependency of countries caused by globalization. It does not benefit the United States or the Western Hemisphere to continue to leave behind the thousands of Haitian children each year by allowing illiteracy to prevail. Lack of education leads to poverty and it is my contention that poverty puts the security of the region at risk.

I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United States and the Caribbean. Educational collaboration with our partners in the western hemisphere will lead to higher living standards and stronger democracies.

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO SEND U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, MARGARET SPELLINGS, TO CARIBBEAN

(By Tony Best)

U.S. Secretary of Education is going to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and their neighbors to see how they can work together to boost CARICOM's educational system.

Margaret Spellings, the first mother of school-aged children to serve as Education Secretary, is being sent to the region by President George Bush.

The proposed visit is a follow up to the recent summit in Washington between the United States chief executive and CARICOM leaders held at the State Department in Washington in June.

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent's Prime Minister, who until yesterday was chairman of CARICOM and is being succeeded by Barbados' Prime Minister Owen Arthur, first disclosed plans for Spellings' visit at the behest of President Bush.

Dr. Gonsalves, a former political science lecturer at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies before studying law and entering active politics in his homeland, said that the President indicated to the Caribbean Prime Ministers and President that the Education Secretary would go to the region to meet with government officials and educators.

"We welcome any opportunity to work with the United States to expand our educational institutions. The President told us that the Secretary of Education, a member of his cabinet is eager to visit the Caribbean to meet with us," he said.

Spellings, a key architect of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" education program, is expected to pay considerable attention to the Caribbean's efforts to boost tertiary level educational opportunities and to link universities and colleges at the regional and national levels, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Universities of Guyana, Suriname Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and other colleges in the Bahamas, Barbados and the OECS.

"The linking of the colleges and the university is something we consider to be very important," said Gonsalves.

Barbados' Foreign Minister, Dame Billie Miller, who confirmed the proposed Spellings visit, described it as a natural follow-up to the extensive discussions about education at the summit.

"All sides agreed it was the most important thing, education and training," she said. "Indeed, it was pointed out to President Bush that in some areas we in the region are the donor community."

Specifically, 60 per cent of the doctors trained at the University of the West Indies end up working in the United States.

"This was part of a discussion with the President, the Ways and Means and the Foreign Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives as to why so many Caribbean students were now choosing to go to Cuba for training because it was at a fraction of the cost of training in the United States," she pointed out.

As a matter of fact, Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo went to great lengths to explain that training provided by Cuba to West Indian students was to "offset the brain drain" from the Caribbean to the United States.

"In that respect, we are the donor rather than the donee committee. It was generally discussed that technology transfer was really very important and we had to do a lot more work at the post secondary and tertiary education stages.

The heads spoke of the vision in this region among the universities, not only the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados but the Universities in Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and now the University of Trinidad and Tobago and soon to be the University College of Barbados and another independent university in Jamaica as well.

"It was felt that we had to have a far greater interface in the region because gone are the days when most of our graduates doing post graduate work would go to Europe," she added.

The dates and the itinerary for Spellings' visit have not yet been worked out. Dr. Gonsalves said his country was the beneficiary of scores of scholarships offered by Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, China and Malaysia.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS A.  
DELURY FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas A. Delury, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HERO KORY  
WIENS

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty of memorializing the passing of an American Hero.

Corporal Kory D. Wiens and his canine partner Cooper were killed while on patrol in Muhammad Sath, Iraq.

Some of us remember the news reports about Kory and his companion; it was a heart-warming story of a special bond between a young man and very special retriever. Once introduced to each other at Lackland, they were never far apart.

Even in death, Kory and Cooper remain a team. Together they gave their last full measure of devotion performing their duty—together they earned the peace of knowing they lived a good, meaningful life.

Today, Kory lives on in our memories.

Sadly he is not the first—and will not be the last—to fall in this war.

However, we cannot allow the mounting enormity of loss diminish the sacrifice—the life and loss—of Kory or those that follow.

Colleagues, I ask you to put down pen and paper; pause for a moment and reflect upon our circumstance.

Take this moment: honor the service of Kory Wiens—mourn his passing—and accept the gift of life and liberty he freely gave.

Kory Wiens was born and raised in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

He was a cub scout, a wrestler, and a quarterback at West Albany High School. Kory was an all-American: a young man that believed our Nation was worthy of its promise; a patriot that lived a life of standing up for those that could not stand on their own.

Kory and his brother Kevin, who is still serving in Iraq, exemplified the kind of courage that made our Nation, State, and community the home of the brave, and land of the free.

Today, we know that Corporal Wiens' law enforcement career will not extend beyond his service in the Army.

We know that the "Brotherhood of Wiens" is now one member smaller, but that Kory, Kevin, and Kyle will never again fully celebrate their special bond.

And we know that we as a people—that we as a Nation—will never be what it could have been without him.

Kory wanted to serve his community. His life can serve as a lesson for us all, if we choose to embrace its meaning and we choose to honor his legacy.

What if we all took our responsibilities as seriously?

What if we worked at being selfless more, selfish less?

What if we helped each other realize the promise of our ideals and cooperated with each other to make America the kind of place worthy of young men like Kory Wiens?

We have that choice.

Together we can use the life and legacy of Kory Wiens to rekindle the spirit of our America.

Together we can keep the spirit of Kory Wiens—and all those like him—alive through a daily commitment to make this place better than we find it.

And together we can work for a time when peace replaces war, when service and sacrifice are celebrated without loss.

Let us commit ourselves anew to earning the gifts given.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING  
ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1904, the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act. I would like to thank my colleague from New Mexico for her work on this legislation and on the issue. It is an extremely important issue to us in New Mexico, and throughout the Southwest.

Like other states in the arid west, New Mexico suffers from water scarcity. Drought often impacts municipal water supply, agricultural water supply, and increases volatility in high fire-risk areas. Economies and ecologies alike are threatened when scarce water resources are not properly managed. Ensuring careful management of this precious resource is a top priority in communities throughout New Mexico. This bill would allow New Mexico communities to unite under statewide water plans, formulated from comprehensive statewide research and quantification of water resources.

Through grants and technical assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, this bill authorizes funding for resource mapping and studies assessing the quality and quantity of both surface and groundwater throughout the state. The bill further allocates funds to develop models for several of the state's rivers, many of which are threatened by overuse and excessive impoundment. This year, the Rio Grande was included in the World Wildlife Fund's list of the

world's top 10 most threatened rivers, and the Santa Fe River was listed as the Nation's Most Endangered River this year by American Rivers. Research and conservation along these rivers will positively impact New Mexicans and the greater southwest region.

This bill will provide New Mexico with information and resources that will enable the state to sustainably manage and conserve its precious water resources. By facilitating comprehensive surface and groundwater studies, this bill will allow New Mexicans to make sound decisions on water resource management that will impact the entire southwestern United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step towards sustainable water management in New Mexico and the Southwest. A comprehensive approach to hydrologic resource management is necessary to confront the challenges of New Mexico's growing communities and precarious fluctuations in climate. This bill provides New Mexico with the tools needed to meet these challenges in a sustainable manner, and I urge its passage.

ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
THROUGH RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit for the record an Op-Ed published in the New York Times, on July 2, 2007, entitled, "A Much-Needed Second Chance." The editorial highlights the efforts taken by Texas and Kansas to address reintegration of former inmates into their communities, as well as the lack of a federal initiative to address the challenges communities face because they do not have the social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work. Unfortunately, the current system of corrections seems far more focused on punishment than rehabilitation, an approach that exacerbates crime rather than reducing it.

One-third of all correction departments provide no services to released offenders, and most departments do not offer a transitional program, placing a heavy burden on families and communities.

Most men and women released face tremendous obstacles as they try to reenter society successfully, encountering imposing impediments to attaining gainful employment, overcoming drug addictions, gaining custody of their children, or finding affordable housing. In fact, two-thirds of those released will be arrested within three years of leaving prison.

These men and women deserve a second chance. Their families, spouses and children, deserve a second chance and their communities deserve a second chance. A second chance means an opportunity to turn a life around; a chance to break the grip of a drug habit; a chance to support a family; a chance to make positive contributions to society; and a chance to be self-sufficient.

I strongly urge you to join me and the other 91 members of Congress in encouraging community safety through recidivism prevention by cosponsoring H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007.

[From the New York Times, July 2, 2007]

A MUCH-NEEDED SECOND CHANCE

The United States now has more than two million people behind bars, a number that has been rising steadily for decades. But state lawmakers who once would have rushed to build new prisons have begun to see that prison-building is not the best or most cost-effective way to fight crime or protect the public's safety.

Several states have instead begun to focus on developing community-based programs that deal with low-level, nonviolent offenders without locking them up. And they have begun to look at ways to control recidivism with programs that help newly released people find jobs, housing, drug treatment and mental health care—essential services if they are to live viable lives in a society that has historically shunned them.

Texas and Kansas have recently made important strides in this area. But corrections policy nationally would evolve much faster if Washington put its shoulder to the wheel. Congress needs to pass the Second Chance Act, which would provide grants, guidance and assistance to states and localities that are developing programs to reintegrate former inmates into their communities.

The states have made a good start, thanks in part to the efforts of the Council of State Governments and its prison policy arm, the Justice Center. The center's analysis of corrections patterns has led to sweeping changes in Texas, where the Legislature was facing a projected upsurge in the prison population and a projected outlay of more than a billion dollars to build several new prisons.

The surge in Texas was not being driven by crime, which had risen only slightly, but by a breakdown in the parole and probation systems, which were unable to process and supervise the necessary numbers of released prisoners. Mental health and drug treatment services were also lacking. By expanding those services, along with other community-based programs, the Legislature projects that it could potentially avoid the need for any new prisons.

A similar solution was found in Kansas, where about 65 percent of the state's admissions to prison were traced to technical violations of probation or parole, often by people with drug addictions or mental illnesses. The Legislature has expanded drug treatment behind bars and created a grant program that encourages localities to provide more effective supervision and services as a way of keeping recently released people away from crime and out of prison.

The social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work are virtually nonexistent in most communities. To put those networks together, the states need to require that disparate parts of the government apparatus work together in ways that were unheard of in the past.

It is encouraging that state officials are willing to break out of the old patterns. But they need help. The Second Chance Act would bolster the re-entry movement with money, training, technical assistance—and the federal stamp of approval.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SERGEANT  
BRUCE HORNER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of SGT Bruce Horner, United States Army, and to celebrate his service to our country.

Sergeant Horner served in the United States Army for 18 years. His dedication and leadership skills made him an invaluable member of the 127th Military Police Academy out of Fliegerhorst, Germany. He was killed on June 1, 2007, in Baghdad, while serving his first tour in Iraq. He fulfilled his duty with honor and distinction.

Sergeant Horner had a strong relationship with his church and with God. His faith played an important part in his life and guided him. It is my sincere hope that the Horner family is strengthened by the strong faith that sustained him in life. He leaves behind his wife, Erin, and mother and father, who reside in Cleveland, Ohio. Everyone Sergeant Horner touched will be forever changed because of his influence.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring SGT Bruce Horner for his service in the defense of the nation. May his dedication to country, faith and family serve as a model for us all.

RECOGNIZING DAVID M. CROWE  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David M. Crowe, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

A TRIBUTE TO BEYOND HOUSING  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE  
PAGEDALE COMMUNITY ASSO-  
CIATION

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in celebration of the efforts and improvements achieved by the Pagedale Community Association in association with Beyond Housing in the city of Pagedale.

Since 1980, Beyond Housing has assisted many St. Louisans in the 1st Congressional district. Beyond Housing has sought to provide affordable housing, propagate home ownership, and help low-economic families achieve stability. Beyond Housing has used their history of beneficial rehabilitation for St. Louis citizens to support the PCA and re-building efforts in the city of Pagedale.

The newly created Pagedale Community Association (PCA) has made many fruitful, laudable efforts over a small period of time. The PCA has assisted Beyond Housing in providing some 100+ homes for the residents of the 1st Congressional district of Missouri in Pagedale. Along with providing homes, the PCA has established a community center with multiple functions that each assist in community growth.

I am thrilled with the progress that has been made in Pagedale and excited for the years and further progression to come. The initiative taken by the residents of Pagedale is admirable and the economic development, incredible. Along with commending Beyond Housing and the PCA, I would like to thank St. Louis County for their financial interest in the projects in Pagedale. I am happy to see Missouri residents coming together to help one another.

I truly extend my gratitude and support to the Pagedale Community Association and Beyond Housing in St. Louis, Missouri. It is my pleasure to commend them on their excellent work in my district and beyond. I hope their progress continues.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF  
GREAT MUSIC STAX RECORDS  
COSPONSOR H. RES. 154

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Stax Records for its contributions to American culture as one of the oldest recording labels. For 50 years, Stax Records has been providing great music and recordings of blues, soul, and R&B.

Originally created as Satellite Records in 1957 in Memphis, Tennessee and changing its name in 1967, Stax Records has released albums from artists like Otis Redding, Richard Pryor, Isaac Hayes, and Angie Stone. Founded by Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton, the label had undergone a series of stages. It was sold to a Gulf and Western firm, but was forced to declare bankruptcy. It was later purchased by Concord Records, which was sold to Fantasy Records in 2004.

Revered as producing the 1st multiracial bands, the record label continues to make its presence known for over half century. Stax Records released its new album on March 27, 2007, titled *Interpretations: Celebrating The Music of Earth Wind and Fire*.

I urge my colleagues to please join me in cosponsoring H. Res. 154, and praising Stax Records for the courage that it has displayed and for 50 years of great music.

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IN RECOGNITION OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCORPORATED

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Transitional Housing Incorporated for more than 20 years of dedicated

service to the homeless women in the Cleveland area.

Transitional Housing Incorporated was formed in 1986 by three nuns who had been working in Cleveland's homeless shelters. Today, it provides a variety of programs based on personal development plans reflecting each individual's need and unique potential for a better life.

The committed employees of Transitional House Incorporated have reached out to more than 1,400 women in Cleveland, providing them with a safe environment and services such as education and training, in order to help them gain self-sufficiency and independence.

Transitional Housing is a shining example of what a community can accomplish when we all offer a hand to help our fellow citizens in need. Their care and dedication is a testament to the ethic of solidarity that holds our community together.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Transitional Housing Incorporated for their outstanding efforts to end the cycle of homelessness for many women in the Cleveland area, and for giving hope to those in need.

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CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
OF THE YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the YMCA of the Rockies Association. The YMCA of the Rockies, a nonprofit organization, began in Colorado in 1907. It was organized as a national training center for the Young Men's Christian Association. Since its foundation, the YMCA of the Rockies has grown into the largest two YMCA conference and family centers in the world—at the Estes Park Center adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, and at Snow Mountain Ranch between Winter Park and Granby, Colorado. It also runs a traditional summer residential youth camp at Camp Chief Ouray, located at Snow Mountain Ranch.

YMCA of the Rockies serves conferences, family reunions, retreats, recreational and educational groups, families, individuals, and youth by providing lodging, meeting space, dining, programming and recreation.

Estes Park Center has 860 acres and can accommodate 3,500 people in its 7 lodges and 206 family cabins. Snow Mountain Ranch has over 5,000 acres with a Nordic Center and can accommodate 2,500 people in its 4 lodges and 60 family cabins. Over 900 full-time and seasonal staff members work each year at both centers. They include senior retirees, college students and international students participating in a hospitalities services certification program.

As noted on their website, the Mission of the YMCA of the Rockies,

“[P]uts Christian Principles into Practice through programs, staff and facilities in an environment that builds healthy spirit, mind and body for all. We will accomplish this by serving conferences of a religious, educational, or recreational nature; providing

unifying experiences for families; offering traditional summer camping experiences for boys and girls; and serving our staff with leadership opportunities and productive work experiences. Our core values are: Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith.”

As a result of putting the values expressed in this mission statement into practice, the YMCA of the Rockies annually brings more than 250,000 visitors to its two centers, serves more than 800 family reunions, educates more than 19,000 students in outdoor education programs, and continues to be major employer in Grand and Larimer counties of Colorado. The YMCA of the Rockies hires seasonal staff from more than 20 countries to help expose their guests to many cultures, has a membership base of 3,500, raises more than \$350,000 in annual campaigns, and have over 100 staff members who donate money to the YMCA Staff For Kids program.

The YMCA of the Rockies does an outstanding job of exposing kids and adults to the splendor of nature and the values that come from collective outdoor experiences. But it is not just about learning and growing both intellectually and spiritually. It is also about fun. The YMCA of the Rockies' camps provide nearly every outdoor recreational opportunity that Colorado has to offer from skiing, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, swimming, rock climbing, rafting, canoeing, archery, golf, ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, and arts and crafts. It's an opportunity for kids, families and adults to experience these activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

In addition, the YMCA of the Rockies has been an important facility for the surrounding communities and others who share their Mission. Officials at the YMCA of the Rockies have opened up their facilities for use by other organizations such as Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Mountain Club, the National Wildlife Association and the Sierra Club. At Snow Mountain Ranch, officials are pursuing the protection of many acres through conservation easements, ensuring that the outdoor splendor can be enjoyed by future generations. They have also worked to reduce the threat of wildfire and bark beetles by thinning dense stands of trees on their property, thus providing an example to their neighbors on creating defensible space and helping to reduce fire risks to surrounding communities and properties.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter declared July 19, 2007 as the official recognition of the YMCA of the Rockies Centennial. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this centennial and all of the great things that the YMCA of the Rockies does to enhance the quality of life for all Americans and visitors from throughout the world.

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PRAISING AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KING'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise His Excellency Michael I. King, Ambassador of Barbados to the United States, for

his commitment to protect the environment in the Caribbean. His remarks at the opening ceremony of the Third Conference on the Environment indicated his support for environmental sustainability and compliance with the international environment agenda in order to foster partnerships for preservation in the region.

During his speech, Ambassador King encouraged students and professionals to transition to sustainable business and support non-governmental organizations that make such business a priority. He also challenged his audience to utilize the expertise of Caribbeans abroad that have experienced success in environmental sustainability.

Ambassador King insisted on strengthening stewardship, advocacy, public education, and innovation in the absence of great financial resources in order to improve the environment. While he marked the progress made by Caribbean nations in terms of securing trained and knowledgeable staff on environment and development issues, he acknowledged the narrow scope of much of the expertise due to limited resources forcing specialization.

Ambassador King gave the example of The University of the West Indies (UWI) as a Caribbean institution of higher learning that should adopt sustainable energy and recycling programs to better the environment of the Caribbean. With a focus on such programs, graduates of UWI, and other Caribbean universities, would be more dedicated to achieving sustainability in the environment as well as building upon existing exercises aimed at biological diversity.

Article 58 of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), details the framework wherein member nations are to operate in order to protect and manage their biological and natural resources. Ambassador King encouraged CARICOM members to develop a vision for environmental sustainability, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States setting the precedence.

#### THE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 29th, 2007, the United States and the Republic of Panama signed the Trade Promotion Agreement, which is the result of the tireless negotiations between both the United States and Panama. After the agreement is signed, Congress will have an opportunity to comprehensively review it, an opportunity that I wholeheartedly welcome.

This agreement will increase much needed access to medicines for developing countries, strengthen provisions in labor, environment and national security. This agreement also sees to it that significant cuts are made to trade barrier tariffs. Additionally, this bill seeks to improve on the growing commercial relationship between both countries on the growing Panamanian market which has a strong affinity for American goods, demonstrated by the 67 percent trade deficit Panama currently holds with the U.S.

Small businesses stand to benefit from this agreement as well. The elimination of Panamanian tariffs on our goods will lower the transaction costs. This would create a mutually beneficial relationship between small business sellers in the United States and buyers in Panama.

This agreement is about more than the commercial exchange of goods and services. I would like to note that our relationship with Panama is a long standing one since its independence from Colombia in 1903. We have an uncompromising commitment to providing opportunities for the people of Panama to work towards a better future while providing American businesses the opportunity to expand their market access in another country.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal which will create additional unique opportunities. Three of the four contracts for this project have already been awarded to U.S. businesses.

Madam Speaker, I submit for your further consideration the text of the proposed U.S. Panama Trade Promotion Agreement. I look forward to a productive and informative discussion about it in the weeks and months to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was required to be back in my home district to assist my mother, who recently had surgery. For this reason, I was unable to attend recorded votes for yesterday, Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

#### COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will cut excess subsidies paid by the federal government to lenders in the student loan industry and reinvest those funds to allow for the single largest investment in higher education since the GI bill, at no new cost to taxpayers.

Over the last few decades, the cost of a postsecondary education in our country has more than doubled for graduates with student loans, from \$9,250 to \$19,200—a 108 percent increase (58 percent after accounting for inflation). As the richest nation in the world, we have a moral obligation to eliminate the barriers this de facto economic segregation erects. No child should be forced to forgo the dream of a college education due to fear of debt, and no child should have that potential debt dictate their future career choice.

The College Cost Reduction Act will provide us with a real chance, a \$15.1 billion chance, to roll back the spiraling cost of higher education in this country. By cutting interest rates

in half on subsidized student loans and increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship, this act makes College more affordable and moves more Americans into the middle class.

Passing H.R. 2669 will also provide upfront tuition assistance to students committed to teaching at public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas. Furthermore, this legislation provides loan forgiveness to encourage students who choose to pursue careers as public servants. By enacting these provisions, we will be allowing students to become a nurse, public defender, prosecutor or firefighter free from the restraints of debt.

Finally, the College Cost Reduction Act Congress will be making a landmark, \$500 million investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribally-Controlled, Native or Predominately Black Institutions, ensuring that students can not only enter college, but count on continued support through graduation.

In the first 50 legislative hours of the 110th Congress, the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives took up and passed H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act, which cut the interest rates in half on certain subsidized student loans over the next five years. In passing that legislation, we kept our promise of making college more affordable and accessible. Today, with H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act, we build on this effort and once again prove that the 110th Congress is on the job and fighting for a better America.

#### PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

### HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague from California.

This legislation would prevent the federal government or any authority of the federal government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain.

The protection of private property rights lies at the foundation of American government. As James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers, "[G]overnment is instituted no less for the protection of property than of the persons of individuals."

Two years ago, the Supreme Court held in *Kelo v. City of New London* that "economic development" can be a "public use" under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. The 5-4 decision has substantially weakened the rights of private property owners by handing the government a raw taking power with negligible accountability to the "public use" requirement in the Fifth Amendment's Taking Clause.

The "public use" requirement imposed an important limitation on eminent domain power to ensure the government may not force individuals to forfeit their property for the benefit of another private party.

However, *Kelo* transformed established constitutional principles when it permitted the government to seize the private property of one

small homeowner and to give it to a large corporation for a private business use in the interest of creating a more lucrative tax base.

The dissenting opinion of that case made clear the far-reaching implications of the decision. Justice O'Connor wrote, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party. The government now has the license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result." Houses of worship and other religious institutions that are by their very nature non-profit and almost universally tax-exempt, render their property singularly vulnerable. The NAACP and the AARP faulted Kelo's failing reasoning by stating: "The takings that result from the Court's decision will disproportionately affect and harm the economically disadvantaged and, in particular, racial and ethnic minorities and the elderly."

In response, I introduced H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Restoration Act of 2005 to restore to all Americans the property rights the Supreme Court took away. H.R. 4128 passed with the clear support of this House with a vote of 376-38. Since the Kelo decision, 41 States have passed laws to rein back eminent domain power. Yet, these laws exist on a varying degree, and the need to ensure that property rights are returned to all Americans is as strong now as it was 2 years ago.

Like H.R. 4128, this year's legislation also establishes a penalty for States and localities that abuse their eminent domain power by denying those States and localities that commit such abuse all Federal economic development funds for a period of 2 years. This legislation sets up a clear connection between the Federal funds that would be denied and the abuse Congress is intending to prevent while providing States and localities with an opportunity to cure any violation by either returning or replacing the improperly taken property before they lose any Federal economic development funds.

Included in this legislation is an express private right of action to ensure access to the State or Federal court and a fee-shifting provision identical to those in other civil rights laws, which allows a prevailing property owner to be awarded attorney and expert fees as part of the costs of bringing the litigation to enforce the bill's provisions. A change in this year's version of the bill includes a provision to protect not only property owners, but also tenants. Tenants who may lose their homes if the government exercises its eminent domain power deserve the same right of action as homeowners. Another improvement to this bill allows the Attorney General to file suit; this will help homeowners and tenants without the means to file a case on their own behalf.

I am very mindful of the long history of eminent domain abuses, particularly in low-income and often predominantly minority neighborhoods, and the need to stop it. I am also very mindful of the reasons we should allow the government to take land when the way in which the land is being used constitutes an immediate threat to public health and safety. I believe this bill accomplishes both goals.

Property rights are civil rights. I urge all my colleagues to join me in protecting property rights of all Americans and limiting the dangerous effects of the Kelo decision on the most vulnerable in society.

HONORING LEO A. (AL) LONG

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leo A. Long for 50 years of dedicated service to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

Mr. Long, currently the administrative assistant within the Office of the Budget Officer for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, has served at the Capitol since 1957.

Mr. Long began his congressional career as a temporary clerk-typist in the Architect's office during the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1958, he was transferred from his temporary position to the full-time position of payroll-clerk. By 1963, Mr. Long had been relocated to the position of assistant personnel officer and was promoted to administrative assistant in the Office of the Budget Officer in 1969, which is the job he continues to hold today.

Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Long has acquired a wealth of historical knowledge of the Architect's office through his diligent tracking of relevant legislation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Long has also supported major construction, restoration, and renovation projects throughout the Capitol Complex. Thus, he has seen the groundbreaking and completion of the new Dirksen Senate office building, the Rayburn House office building, and the Hart Senate office building.

Many things have changed over the course of Mr. Long's career. When he first began his service at the Capitol he commuted to work using a cable car and used pencil and paper. Today, despite the use of online resources, Mr. Long's historical knowledge of past projects and old paper records is of tremendous value. Whenever questions arise over matters that took place decades ago, colleagues come to "Al" in hopes of benefiting from his past experience and expertise. Mr. Long has made a lasting impact over the past fifty years and his service to Congress and the American people is commendable. I look forward to his continued work in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Leo A. Long for 50 years of service and dedication to the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 615, on passage of H.R. 986, Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act, I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHARON  
WAGNER BRAITEH

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, devoted mother and grandmother, and outstanding advocate for service work in her community and throughout the country, Mrs. Sharon Wagner Braiteh.

In 1995 she was one of the top five nominees for the Houston Mayors Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. In 2000 she was recognized by the Legal Assistants Division of the State Bar of Texas with the Exceptional Pro Bono Award for her work with Child Advocates, the Texas Volunteer Lawyers Association, and as a speaker and educator in numerous HIV/AIDS events. In 2001 she was recognized by Catholic Charities as their volunteer of the year. She served six summers as a counselor for the Texas Children's Hospital/AIDS Foundation Houston CAMP H.U.G. She is a 2003 graduate of Project LEAP, and has served as a volunteer with the Texas Medical Center Hospice. She has also worked with the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine annually since 1998.

In 2004 Sharon was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. As she had done before she immediately became involved in helping cancer patients throughout the country by becoming an integral part of the Angel Flight Organization that provides free air transportation for patients seeking treatment in major medical centers throughout the country.

Despite her ongoing battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Sharon remains an integral part and member of her church, Palmer Memorial Episcopal, and as a member of the Community of Hope and Angel Flight continues to give aid and assistance to patients who come from out of town to the Texas Medical Center for treatment.

The Rotary Club of Lake Conroe will plant a Texas native Live Oak Tree in Memory Park adjacent to the new Charles B Stewart Library in Montgomery in Sharon's honor to commemorate her efforts on behalf of all the causes she has championed and as a reminder to the citizens of Montgomery County, the entire Eighth District and all the world of her tireless and devoted efforts for those in need.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this outstanding woman and in applauding her work in expanding education and service to all who seek it and have benefited from it, and in inspiring many to love and serve, including her daughter who is nearing completion of her nursing degree at Lamar University.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: THE CONSERVATIVES' SECRET PASSION

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in few areas of our public life is there a greater gap between what people say and

what they do than with regard to conservatives who decry “judicial activism.” It is a constant refrain from conservatives that judges should not be intervening in the policy process to impose their own particular views, and that it is especially egregious when appointed judges make fundamental decisions that ought to be left to elected officials. Their indignation is of course at its highest when decisions by some of those elected officials are in fact overturned by judges in the name of some judicial principle.

As Adam Cohen shows in his very thoughtful essay in the *New York Times* for July 9th in fact, conservative judges—generally to the great applause of their co-ideologues—are far more energetic judicial activists in this sense than their liberal counterparts. Few examples of conservative indignation at the Supreme Court equal in volume the anger that came when a 5–4 majority of the court decided not to overrule the decision of elected officials in Connecticut regarding eminent domain. Conservatives vigorously objected to the Court’s failure to intervene and cancel the decisions of these elected officials. In the most recent Supreme Court term, the Court ended its work for the year by invalidating several important actions taken by elected officials—regarding school integration and campaign finance reform to name two of the most prominent. The Eleventh Amendment jurisdiction of the court under the conservatives’ rule—a great expansion of the constitutional prohibition against suits against States—has been used repeatedly to knock out the application of congressional statutes that seek to prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups.

As the internal headline on Mr. Cohen’s piece says with regard to judicial activism, “The conservatives forgot that they’re opposed to it.” It is important, Madam Speaker, for people to be honest about what they believe and not simply to misuse principle as a means of enacting substantive positions without having fully to defend them. I ask in the interests of informed debate on this question of who are the judicial activists that the article by Mr. Cohen be printed here.

[From the *New York Times*, July 9, 2007]

LAST TERM’S WINNER AT THE SUPREME COURT:  
JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

(By Adam Cohen)

The Supreme Court told Seattle and Louisville, and hundreds more cities and counties, last month that they have to scrap their integration programs. There is a word for judges who invoke the Constitution to tell democratically elected officials how to do their jobs: activist.

President Bush, who created the court’s conservative majority when he appointed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, campaigned against activist judges, and promised to nominate judges who would “interpret the law, not try to make law.” Largely because of Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, the court has just completed one of its most activist terms in years.

The individuals and groups that have been railing against judicial activism should be outraged. They are not, though, because their criticism has always been of “liberal activist judges.” Now we have conservative ones, who use their judicial power on behalf of employers who mistreat their workers, tobacco companies, and whites who do not want to be made to go to school with blacks.

The most basic charge against activist judges has always been that they substitute

their own views for those of the elected branches. The court’s conservative majority did just that this term. It blithely overruled Congress, notably by nullifying a key part of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, a popular law designed to reduce the role of special-interest money in politics.

It also overturned the policies of federal agencies, which are supposed to be given special deference because of their expertise. In a pay-discrimination case, the majority interpreted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in a bizarre way that makes it extremely difficult for many victims of discrimination to prevail. The majority did not care that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has long interpreted the law in just the opposite way.

The court also eagerly overturned its own precedents. In an antitrust case, it gave corporations more leeway to collude and drive up prices by reversing 96-year-old case law. In its ruling upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, it almost completely reversed its decision from 2000 on a nearly identical law.

The school integration ruling was the most activist of all. The campaign against “activist judges” dates back to the civil rights era, when whites argued that federal judges had no right to order the Jim Crow South to desegregate. These critics insisted they were not against integration; they simply opposed judges’ telling elected officials what to do.

This term, the court did precisely what those federal judges did: it invoked the 14th Amendment to tell localities how to assign students to schools. The Roberts Court’s ruling had an extra fillip of activism. The civil rights era judges were on solid ground in saying that the 14th Amendment, which was adopted after the Civil War to bring former slaves into society, supported integration. Today’s conservative majority makes the much less obvious argument that the 14th Amendment protects society from integration.

With few exceptions, the court’s activism was in service of a conservative ideology. The justices invoked the due process clause in a novel way to overturn a jury’s award of \$79.5 million in punitive damages against Philip Morris, which for decades misrepresented the harm of smoking. It is hard to imagine that Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, who were in the majority, would have supported this sort of “judge-made law” as readily if the beneficiary were not a corporation.

The conservative activism that is taking hold is troubling in two ways. First, it is likely to make America a much harsher place. Companies like Philip Morris will be more likely to injure consumers if they know the due process clause will save them. Employers will be freer to mistreat workers like Lilly Ledbetter, who was for years paid less than her male colleagues, if they know that any lawsuit she files is likely to be thrown out on a technicality.

We have seen this before. In the early 1900s, the court routinely struck down worker protections, including minimum wage and maximum hours laws, and Congressional laws against child labor. That period, known as the Lochner era—after a 1905 ruling that a New York maximum hours law violated the employer’s due process rights—is considered one of the court’s darkest.

We are not in a new Lochner era, but traces of one are emerging. This court is already the most pro-business one in years, and one or two more conservative appointments could take it to a new level. Janice Rogers Brown, a federal appeals court judge who is often mentioned as a future Supreme Court nominee, has expressly called for a return to the Lochner era.

The other disturbing aspect of the new conservative judicial activism is its dishonesty. The conservative justices claim to support “judicial modesty,” but reviews of the court’s rulings over the last few years show that they have actually voted more often to overturn laws passed by Congress—the ultimate act of judicial activism—than has the liberal bloc.

It is time to admit that all judges are activists for their vision of the law. Once that is done, the focus can shift to where it should be: on whose vision is more faithful to the Constitution, and better for the nation.

IN HONOR OF SGT KEITH KLINE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate SGT Keith Allen Kline, born and raised in Oak Harbor, Ohio, and whose life was tragically cut short when he died in service in Iraq. He was mortally wounded while on patrol in Baghdad on July 5, 2007. Over the weekend his community will honor his memory and comfort his family, and Sergeant Kline will be laid to rest in Oak Harbor’s Union Cemetery on Monday, July 16, 2007.

In his poem the “Psalm of Life,” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes:

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN  
SAID TO THE PSALMIST

. . . Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul.

. . . In the world’s broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

. . . Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;—  
Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

Sergeant Kline lived the spirit of this message and the poem’s words serve as an epitaph as we recall his life and honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Keith Kline graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 2002. A talented wrestler, he also played soccer and football and participated in school plays. He enlisted in the United States Army following his graduation. At Fort Gordon, Georgia, he completed his Advanced Individual Training and was assigned to Bravo Company, 96th Civil Air Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade. In Iraq 3 months, he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Team supporting the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In his brief career his distinguished service brought him four Army Achievement Medals, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Basic Parachutist Badge. His death

brought him the posthumous award of the Purple Heart Award, Bronze Star Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

More than a soldier, Keith Kline was known as "a good hearted person that was full of life, and a very hard worker." He was a NASCAR fan, he reveled in family get-togethers and his favorite holiday was July 4th. Cherishing his memory and celebrating the gift of his life are his mother Betty and brother John, his stepfather, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We offer them our sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude as they struggle through this difficult time. May they find comfort in their loved one's memory and recall the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven."

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND C.K. YARBER, SR.

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor dear friends of mine for their 50 years of dedicated service to the city of Texarkana and to the State of Arkansas through their ministries. Reverend C.K. Yarber, Sr., and his wife, Inez Yarber, are true leaders who have provided a model example and have built a solid foundation for future generations.

This year, the Yarbers celebrate a milestone anniversary of ministering at Lonoke Baptist Church, Miller County and across southwest Arkansas for the past 50 years. The Yarbers first began their ministry at Lonoke Baptist Church when it had just a few dozen members, but now the congregation boasts over 600 worshipers each Sunday. Reverend Yarber is also currently serving as moderator of the Southwest District Association, a position he has held for the past 12 years.

Reverend Yarber is a native of Ashdown, Arkansas, and a graduate of the United Theological Seminary School in Monroe, Louisiana. Soon after seminary, Reverend Yarber began his life's work of giving back to his community by nourishing and strengthening a church family that has literally changed and impacted countless lives for a half century.

The Yarbers' service does not end at the church steps as they continue to contribute throughout the State of Arkansas to enhance the world for so many. Reverend Yarber was the first African American to serve on the Texarkana, Arkansas School Board. The couple is also active with the Arkansas Voter Registration Committee, the Miller County NAACP, the Civil Service Commission of the Arkansas State Police, and through their ministries in the Arkansas Prison System, among many others.

I am deeply honored to recognize one family's tremendous faith and devotion towards making our world a better place to live. Reverend C.K. Yarber and Inez Yarber have spent their lifetime together reaching out and teaching youth, adults and seniors alike about the positive healing influence faith can have on a person's life. The vision and work of this couple is remarkable and I congratulate them for reaching this 50-year mark and for the countless contributions they have made to our soci-

ety through their steadfast ministries and selfless outreach. I am proud of their service and I am honored to call them my friends.

IN HONOR OF HERITAGE VILLAGE

### HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in honor of Heritage Village in Southbury, Connecticut. Heritage Village, the largest and oldest condominium complex in the Northeast, is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary. For 40 years, Heritage Village has stood as a model community for mature living.

Heritage Village is home to 4,000 residents covering 1,000 acres in scenic Southbury. More than just a housing complex, Heritage Village combines residential services with a diverse range of activities to create an active and wonderfully vibrant community.

The success and longevity of Heritage Village is a testament to the strength of such a tight-knit and active environment. From day one, Heritage Village was planned as much more than just a place to live—it was designed as a place where activity and opportunity would be encouraged and where neighbors caring for each other would define its legacy. That mindset, situated in one of the most beautiful settings in Connecticut, has allowed Heritage Village to thrive and grow.

For 40 years, Heritage Village has been a shining example of community living, and I know it will continue in that tradition for years to come. I am therefore extremely proud to come before my colleagues in this House to recognize Heritage Village, its administrators, residents, and staff for their contribution to Southbury and to the State of Connecticut.

TRIBUTE TO PATTI WINKLER

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, whom I have known for over 30 years. On July 20, 2007, Patti Winkler will retire after 34 years working for See's Candies.

Patti Winkler was born in Canada and moved to the United States as a child. She lived with her mother, father, brothers and sisters in South Sacramento, CA until the late eighties when the family moved to Roseville. Today, Patti still lives in Roseville and shares her home with her mother, Rita, her two sisters Maxine and Mary Jane, her nephew Robbie, and five dogs. Patti enjoys visiting her family cabin in Cascade Shores, where she and her sisters spend time boating in Scott's Flat Lake, pulling the children behind on tubes, and then returning to the cabin at the end of the day to play card games.

In her life, Patti's family has always come first. She takes great pleasure in accompanying her mother to play bingo, helping her nephew through college, and cooking one of

her famous BLT sandwiches for anyone in the family. Her loving and generous spirit is particularly evident during the Christmas season, as she cooks for her family and brings cookies and toffee in for her coworkers.

As a frequent customer, I always look forward to seeing Patti when I visit the See's Candies store in Roseville. Patti began working for See's in November 1973 at the Arden Fair Mall. Both her mother and sister Janie also worked for See's. On September 29, 1988, she opened the See's store in Roseville, which she managed until 2003. Patti knows the workings of the shop better than anyone else, and is special not only to the store's customers, but also to the people she works with who truly cherish Patti's friendship. She makes the shop warm and inviting to anyone who works there and goes out of her way to make everyone feel like part of the team. While her family will benefit from spending more time with Patti in her retirement, her coworkers and customers are truly sad to see her go.

During her retirement, Patti is looking forward to splitting her time between her home in Roseville and their cabin in Cascade Shores. She also plans to continue traveling, as she enjoys taking cruises with her family to Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean, and through the east coast. I join everyone who knows Patti in wishing her any happy moments in retirement, and thanking her for the joy she brings to everyone she knows.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF LYME CONGREGATIONAL UCC IN BELLEVUE, OHIO

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an amazing achievement. Lyme Congregational United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Ohio, celebrates its 190th anniversary in July 2007. A series of events through the month of July commemorate this historic occasion.

On July 15 and July 17 of 1817, a total of 10 people were examined to form the charter membership of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheatsborough. According to church documents, traveling minister Reverend John Seward charged the members to "walk worthy of their high calling." Throughout the year, Reverend Alvin Coe, a Presbyterian missionary to the American Indians, occasionally preached to the largely Congregationalist membership. In March 1820, Lot B. Sullivan came to Lyme looking for employment and was soon ordained and installed as the congregation's first minister. This ordination was the very first performed west of the Cuyahoga River, and ministers came from 100 miles around to participate in the "laying on of hands." Church records note that early salaries were \$400 per year, two-thirds of which was in the form of produce for the minister and his family.

In 1828, the community of Lyme built a new schoolhouse. For the next 7 years, the church held its services in that school building. In 1835 the congregation built its own church building, which was dedicated in 1836. The building is the only church the congregation

has known and has been in continuous use for 171 years. Hand-hewn and built to stand the test of time, the church remains a beautifully simplistic structure.

Formally incorporated as a Congregational Church in 1873, Lyme Congregational U.C.C. calls itself "A Family Church Where All Are Welcome" and this motto rings as true today as at the church's founding. Families have grown and maintained the church through many markers of history: It was founded less than 10 years after the first settlers arrived in the Firelands of Northwest Ohio and only 2 years after the first people came to Bellevue. It was standing for 6 years already when the Erie Canal opened, and 16 years when Oberlin College—the first in the U.S. to admit women and African Americans—was established. The church continued in witness to history as our Nation passed through the Civil War, the joining of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1886, the Wright Brothers' Kitty Hawk flight in 1903, the introduction of the Model T Ford, World War I, the Suffrage of Women in 1919, World War II, the Korean War, the dawn of the space program, the first moon walk in 1969, the Vietnam War and the tragic shootings at Kent State University nearby, the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York in 2001, two Gulf Wars and United Nations missions, from telegraph to telephone to cellular phones, from the writing of letters to radio to television to computers and digital cameras. Through all of these incredible changes in one continuous thread of history, 36 ministers have led this flock. The members celebrate their history and have carefully preserved artifacts and documents from the church's founding nearly two centuries ago.

In the Book of Psalms in the Holy Bible Psalm 100 tells Christians, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations." Few congregations can attest to the message in this Scripture as well as that of Lyme Congregational United Church of Christ. I am very pleased to acknowledge this anniversary celebration and join in a remembrance of the past, reflection of the present, and hope for the future.

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HONORING MR. CHARLES TISDALE  
FEARLESS CHAMPION OF CIVIL  
RIGHTS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of Mr. Charles Tisdale, a fearless champion of civil rights within the African-American community. Mr. Tisdale was the owner of The Jackson Advocate Newspaper, which gave a voice to African-Americans in Jackson and throughout the state of Mississippi.

Charles Tisdale, an Alabama native who fought for civil rights as owner and publisher

of Mississippi's oldest black-owned newspaper was born November 5, 1926, in Athens, Alabama. Tisdale purchased The Jackson Advocate in 1978 from the newspaper's first owner, Percy Green. For 20 years, Mr. Tisdale's influential talk show on WMPR in Jackson, often took elected leaders, both black and white, to task for not effectively serving their communities.

Mr. Tisdale was not only a civil rights activist but a front-line leader. He did not write from a dark room but led several marches, putting his life in danger to advance the civil rights of African-Americans in his community. Tisdale's civil rights record extends back to the 1960s, when he joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in protest marches. Mr. Tisdale was with Dr. King when the civil rights crusader was assassinated in Memphis.

Mr. Tisdale often faced repercussions for his outspoken nature. He received several death threats, some of which resulted in his newspaper office in Jackson being firebombed on two separate occasions. The last occurrence was in 1998, when gasoline was doused over furniture and molotov cocktails were thrown through the windows. The 1998 attack resulted in \$100,000 damages. Clinton Moses, of Jackson, later pleaded guilty to the crime and told authorities that Louis Armstrong, a member of the Jackson City Council paid him \$500 to commit the firebombing. Mr. Armstrong was never charged in the case. Throughout the years of adversity, Mr. Tisdale continued his courageous fight.

Despite sagging circulation of the Jackson Advocate over the past five years, the newspaper continued to receive several honors, including the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year, the Nation of Islam Freedom Fighter Award and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award. Mr. Tisdale's reputation spread far beyond the state of Mississippi. The National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade association of more than 200 black-oriented community newspapers, has named one of its top awards after him.

He took the lead in publishing articles on civil rights violations and was unrelenting in his fight against racism, injustice, discrimination and corruption by government officials. He never gave up on a story and in the end the truth always prevailed.

I will always remember Charles Tisdale as a man of extraordinary courage, who cared deeply about the struggles of African-Americans fighting for justice.

Please join me today in honoring a truly courageous civil rights leader, Mr. Charles Tisdale.

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TRIBUTE TO RABBI NARDUS  
GROEN

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, son, veteran, and community leader—Rabbi Nardus Groen, who passed away on Wednesday, June 13 after living a full life of community service.

Rabbi Nardus Groen was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on December 18, 1919 and grew to become a hero and a family man. As a member of the Dutch Underground during World War II, Rabbi Groen was captured by German soldiers multiple times and heroically managed to escape each time. One particular act of heroism occurred in 1940 when Groen was guarding a Jewish hospital in the Netherlands during its evacuation. Although the patients had escaped, Groen was protecting a group of Jewish nurses as the Nazis approached. Selflessly, he slipped on a Red Cross arm band and escorted the nurses into a room. When the Nazis asked who was in the room, Groen explained that he was caring for patients with Scarlet Fever. Fearing the illness, the Nazis spared the Jewish nurses, including Groen's future wife, the former Sipora Rodriguez-Lopes.

After World War II, Rabbi Nardus Groen served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina under the American Marine Corps. Following his stint with the Marines, Groen worked as a psychologist at a Jewish orphanage for Holocaust survivors. He helped countless youths cope with one of the greatest tragedies in human history. Two years later, he began to serve as a rabbi at the oldest congregation in the Western Hemisphere in Surinam. Groen led a mixed Sephardic Ashkenazic congregation in Surinam until 1952 when he served as a rabbi in Einhoven, the Netherlands. He became one of the foremost leaders of his community, uniting two different cultures in one synagogue.

Nardus Groen moved to Lansdale, PA as a renowned rabbi in 1963 where he served as Beth Israel Synagogue's rabbi for 13 years. He provided guidance and spiritual leadership to Beth Israel's community, helping his community grow to the vibrant Jewish center it is today. Groen moved back to Europe and retired in 1986 as the chief rabbi for the eastern six provinces of the Netherlands. He lived what he preached and will be remembered across the Netherlands.

After his retirement, Rabbi Groen and his loving wife Sipora lived in the Netherlands and Delray Beach, Florida after his retirement before permanently settling in Florida in 2005. Rabbi Groen spent his last years as a loving father to Marcel Groen, Leo Groen, Ruben Groen, David Groen, and Debra Groen; a loving brother to Meyers Groen and Sophia Groen; a loving grandfather and great grandfather to twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and a loving husband to Sipora Groen.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and remembering Rabbi Nardus Groen. Through his hard work, Rabbi Groen has spread hope across three continents and will be remembered as a strong leader, a caring mentor, and a true mensch.

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HONORING MR. JOHNNY L. SUTTON,  
FORMER MAYOR OF THE  
CITY OF CIBOLO

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Johnny L. Sutton, the former

mayor of the City of Cibolo, in honor of his exemplary leadership in the growth of the city during his tenure.

Johnny Sutton served for two years as Mayor of the City of Cibolo starting in 2005. During his tenure, Mr. Sutton established the Cibolo Economic Development Corporation, the Capital Improvement Plan Citizens' Oversight Committee, and the Community Development Department. He also helped instill several civic programs to increase pedestrian and driver safety at schools. Mr. Sutton increased levels of police protection, ended the four-year cycle of deficit budgets, and secured over 14 million dollars in capital improvement with no tax increase.

Under Mayor Sutton's leadership, Cibolo constructed new draining projects, reconstructed streets, and purchased agricultural facilities for conversion to public recreational use. During his tenure, the city saw its population expand by over 50 percent and developed resources through partnerships with Canyon Regional Water Authority and the Regional Water Alliance. Mr. Sutton brought his prior experience as Councilman in the City of Cibolo to his role as Mayor.

Mr. Johnny Sutton truly led by example and it is to his credit that the City of Cibolo has seen an improvement in its business capital, and a renewal of infrastructure projects. The city is a better place because of him.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize former Mayor Johnny L. Sutton, and I thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO BOURNS, INC. ON ITS  
60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and outstanding businesses that enrich the lives of their employees, produce quality products and help make Riverside a wonderful place to live and work. On Saturday, July 14, 2007 Bourns, Incorporated will celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

Bourns, Inc. was founded by Marlan and Rosemary Bourns—two exceptional individuals who are also celebrating sixty years of marriage—six decades ago. They started out in a 384 square foot space in Altadena, California. The goal of the company was to provide a method of accurately determining an aircraft's pitch attitude which would solve a crucial problem for pilots. The success in providing this method catapulted them onto the world stage—they became a global corporation and manufacture a range of products that impact almost every aspect of today's electronics industry.

Bourns, Inc. moved their headquarters to Riverside, California located in my congressional district and have nine other locations around the world. Throughout the years, Bourns has prided itself on quality, value and innovation. Their product line now includes precision potentiometers, panel controls, encoders, resistor/capacitor networks, chip re-

sistors/arrays, inductors, transformers, resettable fuses, thyristor-based overvoltage protectors, line feed resistors, gas discharge tubes, telephone station protectors, 5-pin protectors, industrial signal, irrigation and petroleum protectors, CATV coax protectors, signal data protectors, indoor and outdoor POTsplitters, network interface devices, and integrated circuits.

Bourns, Inc. is a multiple recipient of the Supplier Excellence Award, Top Supplier Award, Outstanding Performance Award, Preferred Supplier award, among others. They serve a wide-range of industries including Automotive Electronics, Test and Measurement, Medical Electronics, Consumer Equipment, Telecommunications, and Portable Electronics. Bourns, Inc. continues to grow, innovate and lead.

It is my pleasure to recognize Bourns, Inc. and its world-class employees for sixty years of exceptional service as well as thank them for their contributions to the community of Riverside, California. Bourns, Inc. not only provides quality products to their customers but also provides a positive place to work. I know that many community leaders are grateful for Bourns, Inc. and salute them on their 60th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF SPRINGS  
RESCUE MISSION

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions made by Springs Rescue Mission to the Colorado Springs community. Over the past eleven years, through its tireless dedication to the teachings of Christ, Springs Rescue Mission has served more than one million meals, provided countless household goods, offered instruction, and ministered to the less fortunate.

A member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, the largest provider of free meals and shelter in the world, Springs Rescue Mission is funded entirely by the contributions of private citizens, corporations, and churches. It is through this generosity that the Mission is able to hold its annual "Great Thanksgiving Banquet" and Christmas dinner, boast the second largest food bank in Colorado Springs, and, through its Samaritans Kitchen feed the hungry with over 2,500 meals per week. In addition to providing food, clothing, and furniture, the Mission also offers career development and an opportunity for self-sufficiency.

On July 20th, the Mission will open the doors of its newly renovated Resource Center which will provide no-cost emergency services to men, women, and children who lack the basic necessities of life. In addition to this center, the Mission also has an upcoming project to house as many as fifty men facing homelessness or substance abuse. Springs Rescue Mission welcomes those for whom hope seems lost—knowing that "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7). Through instructing participants about the love of God and the power of prayer, these programs provide the tools necessary for rebuilding lives.

Today, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Springs Rescue Mission on this newest achievement. I am grateful for all that the organization has done for my constituents in Colorado Springs, and am pleased to see this wonderful institution growing and expanding to meet the needs of our community.

LIAM SWAN'S "ODE TO THE  
FALLEN SOLDIERS OF IRAQ"

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Liam Swan, a constituent of mine who is currently a student at Oliver Pierce Middle School in Ramona, CA. One of our local hometown papers in San Diego County, the Ramona Home Journal, recently printed a poem written by Liam that memorializes and pays tribute to the servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting to preserve freedom in Iraq. His poem, titled "Ode to the Fallen Soldiers of Iraq," follows:

To all you brave soldiers who have fallen in Iraq,

Who left the comforting embrace of Family, friends, and home

To fight and protect the freedom of others  
In a faraway dry, dusty and desolate land,  
We Americans honor and salute you.

Like dry leaves we must crumble and toss  
Our differences aside.

Where you are  
Hawk or Dove,  
Democrat or Republican,  
Liberal or Conservative,  
We must first be Americans

Who honor the fallen heroes that fought for us.

For you bravely laid down your lives,  
Spilling your blood and dreams

In a foreign land,

For a foreign people

For an American Cause,

Know that you will be greatly missed,

Know that you will always be remembered

For your sacrifice,

For your courage and convictions.

Your bright and promising light

Extinguished too soon,

We celebrate and honor your memory

You fallen soldiers of Iraq.

As ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, I share Liam's strong support, appreciation and respect for our servicemen and women. I am particularly pleased each time I learn about Americans, like Liam, who are willing to use their creative talents to ensure the memory of those who have voluntarily left the comfort of their homes to defend and protect the interests of the American people, are never forgotten.

Madam Speaker, Liam's words reflect our Nation's overwhelming gratitude to the millions of uniformed military men and women that have answered the call to duty with unquestioned courage and commitment. I wish Liam continued success in his academic efforts and it is with absolute pride that I rise today to share his inspiring and patriotic tribute with my colleagues.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OWYHEE DAM

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Bureau of Reclamation's Owyhee Project in Malheur County, Oregon, located in the district I represent. This momentous occasion will be celebrated at a major community event at the dam this weekend. At the time of its construction, the Owyhee Dam was the highest in the world. The dam rises 417 feet above the river with nearly another 100 feet below the river surface. The arch section of the dam spans the distance of 2 football fields. The dam created the Owyhee Reservoir, which is 52 miles long and holds enough water to cover 13,900 acres with 1 foot of water.

You may be wondering how it came to be that one of the largest concrete structures in the world was built in a true American frontier. In the early 19th century, scouts, trappers, and traders began to explore all parts of the Northwest; the high-desert region of what would become the Oregon Territory was no exception. This area was and currently is home to bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, golden eagles, coyotes, and mule deer. The settlers in the area also discovered that the ground, provided with adequate water, could grow just about any crop including barley, oats, sorghum, wheat, alfalfa, beans, peppermint, spearmint, sugar beets, sweet corn, and more.

At the turn of the 20th century the need for more water became apparent and the Reclamation Service (now the Bureau of Reclamation) investigated several dam sites and irrigation plans. It finally issued a proposal in 1925 to construct the dam. The following year, Interior Secretary Hubert Work and President Calvin Coolidge approved the plans and in 1928 contracts were awarded and construction began.

However, as with any significant construction project, challenges arose. John Terry, a retired copy editor for *The Oregonian* and a member of the Oregon Geographic Names Board, recently highlighted a few of those challenges.

"The Bureau of Reclamation built a construction camp with housing, administrative buildings, water and sewer facilities," Terry wrote. "Crews labored around the clock, although the winter of 1930–31 produced sub-freezing temperatures and a 53-day work stoppage."

In 1935, the first water was delivered to ranchers, farmers and communities in Oregon and Idaho. And while the dam continues to provide irrigation water, it also provides numerous other benefits, including flood control, recreational fishing, and excellent habitat for bighorn sheep, mule deer, pelicans, and cormorants.

At the dedication ceremony, President Herbert Hoover sent along his congratulation in a written statement "commemorating the completion of the highest dam in the world."

"The sympathy of the administration and the Congress and the wholehearted and fine spirit of the people of this community have cooperated to make the completion of this dam possible," President Hoover said.

We should emulate the cooperative work of those who raised this dam when demanding it meet the needs of today's farmers, ranchers, communities, and wildlife. I congratulate Owyhee Irrigation District Manger Jay Chamberlin and his staff on commemorating the completion of the dam. And I thank the local elected officials and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Robert Johnson for their efforts to steward the water resources provided by the Owyhee Dam. May the next 75 years for the Owyhee Project be as successful and prosperous as the first 75.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES  
LINDBERG

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Lindberg, an honorable soldier and citizen, a great Minnesotan and American. Mr. Lindberg passed away on June 24, at the age of 86, the last surviving member of the squad who raised the original flag on a mountaintop during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Charles Lindberg, with five other men, climbed his way to the top of Mount Suribachi during the morning of February 23, 1945. He dodged enemy fire, engaged enemy pillboxes and for his valor and bravery was awarded the Silver Star. At the foot of the mountain he repeatedly exposed himself to machinegun fire and hand grenades, almost surprised to make it to the top. Years later he would express wonder for merely having survived the day, which saw some of the most intense fighting of the war: "We thought it would be a slaughterhouse up on Suribachi, I still don't understand why we were not attacked."

It wasn't planned ahead of time, they hadn't been ordered to do it; but after a long, arduous climb, during a brief reprise in the gunfire, two members of Lindberg's squad noticed a long pipe up on top of the mountain—and it just so happened that one of them was carrying a flag. They scoured the mountaintop for the highest point, and raised the Stars and Stripes up over the island—the first American flag to make it on Japanese soil. Lindberg would later recall the reaction of the American forces that day, lamenting how "down below, the troops started to cheer, the ships' whistles went off, it was just something that you would never forget."

As such moments always seem, the peace and celebration was too soon shattered. Enemy troops began emerging from their caves, and Lindberg's squad continued the fight. Three of the six men wouldn't survive to see the photographs taken on the mountaintop that morning. Lindberg himself survived a gunshot wound through the arm a week later, for which he received a purple heart. When he was discharged from the Marines he went home to South Dakota, and in 1951 moved to Richfield, MN, to become an electrician. He spent his life speaking to school groups and veterans, ensuring that the story of his fallen comrades lives on in memory as an illustration of the price we pay for our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I am honored and humbled in recognizing Mr. Charles Lindberg in

the event of his passing, and as a Minnesotan, proud to claim such an illustrious American as one of our own. Charles, on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
JERRY FITZGERALD

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend Jerry Fitzgerald, on the occasion of his retirement from Oakwood Healthcare System after 41 dignified years of service.

A Native Detroiter, Jerry received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Detroit and went on to attain a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Michigan. He is also an American College of Healthcare Executives, ACHE, Fellow, as well as an adjunct instructor for the University of Michigan's Program in Health Care Administration.

Jerry began his work at Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center as the Assistant Director in 1966. In 1980, he was named the President and CEO and held that position until his sage leadership led to the successful union with the People's Community Hospital Authority to form the doubly large Oakwood Healthcare System. The new system immediately established itself as the premier healthcare provider in southeastern and western Wayne County. Under Jerry's guidance Oakwood has earned the reputation as one of the top 100 cardiac hospitals in the Nation for 7 out of the past 8 years, serving over one million residents.

Jerry's vision for exceptional service and excellent healthcare has fueled a myriad of initiatives and improvements, all of which have established Oakwood's outstanding status. His vision and efforts have been met with extensive gratitude and support from the community, as he is the recipient of the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior Healthcare Leadership Regent's Award, the Sy Gottlieb Award from the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, the Universal Partnership Award from the American Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Lawrence A. Hill Award of Excellence from the University of Michigan.

Although this marks the closing of one chapter in Jerry's career, it does not signal the end of Jerry's commitment to the community, as he currently serves as the chairman of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, MHA, Board of Trustees and is actively involved in American Hospital Association. He holds several board membership positions throughout the Greater Detroit Area including the Detroit Regional Chamber, the Detroit Economic Club, the Dearborn Community Fund Board, the Downriver Community Advisory Board, Michigan Colleges Foundation Board of Trustees, the University of Detroit Mercy College of Health Professions Advisory, and the Detroit Sacred Heart Major Seminary Foundation.

Jerry's years of service have been essential in shaping the healthcare system of the Greater Detroit Area and southeast Michigan. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Jerry all the best in a happy, long and active retirement.

HONORING MS. TRUDY KRAMER

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district in order to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Ms. Trudy C. Kramer, who will retire at year's end after 26 years of service to the Art Museum Parrish in Southampton, Long Island.

For over a century, the Parrish Art Museum has been devoted to the collection and preservation of American art with particular focus on displaying art of the eastern end of Long Island. The museum is a landmark in my district, known for its commitment to bringing art and people together in its education and outreach programs. Trudy Kramer has been an integral part of that mission for almost three decades, serving as the museum's director.

Trudy is widely admired for her vision and foresight, which helped expand the museum's membership and prestige. During her tenure, the museum also built upon its impressive collection of new works by renowned artists. She directed the acquisition of the museum's neighboring library, now known as the Carroll Petrie Center for Education. And she has been instrumental in the museum's expansion, which includes a truly breathtaking new facility in Water Mill, Long Island.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a proud community that has long admired the Parrish Art Museum's contributions to the artistic legacy of Long Island's east end, I am especially proud to recognize Trudy Kramer's role in the museum's success and congratulate her on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ROBERT E. LOWERY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery, pastor of Saint Timothy Community Church in Gary, IN. On Tuesday, July 10, 2007, Reverend Lowery passed away at the University of Chicago Medical Center at the age of 82. A constant fixture in the community, Reverend Lowery understood how to communicate with all people. For this, Reverend Lowery appropriately earned the nickname, "Everyman's Preacher."

Robert E. Lowery was born on the west side of Chicago. An accomplished scholar, he obtained degrees in theology from the Chicago Theological Seminary, the Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, and a Bachelor of Science degree from George Williams College in Chicago. Though Chicago was his home, he eventually relocated to Gary, Indiana and took over as pastor of Saint Timothy Community Church in 1957. For the past 50 years, Reverend Lowery has called Gary his home, and the impact he has had on his congregation and the entire community will forever be

remembered. Under his leadership, Saint Timothy has grown to become one of the city's largest congregations with over 1,600 members.

Reverend Lowery's lifetime of service to his community goes far beyond his pastoral duties. Knowing that preaching was only a small part of the impact he could have on people's lives, Reverend Lowery became actively involved in many local organizations. Realizing the need to reach people at an early age, he dedicated himself to programs aimed at improving the lives of the youth in the community and enhancing their opportunities to lead successful lives. Reverend Lowery felt a tremendous responsibility to reach out to the youth, and it was for this reason that he became active in the Boy Scouts of America. Fully dedicated to the mission of the Boy Scouts, Reverend Lowery served as Scoutmaster for Troop 53 at Saint Timothy, and he also served as an executive board member of the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Reverend Lowery's generosity and commitment to the children of Northwest Indiana will forever be remembered by the children he mentored.

Recognized for his work in his community, Reverend Lowery was the recipient of many awards, both local and national. While it would be impossible to name them all, Reverend Lowery's efforts led to him being honored with the prestigious Drum Major Award, presented by the Gary Frontiers Service Club in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his most worthy induction into Gary's Steel City Hall of Fame in 1990.

Reverend Lowery leaves to cherish his memory three daughters: Gay Marlene Lowery, Jan Avis Lowery, and Lynn Michele Lowery-Darby, as well as an entire community whose lives have been improved by such a caring and benevolent friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery for his outstanding devotion to his congregation and to all of Northwest Indiana. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to the people he served is worthy of the highest commendation. Reverend Lowery's selflessness was an inspiration to us all. While the entire community is saddened by his passing, his message will live on through the many lives he has touched.

RECOGNIZING THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HACU) NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, HACU, National Internship Program in providing Hispanic students invaluable real world working experiences that have allowed these students to make more educated career choices.

Over the past 15 years, the HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) has offered more than 6,500 meaningful paid internships with

federal and corporate partners during spring, summer and fall sessions. HNIP has become the largest Hispanic college internship program in the United States.

On July 26, 2007, the HACU National Internship Program will celebrate its 15th Anniversary at a Gala in Washington, DC. This gala will showcase the achievements of former and current interns as part of a summer-long itinerary of special events marking this remarkable program's first 15 years.

We applaud HACU and the HACU National Internship Program for exposing these students to public- and private-sector career opportunities and specifically helping address the historic underrepresentation of Hispanics in the federal work force.

The HACU National Internship program began in 1992 with 24 interns. In 2006 alone, the program provided internships to 616 college students in 22 federal agencies and nine private corporations.

This competitive program selects top students from among HACU's 450 member and partner colleges and universities, which collectively serve more than two-thirds of all Hispanic higher education students. HNIP provides meaningful work experiences to these students by matching their skills and career goals with the objectives of federal and corporate partners, enabling these students to make more informed career choices.

The Office of Personnel Management, OPM, also recognizes the value of the HACU National Internship Program and has included it as a best practice in its fourth annual report on Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government.

As the youngest and now largest ethnic population, Hispanics already make up one of every three new workers in the overall workforce, and by 2050 are projected to make up one of every two new workers. Yet, it is well documented that Hispanics remain the only underrepresented ethnic group in the Federal Government. Today, Hispanics represent 7.5 percent of the Federal workforce—5.1 percent below the current civilian labor employment level. With the help of HNIP we are lowering this gap and creating a pipeline of qualified Hispanics in the Federal workforce.

We salute the HACU National Internship Program and applaud its success at opening the doors of opportunity for new generations of exceptional students while enhancing workforce diversity.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER DAYLE WESTON HARDY, PLANO'S POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, many are grieving the death of Officer Dayle Weston Hardy. The 9-year veteran of the Plano Police Department leaves behind a wife and 3-year-old twin girls. He died in the line of duty shortly after he was hit by a car while in pursuit of a traffic violator.

His sudden and unfortunate death reminds us of the crucial role first responders play and the courage and selflessness they exhibit

while protecting the American people and keeping our vibrant North Texas community safe. Wes impacted the lives of many people and he will be dearly missed.

He is the second police officer in Plano to die in the line of duty, the first one since 1920. His death has truly rocked the area. To his family—please know that Shirley and I grieve Officer Hardy's death. We grieve for you. We grieve with you. And we lift you and your daughters up in prayer.

Wes was a shining example of public service and inspiring courage. God bless him and God bless America.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. FERNANDO REY

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to pay tribute to a man who exemplifies leadership, Mr. Fernando Rey of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Rey was born in 1940 in Southern California and comes from a family of veterans with his father and seven uncles having served in World War II. While he was unable to serve in the armed forces, he remained dedicated to commemorating the sacrifices of others by becoming a lifelong historian of World Wars I and II.

For nearly two decades, Mr. Rey has worked to bring recognition to our nation's Medal of Honor recipients for their valor and bravery.

The Heroes & Heritage organization was founded in 1995 in order to recognize the achievements of our military heroes and to encourage higher standards of education for our youth. Thanks to Mr. Rey's leadership as Executive Director, the Heroes & Heritage organization gained a reputation for having a direct and positive impact on the future of our armed forces and the community of San Antonio.

Mr. Rey's displayed outstanding and natural leadership in the planning and coordination of the Department of Defense's participation in the first student career fair and symposium presented by Heroes & Heritage. By exposing hundreds of college and high school students to career and employment opportunities in military science and technologies, Mr. Rey immeasurably expanded their horizons and opened the doors to endless possibilities.

As a motivational speaker, Mr. Rey helps many high school and university students understand the importance of patriotism and service to our country by sharing and thus preserving the legacy of our distinguished veterans.

Recently, Mr. Rey was presented with a Certificate of Special Achievement from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness for his accomplishments and contributions.

I congratulate Mr. Fernando Rey, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director for Educational Programs with Heroes & Heritage, for this well-deserved recognition.

COMMENDING THE MUNTU DANCE  
THEATRE OF CHICAGO

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, great societies are often described by their cultural attributes which are often weaved into the fabric of a community, a city and a nation bringing joy, satisfaction and hope into the hearts and minds of the people. Such has been the case and the experiences of the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago which was founded in 1972 and has developed a remarkable history and a great legacy.

The Muntu Dance Group is more than dances, they are a concept, an embodiment of psychic movement. They are a program, a place, an opportunity for young people, for people of all ages to be engaged, involved and influenced. Madam Speaker, the Muntu is an art form to be copied, preserved and proliferated throughout the world and that is why their capital campaign is so vitally important.

The Muntu Group is well into a \$17 million capital campaign to build its own performing center at 71st and Ellis on the South Side of Chicago. The Muntu Dance Group has come a long way in 35 years and I am pleased to commend and congratulate them on their outstanding achievement.

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AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT'S BENEFITS TO AFRICA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This law provides duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market for certain goods from designated countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It was based on the congressional finding that it is in the mutual interest of the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development on the continent. The criteria for beneficiary countries includes evidence of progress toward a market-based economy, rule of law, economic policies to reduce poverty and promote economic growth, a system to combat corruption and bribery, and protection of internationally recognized worker and human rights.

The recent report from the U.S. Trade Representative to Congress contains some impressive information about AGOA's impact. Since it was enacted in 2000, trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has increased 143 percent, and AGOA has played an important role in this increase. In 2006, over 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA-eligible countries entered the United States duty-free. U.S. imports from AGOA countries totaled \$44.2 billion in 2006, which was an increase of 16 percent over the previous year.

It is disappointing, however, that most of this increase in 2006 was due to oil, and non-

oil trade increased by only 7 percent after having declined a precipitous 16 percent in 2005. Non-oil AGOA trade constituted only \$3.2 billion of the total. These latter statistics indicate a need for greater attention to the non-oil potential on the continent.

The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations that I chaired held a hearing on a five-year assessment of the act in October 2005, which included two witnesses who we heard from again today: Ms. Florizelle Liser and Mr. Steve Hayes. One of the issues that I raised at the prior hearing was the protection of labor and other human rights in AGOA-eligible countries. Ms. Liser testified at the time that AGOA was having a positive impact on worker and human rights, and she provided examples of reforms that had been undertaken by beneficiary countries which included the prevention of child trafficking and addressed the worst forms of child labor.

It is important that this issue be examined, particularly in light of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report that was released by the State Department last month. It contains a "Tier 2 Watch List" of countries that have a serious trafficking problem and that do not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. These countries will be the subject of particular scrutiny by the State Department's Trafficking Office during the coming year to ascertain whether they are making sufficient efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

It is disturbing that eight countries on the Tier 2 Watch List are AGOA beneficiaries, and that each of these countries are cited in the TIP report for child and/or forced labor concerns. Sexual exploitation, particularly of children, as cited in some of these reports would also be relevant in the AGOA context as gross violations of international human rights standards. In addition to the other human rights assessments that are legislatively mandated as part of the AGOA eligibility process, one would expect the tier placement for trafficking in persons to be a critical consideration. I would strongly encourage the U.S. Trade Representative to collaborate with the State Department Trafficking in Persons office on this issue.

While questions may be raised concerning the relation between AGOA and improvement in human rights, it does seem that the act together with the Millennium Challenge Account is providing an impetus for other advances. The World Bank is reporting that corruption in Africa is declining, stating that even some of the poorest countries have made "significant progress" in improving governance and fighting corruption over the past decade. This trend is certainly attributable to a significant extent to the eligibility requirements for both of these U.S. initiatives.

AGOA and the MCA are also addressing infrastructure and technical capacity that are essential for long-term development, but which are arguably not receiving sufficient emphasis from other assistance sources. As I indicated earlier and in the subcommittee's recent hearing on the MCA, Congress needs to look at ways to improve and strengthen these benefits in both pieces of legislation.

And finally, one should not minimize the good will and positive bilateral relationships in Africa that are being reinforced through AGOA and the MCA, together with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This latter

consideration, though intangible, is critical if the United States is to maintain and strengthen its presence in this region of the world that is becoming increasingly important for our own national security and global peace and prosperity.

CONGRATULATING PAULINE  
SHERRER AS THE NEW PRESIDENT  
OF THE TENNESSEE  
PRESS ASSOCIATION

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to congratulate Pauline Sherrer of Crossville, Tennessee, on her succession as President of the Tennessee Press Association. Pauline will join a long line of talented and dedicated journalism professionals in taking the helm of the TPA.

Pauline's family has long been an integral part of the Tennessee media. In 1981, the Sherrer family purchased the Crossville Chronicle, the hometown paper of Cumberland County. Pauline maintained her role as publisher of the Chronicle through two sales of the paper, providing the people of Cumberland County with fair and accurate reporting on the issues that affect them most. Loved by the Chronicle staff and lauded by her peers, Sherrer's leadership has set a standard for meeting the needs of readers.

With over 36 years of experience with the press and now as the first woman to hold a position on all three of Tennessee's press association boards, Pauline is a model for young women and anyone interested in a career in journalism. A mother and a grandmother, business leader and volunteer, Pauline serves her work, family and community with her strong voice and will.

It is my privilege to congratulate and honor Pauline Sherrer for her work, service and commitment, and to welcome her as the new President of our State's Press Association.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST  
DAVID WILKEY, JR., OF  
ELKHART, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of U.S. Army Specialist David Wilkey, Jr., of Elkhart, Indiana, who died on June 18, 2007 while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Just two weeks shy of his 23rd birthday, David lived a life worthy of admiration and respect, a life that we mourn today as cut tragically short.

Growing up in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, David loved the outdoors. As his step-mother Margaret put it, "His passion was nature. If he had to pick where he was going to live, he would've picked a cabin in the middle of the woods with a pond nearby." The pond, of course, was for fishing, for David loved to both hunt and fish. His uncle, Wayne McDonald, frequently went hunting

with David, and considering his future absence on these trips Wayne could only say "It's going to be real hard this fall."

Those trips with his uncle combined two of David's most cherished loves. For as much as David loved the woods, he loved his family more. From his niece Victoria, whose eyes got big and thought "Yay!" whenever he arrived, to his Aunt Diane, who will miss his smile and wink most of all, family was the heart of David's life. He loved his family dearly. According to his wife, Melinda, "He wanted a big family and he was a very close family man."

In marrying Melinda in December of 2005, his dream of a big family found a great partner. He loved Melinda deeply, and that love showed immediately. It showed in the way he treated his stepson Christian as his own. It showed in the birth of his son Blayke. It shows in their third child that Melinda is pregnant with right now.

David was truly a remarkable man, a remarkable American. In his love of nature and family, he displayed this. He also displayed it in his sense of duty. Having been laid off just as he married Melinda, he could have simply collected unemployment and looked for other work. But his sense of duty to provide for his family as well as his plans to attend college and build a more secure future led David to choose service in the Army. Where so many are content to let others provide for them, this was not enough for David. His sense of duty, his ready courage, his sense of duty to his family—these qualities are the simple and small touches of everyday nobility that make America great, and made David Wilkey, Jr. great.

David was an avid fisherman and hunter, a devoted father and husband, and a magnetic and fun person who made a lasting impression on those around him. His father, David Wilkey, Sr., stated "He had a big heart, and he's a son that any father could be proud of." Today I honor David Wilkey, Jr. as a son who not only his father is proud of, but our entire Nation is proud of. As I register a Nation's pride, it is my regretful duty to also note our grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. We join with his wife Melinda, his father David, and his mother Cindy to mourn his loss. While we struggle to come to terms with the sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in his example and joy in the memory of his life. May God Bless David and all those he loved.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
BARBARA JEAN CAMPBELL

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise with the support of my colleague, Hon. ZOE LOFGREN, to honor the life of Barbara Jean Campbell, who recently passed away. Barbara dedicated her life to public service and committed herself to expanding educational resources for the community around her. Her persistent efforts to improve the conditions of public libraries as well as the retirement benefits of former public employees have greatly benefited and enriched our community.

Barbara Jean Campbell was born on March 3, 1929 in Oakland, California. She remained

in the city of Berkeley for her education, attending local primary and secondary schools, and then obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics and library science respectively from the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara began her career in library management at the Berkeley Public Library. Subsequently, she managed a library for the United States Air Force in England for three years. After returning to the Berkeley Library, she was recruited by the Santa Clara County Library system, where she served for the remainder of her career.

During her tenure at Santa Clara County, Barbara was among the first women to shatter the glass ceiling when she was appointed county librarian in 1973. She oversaw the opening of libraries in Morgan Hill, Campbell, Gilroy, Woodland, Saratoga, Alum Rock, and Milpitas. Furthermore, when Proposition 13 reduced library funds, Barbara played a vital role in keeping the libraries operating smoothly. By the time of her retirement in December 1984, she had left a legacy of eloquence and distinction in every task she undertook.

While others may have viewed their retirement as an end to community service, Barbara only gave more of her time and energy to serve the public. She joined the California State Library Foundation's Board of Directors in 1992 and served as secretary of the Board. Although the board meetings were held in Sacramento, Barbara faithfully attended despite the long commute from the Santa Clara Valley. Her understanding of the inner workings of a library and her insight as a former professional library administrator provided skillful guidance for the organization while her enthusiastic personality brightened every meeting.

In addition, Barbara devoted numerous hours to the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) of California in both the state and local chapters. In the Local Chapter 31, she served as president for two terms. At the state level, she served as secretary-treasurer from 1990 to 1996. In 1996, she was appointed as President of the State Association, where she oversaw approximately 35,000 members and promoted the mission of RPEA: to preserve, protect, and enhance the retirement benefits of former public employees. After her service as president, she continued to aid the association as Immediate Past President and a member of the RPEA Volunteer Committee.

Besides her extensive work in the California State Library Foundation and RPEA, Barbara was also a 50-year member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) where she was an original member of the branch's evening bridge group. As education was a particular interest of hers, Barbara participated in the scholarship committee of various organizations, including Friends of the Campbell Library, California Association of Librarians and Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC), and the Soroptimist Club. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed playing blackjack in Reno and bridge with AAUW. She was an avid San Francisco giants fan, loved to delve into mystery novels, and often shopped for kitchen appliances.

Barbara Jean Campbell passed away on April 11, 2007 at the age of 78. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, including the Dean family, the Holt family, and her three

godchildren Ralph Holt, Barbara Rosellini, and David Holt. She left a legacy of benevolence and exemplified the true meaning of service. Throughout her life, Barbara advocated for those that others overlooked. We are forever grateful for her commitment to enhance public resources, and her contributions are proof that one person can make a positive impact on a community.

HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE IN EL SALVADOR

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a disturbing human rights violation currently taking place in El Salvador under the guise of stopping terrorism, a situation brought to my attention by a dedicated group of Philadelphians that has just returned from that nation.

Philadelphia maintains a U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities connection to the rural village of Las Anonas, where most residents live in poverty and must still deal with the after-effects of the devastating civil war and a 1992 ceasefire that ended the bloodshed but brought little real change. This Sister Cities program is one of 20 that link U.S. communities and groups with rural El Salvador under the sponsorship of CRIPDES, a Salvadoran group for rural community development, and the Archbishop Romero Interfaith Center, which is based in Philadelphia and its suburbs.

About 27 men, women and teenagers from the Interfaith Community Building Group in Northwest Philadelphia, including Catholics, Jews, Protestants and Muslims, were hard at work laying the foundation of a new community center in the village of El Milagro last week. They were shocked to learn that the president, vice president and two other members of CRIPDES, their sponsor, were seized on July 2 by police on the highway on their way to join a peaceful demonstration in the town of Suchitoto.

The charges were originally "creating public disorder," even though they had not even arrived at their destination. When supporters rallied outside the police station and demanded the release of the CRIPDES leaders, 10 more people were arrested and the ARENA government quickly escalated the charges. Now the prisoners have been charged with "acts of terrorism" under a new anti-terrorism law that went into effect last November. The law even created a special court to try such suspects. CRIPDES leaders, including President Lorena Martinez, who has visited Philadelphia, and a Salvadoran journalist covering the events, face up to 60 years in prison under this so-called "anti-terrorism" law in what is a clear attempt to stifle and silence dissent.

The ARENA government, ruling with a bare majority and looking toward the next election, is counting on almost a half-billion dollars in U.S. aid that is dependent upon adherence to human rights principles. El Salvador is also the only nation in Latin America to maintain troops in Iraq as part of the "Coalition of the Willing." Meanwhile ARENA presides over a country so desperately poor that an estimated two million Salvadorans have emigrated to the United States, most of them undocumented.

The Philadelphia group was warned that if members raised their voices in protest to the arrests at Suchitoto, they could be immediately deported and barred from future trips. All this was occurring in the days immediately before and after the celebration, by fellow Philadelphians back home in the Cradle of Liberty and Birthplace of Independence, of the Fourth of July.

The arrests led to a massive protest demonstration in San Salvador, the capital, on July 7. I am pleased to learn that Amnesty International has taken up this case, and that friends of CRIPDES, the United States-El Salvador Sister Cities Program and the Romero Interfaith Center are all raising the alarm. The Philadelphians, who have made six trips to El Salvador in the past decade, are not alone. Delegations of community builders, educators and citizen witnesses from Sister Cities across the U.S. continue to travel to El Salvador, to join the cause of rural development and empowerment with their hands and hearts.

The ARENA government needs to know that the citizens of the United States and the world are watching what happens to CRIPDES and other peaceful, effective community development groups in their midst. Those in El Salvador's government who look to the United States for model behavior need to look beyond the shameless quick-fix of crying "terrorism" under cynically created laws. Instead they must heed the principles forged in Philadelphia two centuries ago.

CELEBRATING FRANKLIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE'S BICENTENNIAL

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it was over 200 years ago that Major William Russell and Jesse Bean reportedly traveled in search of a ripe landscape to settle the Franklin County we know today. The county was named for one of our Founding Fathers, Ben Franklin, and finally took its place amongst Tennessee's other counties when recognized officially by the Tennessee Assembly in 1807. Since then, statesmen and sportsmen, farmers and craftsmen, war heroes and great scholars alike have represented the culture of Franklin County to the State and the country. I am proud today to recognize the successes and history of Franklin County, and to wish upon its people a future as blessed as the inception of the county they call home.

Named for a soldier of the American Revolution and the first Speaker of the Tennessee Assembly, the town of Winchester was designated as the Franklin County seat in 1809. Winchester today offers visitors a host of curiosities, festivals and other Tennessee fun. From the Dogwood Festival to the yearly Jamboree, Winchester gives plenty of reason to visit and more than enough for Franklin County residents to stay and make their home.

High atop the Cumberland Plateau and not far from Winchester, Franklin County offers another great treasure in the town of Sewanee, and the University of the South. Since it's founding in 1860, Sewanee has produced writers and theologians, and 25 Rhodes scholars to make Tennessee and Franklin

County proud. The school has undergone a series of name changes, too, finally settling on "Sewanee: The University of the South." Plenty of us in Tennessee and Franklin County just call it "The Mountain," but whatever the name, it's a fine piece of the Tennessee tradition.

Construction of the University came to a halt when the cornerstone was destroyed by Union soldiers in the Civil War. In the midst of its 200 year history, like so many Tennessee counties, Franklin County endured the hardships of that difficult time in our Nation's history, and today still commemorates those lost to the Civil War so many years ago.

From its first settlers to the friends and neighbors who live their today, Franklin County has honored its namesake and our forefather, Ben Franklin, with its history and the traditions they will maintain for years to come. As Franklin himself advised, "wish not so much to live long as to live well." This month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the continuing story of Franklin County, a 200 year history lived long and well in Tennessee.

EXPLAINING VOTE FOR THE EMANUEL AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2829

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify for the record my vote on June 28th in support of the Emanuel Amendment to H.R. 2829, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act".

During consideration of H.R. 2829, Rep. EMANUEL offered an amendment that would strip funding from the Office of the Vice President.

I voted in support of this amendment for two reasons. First, I believed that it was important to send a strong rebuke to Vice President CHENEY for inappropriately claiming that his office was not in fact a part of the Executive Branch, a claim made as part of a flimsy effort to reject compliance with an executive order relevant to safeguarding classified national security information. Additionally, it was apparent that the amendment did not have the requisite votes needed for successful passage and consequently my vote would not result in the actual denial of funding for operations within the Executive Branch, but my vote would help strengthen the rebuke.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2007, I was unable to vote on Roll No. 615. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHRISTOPHER WESTHOFF, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Christopher Westhoff, Assistant City Attorney—Public Works General Counsel with the City of Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Westhoff is an environmental champion for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the nation. He is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the improvement of L.A.'s water quality and public health. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Westhoff on being named the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Westhoff has been a public servant in California for almost his entire career. He began as a prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office and has been the General Counsel to the Board of Public Works for over 15 years. Mr. Westhoff is the Public Works Department's legal counsel on wastewater and other environmental regulatory issues including air and stormwater.

Mr. Westhoff has played a leadership role in guaranteeing clean and safe water for future generations of Californians by helping ensure an upgrade of the Hyperion Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment, developing and defending policies that have helped clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and achieving 100% beneficial reuse of the city's biosolids.

His role in negotiating a landmark settlement agreement for L.A.'s collection systems resulted in benefits to all parties and led to a reduction in sewer spills of more than 70%.

Another achievement of Mr. Westhoff's of particular significance is his role in developing and defending Los Angeles' model program to increase the participation of minority and woman-run business enterprises as part of city contracts. Mr. Westhoff successfully defended this vital program before the California State Supreme Court.

Mr. Westhoff will become NACWA's president later this month, after serving as NACWA's Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. The City of Los Angeles is a founding member of the Association and Mr. Westhoff was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues of the 110th Congress to please join me today in congratulating Chris Westhoff on becoming President of NACWA and for his tireless commitment to Los Angeles, our state of California and our country. With Chris Westhoff as President, NACWA will no doubt build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. I am certain the association will continue to flourish under his able leadership.

EXPLAINING VOTE AGAINST H.R. 1830

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify for the record my vote on June 27th in opposition to H.R. 1830, which extends the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008.

When an issue is complex and worthy of substantial analysis, and a bill is presented to us in a format which short-circuits that analytical process and legislative debate, it is my policy to resolve any possible doubt in the direction of a "No" vote. Bringing up this bill as a suspension was inappropriate. Furthermore, the Ways and Means Committee marked up H.R. 1830 on the same day that the House considered the bill. Under such circumstances, members of the House had virtually no time to review the bill and I felt obliged to vote no.

Had the bill been reported under a rule that allowed perfecting amendments to be considered, I might have reached a different conclusion.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN AZERBAIJAN

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a Resolution relating to human rights problems in the Republic of Azerbaijan. I am pleased to be joined by Representative THADDEUS MCCOTTER and Representative GARY ACKERMAN as original cosponsors of the Resolution.

The Resolution calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to release Farhad Aliyev and his brother, Rafiq, from detention during trial. Both of them have been detained in solitary confinement from October 2005 until today, when their trial is already in progress. It also calls on Azerbaijan to assure that their right to a fair and open trial before an independent and impartial tribunal is honored. Importantly, the resolution calls on the Azeri government to fulfill all its international obligations respecting the rule of law, including those relating to Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), among others.

Farhad Aliyev, a pro-market advocate and former government minister, was originally arrested on charges of complicity in an alleged attempted coup d'etat during the 2005 parliamentary elections. He is now facing trial on unrelated financial charges. Rafiq, the former president of the oil company Azpetrol, was arrested the same day on minor customs violations, and is being tried on similar financial charges.

The 2007 Freedom House Country Report has this to say about the rule of law in Azerbaijan: "The judiciary is corrupt, inefficient and subservient to the executive branch. Arbitrary arrest and detention are common, particularly for members of the political opposition. Detain-

ees are often held for long periods of time before trial, and their access to lawyers is restricted."

From the beginning, the arrest and trial of Farhad and Rafiq Aliyev have been marked by numerous violations of international legal norms, a view shared by independent observers, including the OSCE, the Council of Europe and many human rights organizations, not to mention the U.S. State Department. The Aliyevs have been systematically denied due process and a fair and open trial, as well visitation by family, medical and international legal advisers.

As the Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and having served as an election observer in Azerbaijan, I am aware that international human rights organizations, and the U.S. State Department, have raised concerns about human rights in Azerbaijan, including lack of free elections, arbitrary arrest and detention, and imprisonment of journalists, among other issues. I am particularly concerned about the ongoing crackdown on independent journalists. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has often criticized Azerbaijan about its violations of media freedoms, noting that at present there are more journalists in jail in Azerbaijan than in any other OSCE state. This resolution calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to release these journalists from prison and to identify and prosecute those who have been attacking reporters and editors.

I am well aware of the challenges and opportunities presented by the countries in the Caucasus region. Azerbaijan is a country with vast potential and is an important economic and strategic ally of the United States. I respect the role it is playing in the war on terror. But this is all the more reason for the U.S. Congress to urge the government in Baku to comply with its international human rights commitments.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE "CONTRACTORS AND FEDERAL SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative TOWNS (D-NY), I reintroduce legislation, the "Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act," that will fortify the current federal suspension and debarment system.

The United States is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world spending more than \$419 billion on procurement awards in FY2006 and \$440,000,000,000 on grants in FY2005.

Yet the federal government's watchdogs, the federal suspension and debarment officials, currently lack the information that they need to protect our business interests and taxpayers' dollars. We have no centralized and comprehensive government-wide method to account for the performance of our contractors and assistance participants, and those who repeatedly violate federal law may still receive millions of dollars from the federal government.

According to data from the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), since 1995, of the top fifty federal contractors based on total contract dollars received, nine have a total of twelve resolved cases totaling \$161 million in penalties paid. Additionally, those fifty contractors have paid approximately \$12 billion in fines and penalties.

"The Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act" establishes a centralized and comprehensive database on actions taken against federal contractors and assistance participants, requiring a description of each of these actions. This will provide debarring officials with the information that they need to protect the business interests of the United States. It places the burden of proving responsibility and subsequent eligibility for contracts or assistance on the person seeking contracts or assistance should they have been previously convicted of two exact or similar violations that constitutes a charge for debarment. Additionally, it improves and clarifies the role of the Interagency Committee on Debarments and Suspension, and requires the Administrator of General Services to report to Congress within 180 days with recommendations for creating the centralized and comprehensive federal contracting and assistance database.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on June 28, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on the Stearns Amendment to H.R. 2829 (Rollcall Vote No. 604). Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

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#### DEMOCRATIC HOUR ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, while our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over two million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million Americans under some form of criminal justice supervision. In large part, these people are casualties in our war against drugs.

The weight of the drive to incarcerate has fallen disproportionately on the African-American community. Although drug use and sale cuts across racial and socioeconomic lines, law enforcement strategies have targeted street-level drug dealers and users from low-income, predominately minority, urban areas. As a result, the arrest rates per 100,000 for drug offenses are 6 times higher for blacks than for whites. The rate of imprisonment for black men is more than eight-times that of white men; and over the last 10 years, the in-

carceration rate of black men has increased at 10 times that of white men.

This disproportionate rate of incarceration has created havoc in our communities. One of the most significant costs of these policies is the impact on children, the weakened ties among family members. According to the 2001 national data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 3,500,000 parents were supervised by the correctional system. Prior to incarceration, 64 percent of female prisoners and 44 percent of male prisoners in State facilities lived with their children. Obviously, the long-term generational effects of a social structure in which imprisonment is the norm and law-abiding role models are absent are difficult to measure, but undoubtedly exist.

The social and criminal justice policy decisions generated by the drug war have also resulted in massive collateral damage negatively limiting critically important access to housing, employment, public benefits, education, and political participation.

A vast infrastructure of barriers, often legislatively mandated, combine to erect seemingly insurmountable roadblocks at every turn, creating a host of proscriptions blanketed under a "one shoe fits all" regime. For example, in some States, it is impossible for an ex-felon to get a barber's license, an extreme prohibition when cutting hair is a skill that can be acquired in prison.

There is a pressing need to provide the more than 650,000 men and women who re-enter our communities from prison each year with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. For that very reason, I have been active in supporting and introducing re-entry legislation for well over a decade.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I was pleased to join my colleague DANNY DAVIS in this Congress in supporting the Second Chance Act. The Committee passed this legislation on March 28th and we await action on the floor. This bipartisan legislation is a critical step in expanding the foundation for comprehensive re-entry programs at the Federal, State and local level.

The bill focuses on development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expand the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthen families and expand comprehensive re-entry services. The bill is a product of multi-year bipartisan negotiations and enjoys support from across the political spectrum.

The statistics underlying the needs of our prison population are staggering. As detailed by many researchers, these deficiencies include limited education, few job skills or experience, substance and alcohol dependency, and other health problems, including mental health. Evidence from the Department of Justice indicates that the needs of the prison population are not being met under the current system. If we allow them to return to communities with few economic opportunities, where their family and friends are often involved in crime and substance abuse, we can only expect to extend the cycle of recidivism.

For example, 57 percent of federal and 70 percent of State inmates used drugs regularly before prison, with some estimates of involvement with drugs or alcohol around the time of the offense as high as 84 percent. Further, over one-third of all jail inmates have some

physical or mental disability and 25 percent of jail inmates have been treated at some time for a mental or emotional problem.

In the face of these statistics, I believe that we can be cautiously optimistic in the support of re-entry programming through the Second Chance Act. Researchers at the Washington State Institute for Public Policy have determined that programs employing "best practices" have yielded up to 20 percent declines in re-arrest rates. Spread across the thousands of arrests each year, these practices could yield a significant decline in recidivism, with a commensurate reduction in community and victim costs.

Family-centered programs are one of the hallmarks of this legislation. Family-based treatment programs, for example, have proven results for serving the special population of female offenders and substance abusers with children. An evaluation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of family-based treatment for substance abusing mothers and children found that at six months post treatment, 60 percent of the mothers remain alcohol and drug free, and drug related offenses declined from 28 to 7 percent.

As we move toward passage of the bill, I hope that we are not caught in the trap of attempting to solve this problem on the cheap or over-reacting to misinformation. In past Congresses, there have been objections to the cost of this bill and past re-entry initiatives.

I must point out that Section 101, the demonstration projects at the heart of the legislation, works out to less than \$200 for each of the more than 650,000 people released into the community each year. Moreover, there are no perks—Blackberries or cosmetic surgery—for ex-offenders. This bill is a truly modest measure when balanced against the more than \$60 billion each year spent on incarceration.

If we are going to continue to send more and more people to prison with longer and longer sentences, we should do as much as we reasonably can to assure that when they do return they don't go back to prison due to new crimes. The primary reason for doing so is not to benefit offenders, although it does—the primary reason for doing so is because it better assures that all of us and other members of the public will not be victims of crime due to recidivism.

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#### COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act. Too many of our country's promising young men and women do not go to college because of the prohibitive cost of tuition. Many of those students who decide to attend institutions of higher education require loans to finance their education. A college education has always been expensive. But it is quickly becoming unaffordable for students and their families. Tuition rates at four-year colleges have increased by approximately 35 percent

over inflation during the last five years. The rising cost of tuition causes approximately 200,000 students annually to delay beginning college or forgoing the chance to study for a higher degree altogether. This disturbing trend must change. The adoption of H.R. 2669 will help make college as affordable as possible for every qualified student who would like to earn an advanced degree, without new costs to taxpayers.

H.R. 2669 would authorize an increase to the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship by \$500 over the next five years. The legislation would also cut interest rates in half on need-based student loans, reducing the cost of those loans for millions of student borrowers. H.R. 2669, moreover, would prevent student borrowers from facing unmanageable levels of federal student debt. It does this by guaranteeing that borrowers will never have to spend more than 15 percent of their yearly discretionary income on loan repayments and by allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years.

H.R. 2669 also promotes the development of the next generation of high-quality teachers and public servants. It does this by authorizing tuition assistance for excellent undergraduate students who agree to teach in public schools and authorizing loan forgiveness for college graduates that enter public service professions.

Of particular importance to my constituents is the Upward Bound program which seeks to increase high school completion, college participation, and graduation rates among low-income and first-generation college students. H.R. 2669 would provide \$228 million in funding over four years for Upward Bound, restoring critical funding for programs that were not funded in fiscal year 2007, as well as fund over 100 new programs. Students from minority communities—including the Asian and Pacific Islander American community—make up nearly 50 percent of all Upward Bound participants.

What is more, this legislation would make significant and needed investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving institutions. I commend my colleague from California (Mr. MILLER) for his commitment to assisting the minority serving institutions. I do, however, have two concerns with respect to this aspect of H.R. 2669. I respectfully request that they be favorably considered as this legislation proceeds through the legislative process.

First, section 311 of H.R. 2669 establishes categories of minority serving institutions that would be eligible to participate in a Centers of Excellence grant program that would provide funds to help recruit and prepare teachers. Institutions that traditionally serve Asian and Pacific Islander American students would benefit from eligibility for such grants. Unfortunately, the category Asian American and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution does not appear in the bill. I respectfully request that my colleagues support my efforts to make Asian American and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions eligible for these grants.

Second, section 411 of H.R. 2669 establishes a College Access Challenge grant program for eligible students from underserved populations who enter and complete college. The term "State" is defined under this section as each of the several States of the United

States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students who attend institutions of higher education in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States (FAS)—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau—would be prohibited from participating in this grant program as a result of the limited definition for the term "State." I respectfully request that my colleagues support the efforts to expand the definition of the term "State" in this section of H.R. 2669 to include the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

I support this bill. Its provisions will help ensure that many talented young Americans can afford the benefits of a college education. I urge my colleague to support H.R. 2669.

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### RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

It is long past time for a change of direction in Iraq. For far too long, this institution merely acted as a rubber stamp and never asked the hard questions necessary of the Administration.

That begins to change today. The passage of this bill will require the Administration to confront the consequences of their bad choices and, more importantly, set us on a responsible path for ending our involvement in Iraq.

This legislation would begin the responsible redeployment of U.S. troops within 120 days and complete redeployment by April 1, 2008. In addition, troops could remain in Iraq for the limited purposes of fighting terrorism or to train Iraqi forces.

This bill is a measured response to the quagmire we find ourselves in. As has been clear for some time, Iraq is currently engulfed in a vicious civil war. This strife between Sunnis and Shiites goes back 1400 years and the American people never signed up for refereeing a civil war.

Moreover, this bill expressly allows for our troops to remain in the region for the purposes of fighting terrorism or to train Iraqi forces.

Our enemy in this conflict is Al Qaeda. They are the ones who attacked us on 9/11, they are the ones who declared war on the United States, and they are the ones we were told were in Iraq. This bill allows our troops to do whatever is necessary to root out Al Qaeda and ensure they will not be able to use Iraqi territory as a safe haven.

Moreover, by augmenting our ability to train Iraqi police forces, this bill places the onus for Iraqi security squarely where it belongs—on the Iraqis themselves. This Administration has only given lip-service to the importance of training Iraqi soldiers and has allowed the bulk of the security responsibility to rest on the shoulders of our brave American men and women.

This is not only unfair, it is counter-productive. We keep hearing—"we'll stand down when the Iraqis stand up." This bill, by beginning the belated shift of responsibility from the American military to the Iraqis, will finally force the Iraqis to stand up.

As many have said, the problem of Iraq will not be solved militarily. No less than our military commander in Iraq—General Petraeus—has said that Iraq will not be solved with military means. Only by engaging the full weight of our diplomacy we will be able to force the political compromises necessary that will bring some measure of stability to Iraq. This bill, by redeploying our troops and thus signaling our recognition of the importance of diplomacy, will finally put the Iraqis on a path towards peace.

The time is now. The American people are clamoring for a change in our Iraq policy and, despite the recalcitrance of the Administration, a change in policy will come. After close to 5 years, billions of dollars spent, thousands of our soldiers dead, maimed, or wounded—we simply must chart a new course.

As always, this Congress stands ready to work the President to find a bipartisan solution to Iraq. However, veto threats and refusals to deal with the reality on the ground are no longer tolerable. We must all negotiate an end to this conflict in good faith with a clear and honest recognition of the challenges we face. For my part, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to engage in such a constructive dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, let's end this. Let's bring our soldiers home and thank them for a job well done. Let's pass the Responsible Redeployment Act.

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### RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2956, and I appreciate the fact that we are again addressing this important issue today. I want to start by recognizing the ongoing sacrifices and tremendous bravery of the men and women of our armed forces. Their dedication inspires us all and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Very simply put, it is time to bring our troops home. The effort they are making has not been met by the Iraqi government, and there is no reason to believe that the situation is going to improve there in the foreseeable future. The various reports we have received just this week underscore this point. As I have said for some time, we are beyond the point of being able to impact events in a meaningful way militarily. The political decisions that the Iraqis need to make will not be made as long as our soldiers are there, and I seriously doubt they will be made when we are gone. All we are doing is letting an untenable situation drag on, with our soldiers caught in the crossfire. We are spending over \$329 million every day in Iraq. That is a staggering sum of money. We can redirect that money to better fighting the war on terror and also addressing important domestic initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I did not vote to authorize this war, I did not vote for the troop surge and I have voted for a time line to bring our troops home. The vast majority of the American people see that the President's dream for Iraq is not going to happen. They want him to wake up and face reality. This bill provides a plan on how to do that. I support the approach in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

TRIBUTE TO THE "FLIGHT 93  
AMBASSADORS"

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the "Flight 93 Ambassadors," a community organization that has dedicated countless hours to the Flight 93 memorial site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This organization, created by members of the Somerset community after the tragic events of September 11th, serves both the country and the memory of those aboard Flight 93 by protecting the site and recounting the heroic story of the passengers' brave intervention against the terrorists to the memorial's visitors.

The Flight 93 Ambassadors will be honored for their service on July 26th at the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce's Third Annual Summer Barbeque. Somerset County has been trademarked "America's County" after two major national events took place there. For the past three years the Chamber of Commerce has used this distinction to recognize American heroes. Previously the Chamber paid tribute to the nine miners who were rescued from the Quecreek Mine accident. This year's recognition of the Flight 93 Ambassadors by "America's County" is fitting and appropriate as these volunteers are responsible for maintaining one of the most distinguished symbols of American courage and unity.

The Flight 93 Ambassadors contribute much of their time to the preservation of the Flight 93 memorial and serve as a link to the families of the Flight 93 victims. These selfless volunteers plan events and work tirelessly to maintain the integrity of this important site and in doing so, ensure that the heroism of the passengers of Flight 93 is never forgotten. The ambassadors are the epitome of American unity and strength in the wake of tragedy, and their initiative and persistent work with the Flight 93 site is greatly appreciated by the community.

I am sure that every American, in addition to the members of the Shanksville community, would join me in thanking the Flight 93 Ambassadors for their selfless dedication and leadership in immortalizing the memory of September 11th and all of the heroes of Flight 93.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGROFUEL  
RURAL ENERGY EMPOWERMENT  
ACT

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2007*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act, which is designed to help American farmers better meet the economic and environmental challenges inherent in the handling and disposal of manure. The bill is also intended to spur investments in another source of much-needed renewable energy.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), American concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and animal feeding operations (AFOs) generate over 335 million tons of dry matter annually. While animal manure provides important nutrients for crop production and organic matter that enhances soil properties, its improper management can pose a threat to soil, water, and air quality. Moreover, manure can negatively impact human and animal health and associated odors can decrease quality of life.

Anaerobic digestion technologies can help improve the manner in which American farms manage manure, reducing water pollution, odors, and the emissions of greenhouse gases while producing energy. As our nation is seeking ways to reduce its dependence on carbon-based fuels and particularly foreign oil, we should encourage the development of anaerobic digestion technologies.

The Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act would further the development of these important technologies. First, the bill would make anaerobic digestion business ventures eligible for guaranteed loans. Secondly, it would make anaerobic digestion projects eligible for monies available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The bill would be particularly beneficial to the handling of manure on the 72,500 dairy farms in the United States, nearly 2,000 of which are in my Central and Northern New York Congressional District.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact the Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2007*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on July 11, 2007. I was absent to attend a military funeral and to be present for a major announcement from the National Science Foundation in South Dakota. I submit this statement today to establish for the record how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On the morning of July 11, 2007, the House of Representatives held four votes for which I was absent.

The first vote was a motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been

present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The second vote was on the H. Res. 531, a Rule Providing for the Consideration of the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The third vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H. Res. 526, supporting home ownership and responsible lending. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The fourth vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the S. 1701, a bill to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

RECOGNIZING 2007 AS THE YEAR  
OF THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS IN COLOM-  
BIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am glad to rise in support of House Resolution 426, recognizing 2007 as the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia.

Internal displacement is a massive problem in Colombia. As noted in this resolution, the number of displaced over the past 20 years is roughly equivalent to eight percent of the Colombian population. If we applied this ratio to the population of the United States, this would equal twenty-four million displaced persons roughly the population of the State of Texas.

Unfortunately, this tragically large number continues to grow by about 200,000 every year.

The civil conflict, of course, is at the root of the problem, but this explanation is worth a closer look. There is a guerrilla war being waged by the group calling itself the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in conflict with the Colombian government and their paramilitary allies and surrogates, and combat has displaced many Colombians. Also, resorting to violence as a means of resolving conflicts over land and other resources has become commonplace and exacerbates the problem.

Afro-Colombians, whose rights to communal land holdings were not properly recognized until 1991, have been hit particularly hard by deliberate displacement aimed at securing valuable or strategic land areas, principally by paramilitaries and the Colombian state. The FARC has also been known to engage in this reprehensible practice. Often the land at issue is stolen from its residents because it is favorable to agriculture, has sub-surface resources, or is needed for the completion of large construction projects.

Due to economically motivated displacement and other factors, including their general political marginalization in Colombian society, Afro-Colombians are disproportionately over-represented in the displaced population, as noted in the resolution.

Because of their marginal position, Afro-Colombians, therefore, find it even more difficult than other Colombians to access the resources and assistance they need to rebuild their lives. In this dismal context, a return to their land, to their proper home, may be a deeply held hope, but it is difficult to imagine.

The plight of the displaced deserves our immediate attention. Not only have we involved

ourselves in the Colombian civil conflict and armed the Colombian state—a government which our own State Department has stated cooperates with the paramilitaries, but this nation's appetite for cocaine has inflamed the situation by generating income for all sides in the conflict.

I wholeheartedly support this resolution and hope for an overwhelming vote in favor of its

adoption. I call on my colleagues to support this resolution and to pay sustained attention to the plight of the displaced throughout this year and beyond, as we work to redirect our policies toward building a just peace for the people of Colombia.