

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRIME MINISTER IVO SANADER  
WORKS TO BRING CROATIA INTO  
NATO AND EUROPEAN UNION

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the excellent work of the Croatian Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr. Ivo Sanader. Under his leadership Croatia has made important strides in the important task of integrating Croatia with NATO and in preparing Croatia for full membership in the European Union.

Dr. Sanader became the head of the Croatian government in December 2003 when his political party, the Croatian Democratic Union Party (HDZ), was victorious in the country's election on November 23, 2003.

Prime Minister Sanader has had a distinguished record of government service that has prepared him well to assume the position of Prime Minister. Following his election to parliament in 1992, shortly after Croatia became a fully independent country, he was appointed Minister of Science and Technology—a position he held until January 1993 when he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister. In this capacity, he participated in the bilateral talks that led to the establishment of the Croat-Muslim Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH). At the end of November 1995, following the Dayton Peace Accords, Dr. Sanader left the cabinet to become chief of staff to then-President Franjo Tudjman. From 1996 to 2000, he again served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1998 he was elected president of the HDZ, which he worked to strengthen, modernize and reform into a pro-European, center-right political party.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Sanader's main foreign policy priority has been Croatia's accession to NATO and the European Union. I applaud his efforts to ensure that his country becomes an active participant in these critically important international institutions that have done much to provide a framework for intra-European and trans-Atlantic cooperation.

In October 2001, the Government of Croatia signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU making the country an official candidate for membership. Since becoming Prime Minister, Dr. Sanader has taken important steps to prepare for EU membership. Under his leadership Croatia has seen healthy economic growth of some 4 percent annually, and there have been important reforms in the country's judicial system and the system of land registry. He has been willing to take tough decisions to move Croatia forward.

The Prime Minister has also steered his country toward NATO accession following Croatia's admission to the Membership Action

Plan (MAP) in May 2002, which signified the institutionalization of relations with NATO and formally launched the accession process. It is expected that Croatia will receive a formal invitation to become a full member of the Alliance at the NATO Summit in Bucharest next summer.

Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister's efforts to foster trans-Atlantic dialogue were on display in early July at the important 2007 Croatian Summit on "Europe's New South", which he convened in the beautiful Adriatic city of Dubrovnik. An impressive group of political leaders from across Europe joined Dr. Sanader to discuss how South East Europe can fully integrate into the Euro-Atlantic community, focusing on pressing security interests as well as NATO and EU expansion.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to commend Prime Minister Ivo Sanader for his role in moving Croatia from a past of divisive nationalism to a future of economic and political progress through active and responsible international cooperation.

A TRIBUTE TO GENE AUTRY AND  
THE AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Gene Autry's birth. Gene Autry was a great American patriot and hero, whose vision and spirit was characteristic of the American West that he came to represent.

Today also marks another momentous occasion, the Autry National Center's 20th Annual Gala. Twenty years ago, the Autry National Center held its first gala prior to the opening of the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage.

Gene Autry was born 100 years ago in Tioga, TX. He arrived in California and became famous as the "singing cowboy." Gene, known for his innovation, revolutionized American cinema, pioneering the western musical. He is the only entertainer to date to have been awarded all five stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Gene Autry was also the first movie star to use television as a way of reaching his audience. It was through his music and his warm and winning smile that he connected with people. He conveyed a deep sense of patriotism, encouraging his audience, young and old, to be kind to one another and live by the high minded standards of conduct, "The Cowboy Code," to which he held himself.

Gene Autry and his beloved horse Champion were always at the ready and eager to serve their country. Gene joined up with the Army Air Corps in 1942, earning the title of sergeant, flying fuel, ammunition, and arms over the Himalayas. After the war, Mr. Autry

toured with a USO troupe in the South Pacific, bringing the familiar melody of home to the distantly stationed troops.

In 1988, Gene Autry, along with his wife Jackie Autry, founded the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage. In his lifetime Gene Autry was able to fulfill his dream of building a "museum which would exhibit and interpret the heritage of the West and show how it influenced America and the world."

In 2003, the Autry National Center was established, commemorating the American West through its three institutions, the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, the Museum of the American West, and the Institute for the Study of the American West. In keeping with the spirit of Gene Autry, the Autry National Center provides insight into the diverse tapestry of cultures and peoples that make up the American West. The success of the Autry National Center is largely due to Jackie Autry's unsurpassed dedication and devotion to the vision of her-late husband.

It is my pleasure to honor the centennial of Gene Autry's birth as well as the Autry National Center on its 20 years of service to the southern California community. I ask all members to join me in commending the Autry National Center.

HONORING DADE CITY POLICE  
CHIEF PHILLIP THOMPSON ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dade City, Florida Police Chief Phillip Thompson on the occasion of his upcoming retirement. With more than 20 years of experience on the Dade City police force, his contributions to the community will be sorely missed.

As the top law enforcement officer for one of the largest cities in my district, I have seen firsthand the positive effect his leadership has had in combating crime in Dade City. In the period from 2005 to 2006, the Dade City community saw a reduction in reported crimes of 6½ percent. Police Chief Thompson's leadership and the dedication of his staff of 24 played a vital role in that reduction, as well as stepped-up enforcement patrols in troubled residential areas.

Chief Thompson, who at 55 years old has enough service years to begin his retirement, has worked for the Dade City Police Department for 20 years. Prior to his career with the Dade City force, Chief Thompson first joined the Brooksville Police Department when he was only 19. He then spent 11 years with the Pasco Sheriff's office and 1 year as a Hillsborough County deputy. On April 23, 1987, he became the Dade City police chief.

• 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.

In recognition of his 20 years of service, the Florida Police Chiefs Association will present Chief Thompson with an award at an upcoming commission meeting.

While Chief Thompson's Parkinson's disease played a role in his retirement, he currently feels fine and has plans to pursue an active lifestyle in his retirement years. As a part-time teacher of criminal justice at Saint Leo University and Pasco-Hernando Community College, I am sure that Chief Thompson will have plenty of work to keep him active and involved in the law enforcement community.

Madam Speaker, Chief Thompson has spent his entire career working towards the safety of Pasco and Hernando County residents. While he is retiring from service, his contributions to Dade City as Police Chief for the past 20 years will never be forgotten. I would hope that all area residents recognize his decades of public service and thank him for all that he has done for Dade City.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DEION SANDERS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to Deion Sanders, former Dallas Cowboys football player. His many years of community service and dedication in making a difference in the lives of people are truly deserving of our appreciation and praise.

Deion Sanders, a former cornerback for the Dallas Cowboys and one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL, decided to graciously open up his home and heart to nine disadvantaged children in order to teach them responsibility and life skills.

Mr. Sanders is truly devoted to enhancing the lives of young people and he has decided to have 14 children, including his own 5 kids, live at his home for the summer. There are five adolescent boys and four girls. Most of the children come from families with no father in the home. Mr. Sanders is giving these children a fulfilling and productive summer. The children eat, pray, do chores and go on field trips together.

He believes that the true key to helping children is by teaching them responsibility. Along with opening up his home this summer, Deion Sanders is creating a biblically based mentoring program called Primetime Army. This program will give parents and their sons access to Sanders and his team of professionals on a 24-7 basis for a monthly fee.

Mr. Sanders wants to encourage children to dream big because anything can be possible. All children deserve a chance at success and Deion Sanders is helping to give them that chance.

I know that Deion will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America will continue to benefit from his dedication, service and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Deion Sanders and in applauding this remarkable citizen for all he has done in north Texas, to those of us whose lives he has touched.

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#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAROLYN LAVERNE DAVENPORT

### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the finest educators ever to serve students in my congressional district. Please join me in congratulating Carolyn LaVerne Davenport for thirty-four years of outstanding service to my constituents in the 13th Congressional District of Georgia.

Ms. Davenport was born in Atlanta and raised in Jonesboro, Georgia, the heart of my district. As a youth, she attended the same school system in which she taught for many years, graduating as valedictorian from the W.A. Fountain School in 1965. She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Spelman College in 1969 and received her Master's of Elementary Education degree in 1972. Carolyn taught first and third grades at George M. Kilpatrick Elementary School. Throughout her career, Ms. Davenport received many accolades including an honorary life membership to the Georgia Parent Teacher Association, as well as a Certificate of Special Achievement from the American Red Cross Youth Services.

Not only was she a leader in the classroom, she was a leader in her community as well. Twenty-five years ago, Carolyn founded the Clayton County Campaign for the United Negro College Fund. Thanks to the UNCF and Carolyn's activism, thousands of students, including several of my colleagues in this great body, have been able to receive a higher education and pursue their dreams. In 1991, in recognition of her great efforts, Ms. Davenport received the UNCF Star Volunteer Award and the 2000 South Metro Salute to Higher Education Award. She has also volunteered for many civil rights, community and international organizations including the Concerned Black Citizens Coalition of Clayton County, the NAACP, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and CARE International.

Madam Speaker, Carolyn Davenport is a true public servant. The impact she has made continues to be felt by her colleagues, friends and other members of the community. As she enters retirement, she will still be regarded as an exceptional leader and a model citizen. Once again, I congratulate Carolyn for reaching this milestone.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3043, the Federal Year 2008 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill. By passing this legislation today the House of Representatives is taking a significant step forward toward investing in our Nation's long-term future. This \$152 billion investment marks a \$10 billion increase over President Bush's 2008 request and a \$7 billion increase over the Federal Year 2007 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill. The increases in the appropriation's legislation before us today, will translate into more help for those in need of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, more affordable higher education, and health care for the uninsured.

Home heating costs have skyrocketed over the last few years. Many people are finding themselves unable to keep up. We in Congress believe that no American should be forced to choose between whether to eat or heat your home. This is why we are increasing Low-Income Home Energy Assistance to \$501 million in 2008, an increase that will ensure 1.3 million families are not left out in the cold this winter.

We have also used this appropriation to demonstrate the Democratic Party's commitment to reining in the sharp rise in college costs that continue to be a barrier to so many students. By increasing the Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$4,700, an increase which will benefit more than 5.5 million low- and middle-income students, we have taken another major step in the 110th Congress toward making higher education more accessible.

Finally, it is a disgrace that there are 46.6 million Americans without health insurance; in this year's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill we have taken major steps to expand access to health care for the uninsured. For example, the bill provides a \$200 million increase in funds allocated to community health center initiatives—enabling these centers to serve an additional 1 million uninsured Americans. Furthermore, the bill provides \$75 million for a new initiative to state health access grants—providing start-up grants to states that are ready with plans to expand health care coverage to targeted groups. Finally, H.R. 304 also includes \$50 million for an initiative to assist states in providing high-risk insurance pools to support affordable insurance for almost 200,000 people who are medically high-risk.

This is finally a Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill

with the right priorities, one that puts working Americans first.

HONORING ROBLEY REX

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robley Rex, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country and to Kentucky. Mr. Rex recently celebrated his 106th birthday.

Mr. Rex was born on May 2, 1901 in Hopkinsville, KY. He enlisted in the U.S. Army upon his 18th birthday, serving with the 5th Infantry from 1919 to 1922. During an assignment in Germany, Mr. Rex witnessed firsthand the terrible aftermath of death and destruction caused by World War I. A gifted athlete, he was also an amateur boxer during his tenure in the Army.

Upon his return to Kentucky, Mr. Rex met Ms. Grace Bivens. The couple married April 3, 1926. Mr. Rex held jobs in a local tool factory and a rubber manufacturer before beginning a career as a railroad mail clerk for the U.S. Postal Department.

During his 106 years, Robley Rex has personally lived through many of the historical events that have shaped our country and the world including two World Wars, women's suffrage, the Great Depression, and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

It is my great privilege to honor Mr. Robley Rex today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his long life and service to our country. May his days continue to be filled with enriching experiences, the company of friends, and love for family and country.

TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA MELVIN

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Samantha Melvin, a teacher at Hunters Creek Elementary School in the Seventh Congressional District of Houston, Texas, who has received a 2006–07 Outstanding Teaching Award from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Humanities Texas issues these awards annually to Texas teachers to recognize exemplary contributions in teaching, curriculum development and extracurricular programming.

Ms. Melvin's art curriculum sparks students' imaginations while also reinforcing lessons learned in other subject areas. In one of her major assignments, students develop elaborate, three-dimensional cityscapes that draw upon their training in art, social studies, math and science.

Stefanie Roach, Principal at Hunters Creek Elementary says of Ms. Melvin: "She is an outstanding educator whose passion for art and empowering children are evident in the lessons she creates and presents. She challenges children to see the 'big picture' in life and to use art as the means in which they can

influence the world. She is a shining star to the profession. Energetic, committed, brilliant."

Karen Yates, Assistant Principal at Hunters Creek Elementary says, "Samantha Melvin is a passionate educator, always looking for ways to promote the interest of learning in her students. Because of her nurturing personality and art instruction, the young artists at Hunters Creek Elementary take risks and use their own creativity to produce a variety of pieces."

Teresa Henshaw, language arts school improvement specialist at Hunters Creek Elementary says, "She not only lives a 'Renaissance' life, but inspires it in others. Samantha Melvin encourages children to see the world as a whole, that everything is connected to everything else."

Humanities Texas Executive Director Michael L. Gillette says, "We are pleased to recognize such an accomplished teacher. Ms. Melvin instills the joy of learning in her students and motivates them to achieve at high levels."

Madam Speaker, again, I applaud Ms. Melvin for inspiring the children at Hunters Creek Elementary and congratulate her on her award.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
TIAHRT AMENDMENT VOTE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to the Appropriations Committee vote on amending the Tiahrt Amendment.

Sadly, last week the House Appropriations Committee voted 26 to 40 on an amendment offered by Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY that would have addressed the current restrictions on the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms with sharing gun trace data. The limitation, known as the Tiahrt Amendment, which prohibits the effective tracing of the ownership of weapons, puts handcuffs on illegal gun investigators all over the country. This vote was extremely disappointing. It was a rebuff to all Americans, who desperately want guns out of the hands of criminals. Once again law abiding Americans were victimized by the political pressure of National Rifle Association lobbyists.

Proponents of the Tiahrt Amendment argue that removing the restriction is a challenge to the Second Amendment. This is just not true; the Second Amendment right to bear arms is not affected by a more effective means of identifying illegal guns. I support removing the restriction and I also support the rights of legal gun ownership; the key word being legal.

Tiahrt Amendment supporters stress that there are privacy issues involved. That is absolutely true. The privacy of illegal gun dealers is being protected. This means they can continue to sell weapons to criminals and Americans will continue to be hurt and killed every single day as Congress sits back and watches.

HONORING HANAN Y. "BEAN"  
SIBEL

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding lifetime achievements of Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel, one of Maryland's most successful business leaders and strongest community advocates. Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel is an active and respected business and civic leader in all walks of life in greater Baltimore.

He is the founding chairman of the Maryland/Israel Development Center, a nonprofit partnership of the state of Maryland, Government of Israel and The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, an organization that promotes trade and investment between Maryland and Israeli businesses. Under his leadership, the MIDC became one of the most respected US-Israel trade promotion organizations in the country. The MIDC was awarded an unprecedented five grants exceeding \$3.5 million from the bi-governmental US-Israel Science and Technology Foundation.

He also serves on the board of The ASSOCIATED. He chaired The ASSOCIATED annual campaign in 1987 and has served on numerous strategic committees and task forces. He was also President of Israel Bonds for the state of Maryland and Vice President of the Jewish National Fund.

Hanan has been an outstanding leader beyond the Jewish Community as well. He is Chairman of the Baltimore County Revenue Authority. A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, Bean also serves on that school's Board of Visitors. He also served as President of the Signal 13 Foundation and the Governor's Mansion Foundation. Widely recognized as an important business leader in the state, Bean was a leader in Maryland's food brokerage industry for 45 years. He was elected to the Food Hall of Fame of Maryland in 2005 and has also served as a Board Member of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland and First Mariner Bank.

Bean and his wife Carole, a community leader in her own right and past chairman of the board of The ASSOCIATED, have three married children, Todd and Amy Sibel, Steve and Joyce Sibel and Cara and Jay Cohen, as well as seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring Hanan Y. "Bean" Sibel, a man whose deep commitment to the business community, civic groups and philanthropic organizations has improved the quality of life for thousands of residents of the State of Maryland and the State of Israel.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL WAYNE  
A. DOWNING

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of General Wayne A. Downing.

General Downing was born May 10, 1940, in Peoria, Illinois, son of Francis Wayne "Bud" and Eileen Downing. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1971 he received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Tulane University.

General Downing served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade as an infantry officer in Vietnam. Later, he served a second combat tour in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division.

During the 1989 operation JUST CAUSE in Panama, General Downing commanded the special operations of all services as a general officer. Additionally, during Operation DESERT STORM he commanded a joint special operations task force behind the Iraqi lines.

General Downing spent time at Fort Bragg, N.C., serving as Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Command.

In May of 1993, General Downing received his appointment as Commander in Chief of the United States Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. In this position, he was responsible for the readiness of all special operations of the Army, Navy and Air Force. In 1996, after 34 years in service, he retired from the military.

General Downing was appointed by the President soon after his military retirement to assess the 1996 attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. He served on the National Commission on Terrorism from 1999–2000. As Deputy National Security Advisor for combating terrorism, he served the White House in 2001. Two years later, General Downing was appointed as the Chairman of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

General Downing's awards and decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, four Legions of Merit and the Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, General Downing was an incredible leader who served our country with outstanding dedication. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Kathryn Bickerman Downing; two daughters, Elizabeth Revell, and Laura Downing; six stepchildren; his mother, Eileen Downing; a sister; and four grandchildren.

HONORING JOHN ALLEN OF THE  
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Allen. Mr. Allen served with distinction and honor as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He was unable to make it to Washington this past April to receive his Congressional Gold Medal and instead will be receiving it this coming Saturday in his home State of New Mexico.

The Tuskegee Airmen participated in more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions. A thousand black pilots were trained at Tuskegee, and throughout World War II they shot down 111 German planes and disabled 150 German aircraft on the ground. In this same time, 150 Airmen were lost in battle or training, 66 were killed, and 33 were shot down and held as

prisoners of war. And in one of the most significant demonstrations of commitment to mission, the Tuskegee Airmen did not allow a single bomber it protected to be shot down. These men showed a prejudiced Nation that courage has no color.

In his eagerness to serve, Mr. Allen exaggerated his age and was allowed to enlist in the Army. Even though he was younger than his fellow recruits, the Army noticed his remarkable intelligence and recommended he join the Air Corps where he was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group. Mr. Allen never saw combat, but he did see hate. Despite their service, Tuskegee Airmen experienced bigotry and discrimination. Once, after eating at a whites-only officer's club, 103 Airmen were arrested and in spite of their clear commitment and patriotism, similar episodes marked the daily lives of black soldiers.

Even the timing of this commemoration reminds us of the difficult situation the Tuskegee Airmen faced. This honor should have been given 50 years ago. The failure of this country to properly honor these great men in a timely fashion speaks volumes about the legacy of injustice that made their sacrifice all the more remarkable. They fought for a country that wouldn't let them eat with white officers. They fought for a country that denied their sacrifice and dishonored their service. By honoring these men with the Congressional Gold Medal, we cannot undo the injustice that they have endured, but we can serve notice that we will not tolerate further injustice.

Mr. Allen retired from the Weapons Safety Division at Kirtland Air Force Base in 2000. He spent his entire career serving his country. I wish him a happy retirement and hope that his example will continue to inspire each of us to serve our Nation and to use our lives to make our Nation better.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER J.  
ROBERTS

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Christopher J. Roberts, a resident of my congressional district in Upstate New York. Christopher is the incoming State Master Councilor of New York DeMolay.

DeMolay is a youth organization that develops leadership skills, civic awareness and personal responsibility among young men. With more than 1,000 chapters worldwide, DeMolay combines its serious mission with a fun approach. The organization was founded in 1919, and counts among its alumni Bill Clinton, John Wayne, Walter Cronkite and Walt Disney.

It is estimated that the members of New York DeMolay contribute over 10,000 hours of community service per year. During his tenure as State Master Councilor, Christopher will be organizing activities, planning social events and traveling to other States to talk about the work of New York DeMolay. Christopher is the first man from Utica to assume the office of State Master Councilor in over 20 years. He is also only the fourth person in New York to be a recipient of the Past Master Councilor's Meritorious Service Award.

Christopher is a sophomore at the State University of New York (SUNY) Institute of Technology, where he is majoring in Health Services Management. He also serves as a Senator for SUNY Student Government.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize this young man serving my district. As the father of two teenagers, I recognize the importance of organizations like DeMolay that encourage young people to get involved in their communities. I thank Christopher for his commitment, and would once again like to congratulate him on his election to the position of State Master Councilor.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, due to the tragic death of my grandmother, Sarah "Big Mamma" Morris, I was unable to vote during the week of July 16–July 20.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The new Democratic-led Congress is determined to reverse the Republican pattern of disinvestment. Democrats have produced a bill that makes college more affordable, helps raise the achievement levels of America's students, expands access to health care for the uninsured and invests in the skills of America's workers and in community services.

In addition, I would have voted against the Kline amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. This amendment is another Republican farse designed to hurt those who need help most. The Kline amendment would increase funds to the Office of Labor Management Standards, an office that has enjoyed 33 percent increase in resources over the past four years and sacrifice funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau. This bureau oversees child labor standards abroad to make sure that other countries are not using children to undercut American manufacturing. The sponsor claims that it will help rank and file workers from so-called union abuses, but in reality, those who support this amendment are the same opponents of a minimum wage increase. This amendment does not protect the American worker and I would have voted "no".

I would have also been a part of the 310 votes for the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The bipartisan Energy and Water bill invests \$3 billion—\$1 billion more than the President's request—to research global warming and work on new technologies and renewable energy. I hope that it's sister bill, the Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization, will soon become law so that we can continue to improve the water infrastructure in this nation.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 19, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services; and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairwomen, I rise in support of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3043). This legislation makes important investments in education, health care and vital scientific research.

"Last November, voters around the country called for a change in direction and this bill epitomizes the differences in priorities between the old Republican-led Congress and the new Congress. In the past five years, even as the cost of attending college skyrocketed, the previous Congress raised the maximum Pell Grant by only \$300. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing the Pell Grant by \$390, more in one year than the Republican-led Congress did in five years. President Bush submitted a budget this year to freeze funding for child care and cut funding to Head Start by \$100 million. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing both Child Care Block Grants and Head Start by \$75 million each.

"Since the inception of No Child Left Behind, it has been underfunded by more than \$55 billion, and this year the President's budget proposal fell \$14.7 billion short of full funding. We said we could do better, and today we are reversing that trend and increasing the appropriation for No Child Left Behind by \$2 billion, including a \$1.5 billion increase for Title I. As we work to reauthorize that bill this year, I hope that we will continue this positive trend and commit to mandatory funding of primary and secondary education.

"I am also pleased that today, for the first time since fiscal year 2005, we are increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1975, Congress passed IDEA to ensure that all students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education. At that time, Congress made a pledge to states—the federal government would pay 40% of the costs to educate special needs students. We have never met that commitment, and in the past several years, the Congress has actually failed to increase funding for IDEA at all. This year, the President proposed a cut in these funds. Today, we are increasing IDEA funding by \$509 million. While this is an excellent start, we must continue to work towards keeping our promise to states and fully funding IDEA. With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to pass the EDUCATE Act, which creates a mandatory, fiscally responsible path to fully fund IDEA by 2015. Students and states have waited more than 30 years for Congress to fulfill its pledge, and we have a responsibility to do so.

"I am also pleased that in this bill today, we are increasing funding for many important education programs, including school counseling, afterschool programs, Even Start, Teacher training, education technology, and advanced placement. By strengthening these priorities, and putting the focus back on education at all levels, we are opening doors to students and increasing our ability as a nation to harness the energy, intelligence and ambition of our young people and keep our country in the forefront of discovery and innovation.

"The bill also addresses the fact that, in recent years, the nation's health scientists have faced shrinking laboratory budgets and dwindling research grants. Important investments need to be made today to reverse those trends. The House focuses an additional \$1 billion to fund the National Institutes of Health to accelerate research discoveries that can treat and cure many diseases.

"In spite of the all of the positives that this bill will accomplish, I am concerned about what some might consider superficially attractive but ultimately counterproductive cuts to administrative accounts at the Department of Education and elsewhere. Federal employees work hard to deliver valuable services to our nation everyday and simply can't do their jobs without the minimum amount of resources necessary. This legislation includes roughly \$175 million in funding cuts to federal employee salaries and resources. I'll be working in conference to ensure that our dedicated civil servants have the resources they need to continue providing their valuable services.

Madam Chairwoman, I am pleased to support this legislation which makes the critical investments needed to address the health, education and economic challenges we face."

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANK  
BATTLE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Mr. Frank Battle. Mr. Battle served the Federal Government for 35 years prior to his retirement on April 3, 2007.

Frank's distinguished career began in 1973 as a Management Intern at the Department of Defense. His natural ability to navigate the complexities of government management and years of experience propelled him to senior management positions at the Department of Justice, the Voice of America, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Labor Relations Board.

I would like to thank Mr. Battle for his decades of service to the United States, and wish him the best of luck in the future.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 19, 2007 my vote

on the Amendment by Mr. CAMP of Michigan to H.R. 3043, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (rollcall vote 675) was recorded as a 'no' vote when I intended to cast a 'yes' vote. I wish to clarify on the record my support for seniors in Pennsylvania and across the Nation to access Medicare Advantage plans.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF  
THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross as it celebrates its 90th birthday.

For ninety years the Prince William Red Cross has provided valuable and noble service to members of our armed forces and those in need. The Prince William Chapter has two locations, both in Manassas and Occoquan, and has a rich history of faithfully serving their community. As a result, they were recognized this year as Prince William County's oldest non-profit organization.

The birth of Prince William County's Red Cross can be traced all the way back to President Woodrow Wilson, who signed the organization's charter on July 24, 1917. Their charge was to support the war effort during World War I and their initial campaign raised over \$2,600 for the war fund. At this time, they also began a service aiding the troops overseas by mailing out care packages that included hand-knit afghans, comfort kits, homemade jams, etc. The Prince William Chapter continues this tradition today as one of their many services. They have sent our troops in Iraq numerous packages containing the soldiers' favorite foods, athletic equipment, CD players and correspondence from home. This has all been done in an effort to aid our individual soldiers and military in every possible way.

The Red Cross has recently assumed another mission: aiding their community in preparing, responding and recovering from both manmade and natural disasters. Last year over 477 Prince William County residents suffered losses during home fires. As has become commonplace over the past ninety years, the Prince William Red Cross was there to support them and provide relief in their time of need.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross for its ninety years of remarkable and devoted service to its community and to our nation. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Prince William Red Cross on this distinguished achievement and in wishing them many more years of continued success.

THE COURAGE TO CARE: A TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTS OF  
SIR NICHOLAS WINTON

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable and heroic acts of Sir Nicholas Winton, who personally and by his own initiative saved the lives of 669 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and brought them across Hitler's Germany to his native Great Britain. He is an immensely compelling symbol of how the caring of one man can truly make a difference while confronting evil on a personal level. Sir Winton said it best himself in a letter he wrote in 1939, ". . . There is a difference between passive goodness and active goodness. The latter is, in my opinion, the giving of one's time and energy in the alleviation of pain and suffering. It entails going out, finding and helping those who are suffering and in danger and not merely in leading an exemplary life, in a purely passive way of doing no wrong."

Nicholas Winton was guided by intuition and character. He understood the upcoming danger and realized the importance of acting fast. Having made many business trips to Germany in previous years, Winton saw Jews being arrested, harassed and beaten. Thousands of Jews fled to as-yet unoccupied Czechoslovakia, especially to Prague. Many settled into refugee camps in appalling conditions in the midst of winter. Near Prague Winton visited the freezing refugee camps. His visit deeply affected him and he felt the need for taking action.

He gathered information from parents who wanted their children out and then pleaded to countries all over the world to take them in. He also personally raised the funds to pay for the operation and continued his important struggle even though no countries except Sweden and the United Kingdom were willing to take the children in. Further, the media refused to deal with the tragedy about to unfold. The first 20 of "Winton's children" left Prague of March 14, 1939 and Hitler's troops overran all of Czechoslovakia the very next day. By the time World War II broke out on September 1, 1939, the rescue effort had transported 669 children out of the country.

I commend Nicholas Winton for his courage, compassion and foresight, for his willingness to stand up for what he believed was right in the face of indifference and to accept responsibility for being his brother's keeper. He has shown remarkable leadership, courage and ability of taking action when facing evil. Being a humble man who kept quiet about his heroic achievements for over 50 years, and without aspirations of being called a hero, he truly has shown complete selflessness and devotion to others. I also congratulate Sir Nicholas' small group of volunteers who helped him, not only for saving hundreds of lives but also for saving our faith in humanity.

As time goes by, the values for which Sir Nicholas Winton fought have increasingly penetrated the consciousness of the world. The children, grandchildren and great-grand children of those he saved will go on to establish a world where human rights and decency are the priorities of civilized society. This is the

meaning of Winton's legacy to us and the meaning of our struggle for human rights around the world.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
MAPLEWOOD, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Maplewood, Minnesota's 50th anniversary.

While the city was incorporated 50 years ago, the more complete history of Maplewood began more than 150 years ago. According to the Maplewood Area Historical Society, Maplewood's original residents were members of a Dakota tribe who were drawn to the lush land, lakes and wetlands.

In 1850, a group of families including the Bells, Caseys, Conlins, and the Vincents moved from Saint Paul to settle along an old Indian trail which is now Hazelwood Street in Maplewood. In 1858, this area became part of New Canada Township.

Nearly 30 years later, a town site was planned at the junction of the Wisconsin Central Railroad line and the Saint Paul and Duluth Railroad that was to "rival Saint Paul." In 1886, Mr. William Dawson and his wife, Mary, platted out this village that they called Gladstone in honor of Mr. William Gladstone, a popular British statesman. For a time, the little village thrived and employed 1,000 workers. However, this area suffered from a series of setbacks such as a fire which destroyed a major business, and which ultimately led to less activity in the area.

One business which was very successful, was a stagecoach line that ran along what is now Edgerton Street. The line began in 1856 and cost \$10 for a trip from Saint Paul to Duluth. The line remained in service until the first railroad was built to Duluth in 1870.

After World War II, the housing boom began as veterans took advantage of the GI Bill's home loan guaranty. Developments sprung up around Wakefield Lake people continued to be attracted to the area. Residents soon came together to seek improved services including sewer, water and better roads.

On February 26, 1957, in a vote of 5 to 1 New Canada Township officially incorporated into the Village of Maplewood. Upon hearing the new name Mr. Warren Berger went out to his backyard and traced a maple leaf that became the village logo. By the 1970's, the Village of Maplewood became the City of Maplewood and adopted the Council-Manager form of government which it continues today.

Today, Maplewood is home to many major businesses and hospitals as well as the widely known 3M Corporation headquarters. The people of Maplewood are proud of their parks and open spaces. Maplewood has become a leader in land conservation by protecting open spaces and planting rainwater gardens to help improve water quality.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the rich history of Maplewood, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing Maplewood's 50th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF UKRAINE  
ELECTIONS RESOLUTION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I rise to introduce a concurrent resolution which addresses the current political uncertainty in Ukraine, a country of strategic importance to the United States. My resolution urges all sides to abide by the agreement signed by Ukraine's leadership on May 27th, providing for a new round of parliamentary elections to be held on September 30th, and encouraging the holding of these elections in a free, fair and transparent manner in keeping with Ukraine's commitments as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I have just returned from Ukraine which hosted the 16th annual Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. While in Kyiv, I met with President Yushchenko and other prominent Ukrainian officials. My colleagues and I received assurances from Kyiv that Ukraine would not backtrack on the path to political reform and good governance.

Ukraine's current political conflict is the result of the ongoing power struggle that President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich have been engaged in since Yanukovich became Prime Minister last August. Rooted in hastily conceived constitutional reforms, the ongoing power struggle threatens to undermine Ukraine's hard-fought and substantial democratic gains, especially those won since the 2004 Orange Revolution.

On April 2nd, President Yushchenko issued a decree dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, asserting that the Prime Minister was attempting to monopolize power by forming a veto-proof parliamentary majority through illegal means, and called for new parliamentary elections. The parliament refused to disband and questioned the legality of the presidential decree. After several weeks of tension and standoff, violence was averted and an agreement was reached: President Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yanukovich and Parliamentary Speaker Moroz came together in support of holding pre-term parliamentary elections at the end of September.

Madam Speaker, it is important to recognize that Ukraine has made genuine democratic gains since the Orange Revolution. The December 2004 presidential vote was hailed as a stirring example of the triumph of peaceful protest and democratic ideals. Just over a year ago, as head of the OSCE-led International Election Observation Mission to Ukraine, I was pleased to declare that country's parliamentary elections were also free and fair. I am pleased that Ukraine has once again invited the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe the September 30 elections. Moreover, Ukraine for the last two years has been designated by Freedom House as a "free" country, in contrast to the "partly free" assessment it held during its first 13 years of independence.

Nevertheless, democratic institutions and the rule of law in Ukraine are still emerging and lacking in their ability to safeguard democratic gains. It is this fragility, especially the

lack of constitutional clarity in delineating the separation of powers that made it possible for the power struggle to ripen into a full-blown political crisis in recent months. However, it is heartening to see that more serious turmoil was averted through careful and constructive dialogue and capped by an agreement involving the country's leading political figures.

First and foremost, my resolution calls for the leadership and political parties of Ukraine to abide by the May 27th agreement and conduct elections as scheduled for September 30th. The dispute between the president and prime minister must be resolved in a manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national interest, and in keeping with its OSCE commitments.

Madam Speaker, prolonged political uncertainties regarding the government's delineation of powers is clearly not in Ukraine's interest, and that nation's political leaders need to stand together in support of free, fair and transparent elections as a way out of the current impasse. While democratic elections will not, in and of themselves, resolve all of the challenges facing Ukraine in strengthening the rule of law and delineating power among the branches of government, they are a critical stepping-stone in Ukraine's democratic consolidation and should serve as a further testament of Ukraine's commitment to a democratic future.

As this resolution underscores, Congress has been a staunch supporter of the development of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine since the restoration of that nation's independence in 1991. The consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine will further strengthen that country's independence and sovereignty, enhancing Ukraine's aspirations for full integration with the West and serving as a positive model for other former Soviet countries. I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution as a demonstration of Congress's interest, concern, and support for the Ukrainian people.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"  
LAYHER OF HAYS, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my admiration of a Kansan's life—a life filled with honor and service to country, community and family. Mr. Robert "Bob" Layher of Hays, Kansas, a member of the "Greatest Generation," lived life with integrity, passion and enthusiasm.

Like so many young Americans of his generation, Bob put country before self and joined the U.S. military. Bob proudly fought for freedom during World War II, though he began serving prior to the start of the war. He was among those who resigned their U.S. military positions in order to volunteer for a covert operation with the Chinese Air Force before the U.S. entered the war. For his service in China as a member of The Flying Tigers, Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bob's dedication to those he served with and his presentation of their memories was unsurpassed. While the history and service of

The Flying Tigers is well known in China, few in our country know about the courage and heroism of these men. Bob took a lead role in making certain that his community knew about The Flying Tiger's mission of protecting China's important Burma Road from Japanese attacks.

He was also involved in national education of The Flying Tigers. Appearing in stories and presenting at schools, he shared the history of this brave group of volunteers. During trips back to the area where they were stationed, members of The Flying Tigers found the need for education about their group was much less necessary in China. The idea that Americans would volunteer to defend another country all for the sake of freedom made a great impression on the Chinese.

While Bob was born and raised outside of Kansas, our State was lucky to have him settle here and begin farming after his military service. Bob was born in Dallas, Oregon, on September 3, 1916. He graduated from the University of Colorado where he also met his wife, Marian. In 1941, 4 days before he left for China, he and Marian were secretly married. This was also the same day as his birthday, so this way Bob would never forget their anniversary.

A very involved member of his community, Bob participated in several civic groups. After he moved to Hays in 1952, Bob became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the ISIS Shrine and the Masonic Lodge in Salina.

Most important to Bob was his family. Over the course of their 65 years of marriage, he and his wife were committed parents and grandparents. Bob's son, R.F. "Bobby" Layher Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and served as a pilot with United States Marine Corps. Even though Bobby went on to be a civilian pilot with Federal Express for 29 years, Bob and his son were still able to fulfill their dream of farming together.

In the many important roles Bob filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty and not out of selfish ambition. He helped make his community better and his nation safer. I join his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marian and her family during this time of loss.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the city of Shoreview, Minnesota.

The area that is currently Shoreview served as home for members of Dakota and Ojibwe tribes more than 150 years ago. The abundant lakes and wetlands that attracted these first Americans still bring people to this beautiful community.

In 1850, Mr. Socrates A. Thompson ventured from Saint Paul in search of a good place to farm, settling in what is now part of Shoreview. Following Mr. Thompson, families

from other parts of the United States such as Vermont, Virginia, Illinois and New York moved in to begin farming the land there as well. This area also attracted people from other parts of the world including England, Germany, Ireland, and Switzerland.

On April 23, 1957, with a population of 5,231, area residents voted to incorporate as the Village of Shoreview. During the 1970s and 1980s Shoreview experienced rapid growth. In the 1990s, the city matured as less land was available for development. City planning has shifted from new development to infill, redevelopment and preserving its natural habitat.

Fifty years after incorporation, Shoreview has grown into a large suburb. It is a thriving community that is home to quiet neighborhoods, small businesses, excellent schools, and expansive wetlands, trails, parks and lakes.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the history of Shoreview, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing Shoreview's 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS STEVEN A. DAVIS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private First Class Steven A. Davis and to recognize his service to our nation.

PFC Davis was a true patriot who served his country with honor. Throughout his life he selflessly dedicated himself to his fellow soldiers, family and friends, and to our country.

His family moved to Woodbridge, Virginia, in 2001. Before joining the Army, PFC Davis worked in a fast food restaurant to try and pay for college. Yearning to serve his country, he enlisted in the Army in September 2005, and began his first deployment shortly thereafter. PFC Davis was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. Tragically, he was killed on July 4, 2007, after sustaining injuries from grenades detonated near his mounted patrol. He was honored with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star prior to his death.

PFC Davis is survived by his parents Guy and Tess, his wife Ayla and their one-year-old daughter Elizabeth, and his brother Specialist Chris Davis, who is also a soldier currently deployed to Iraq. His mother, Tess, is working in Iraq as a paramedic, and his grandfather is working there as a mechanic. His father, Buck, is also an Army veteran.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation; it is a debt that can never be repaid. I recognize that words are of little comfort for the family and friends of PFC Davis, who are truly suffering in the wake of the loss of this intelligent and dedicated man. I hope they will take some solace in knowing that we will never forget PFC Davis and the tremendous sacrifice he made while defending our country.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to honor the memory of Private First Class Ste-

ven A. Davis. I call upon my colleagues to remember him as a man who gave his life protecting the American people.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MISS  
JOELLA GALE MURRAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Joseph and Kathryn Murray of Alexandria, Virginia, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Joella "Ella" Gale Murray was born on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 1:03 pm weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Ella has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

PASSING OF GENNADI KRYUCHKOV

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2007, the Russian Federation lost one of its great leaders, although I am certain he would steadfastly reject such a characterization of himself.

He certainly wasn't a famous political figure, or a wealthy philanthropist, or a brilliant scientist, and his name was rarely found on the pages of the major media. Gennadi Kryuchkov's leadership was in the spiritual realm. He was a courageous and principled leader of the unregistered Evangelical Baptist Church in the Soviet Union in the days when merely sharing one's religious faith with a neighbor could lead to a "discussion" at the local police station or the feared KGB office, and actively preaching the Gospel without permission from the government was usually good for a ticket to one of the many forced labor camps that comprised the infamous Gulag.

Born in 1926, Gennadi Kryuchkov came to faith in 1951, and became active in an unregistered congregation of Baptist believers. In 1960, when he felt the officially registered Baptist organization had too deeply compromised itself with Soviet authorities by submitting to repressive new regulations, he became one of the leaders of the *Iniitsiativniki*, the unregistered and essentially underground network of congregations that defied Caesar's intrusion into the spiritual realm. Gennadi Kryuchkov became president of the underground church council and the late Georgi Vins was chosen as secretary. In May 1965, Pastor Kryuchkov and Pastor Vins led an open march on Communist Party headquarters in Moscow to protest government restrictions on believers in the Soviet Union.

According to church council statistics, by 1972 the unregistered or "reform" Baptist church numbered around 450 congregations and 18,000 members. Another reputable source reported in the mid-1980s that there were 2,000 reform Baptist congregations with approximately 70,000 adult members.

I would add parenthetically that in April 1979 Georgi Vins and four other Soviet dissidents were expelled from the Soviet Union in exchange for two convicted Soviet spies. In August 1985, the Helsinki Commission, of which I am honored to serve currently as Chairman, heard Pastor Vins' dramatic testimony on the plight of the unregistered Baptist church at Congressional hearings in Buffalo, New York, devoted to the subject of Soviet forced labor practices.

Meanwhile, as a result of his determination to preserve the freedom to worship without state interference, Pastor Kryuchkov was arrested and sentenced to three years in labor camp from 1966 to 1969. In 1970, under threat of continued persecution, he went into hiding and spent 20 years working underground, preaching to fellow believers in clandestine gatherings, publishing "illegal" religious literature, and staying one step ahead of the KGB.

Only when the chains of religious repression in the Soviet Union were cast off as a result of the new thinking that characterized the government of Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, was Pastor Kryuchkov able to emerge from the shadows and return to his family and loved ones in the Tula Oblast, still fervently preaching the Scriptures and standing fast for separation of church and state.

Madam Speaker, like the Soviet Union itself, the days of cruel religious persecution and militant atheism in Russia are pretty much a thing of the past. But let us not forget the courage and persistence of church leaders like Gennadi Kryuchkov, who, like the "Remnant" of Old Testament times, kept the flame of faith of burning during the dark days of persecution.

HONORING MR. PETE DLALAB OF  
ELLSWORTH, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my respect and high regard for a Kansan who is truly a member of "the Greatest Generation"—Mr. Pete Dlabal of Ellsworth. The time has come to recognize this man who has served his community and country while remaining devoted to his family.

Mr. Dlabal was born to a family that included nine brothers and sisters in one of the fine small towns I have the privilege of representing, Wilson, Kansas. Following his graduation from Wilson High School and the Wichita Business School, he joined the millions of other selfless young men of his generation and enlisted in the United States Army. After serving in the Army for four and a half years during World War II, he returned to Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Upon returning home, his service to his community continued, serving as the county treasurer for two years. He then began his tenure at the Ellsworth County Farmers Cooperative Union in 1949. In this position he would remain for 31 years, including 24 years as General Manager. In honor of his dedication and leadership, Mr. Dlabal was one of only four individuals inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame this past March.

It is no small task to manage a farmer's cooperative in Kansas. Long days and an unpredictable harvest can make the job a thankless one. Agriculture is the backbone of the Kansas economy. And Ellsworth County is squarely settled in the heart of farm country, bordered on all sides by the vast fields and pastures that make my state the breadbasket of America.

While employed at the Ellsworth Co-operative, Mr. Dlabal also took time to serve his community by volunteering in several civic organizations. Throughout his career he was a part of the Ellsworth County Commission, Ellsworth School board, Ellsworth Library board, FFA Advisory board, and the Knights of Columbus. In his industry, he served on the boards of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, the Co-operative Marketing Association, the Farmers Marketing Company and the Kansas Farmers Service Association.

Mr. Dlabal exemplifies what a community leader is all about. However, his most important role has been as husband to Lillian for 58 years and father to Joan, Deborah, Angie and Pam. Through his role as a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Mr. Dlabal provides an example by living his own life through a set of high personal standards. He would not settle for doing anything that bent any rules; anything other than honesty was completely unacceptable to him.

Madam Speaker, this man has made Kansas a better place to live through his devotion as a community leader and family man. Mr. Pete Dlabal not only served in our military, but served the agriculture industry and farmers of central Kansas. Although he has made an immeasurable impact through his professional and personal life, he remains a humble individual. Today we take a moment to simply say "thank you" and wish him well in a much-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Vadnais Heights, Minnesota's 50th anniversary.

The history of Vadnais Heights began with many French Canadian families first settling the area. Families including the Bibeau, Garceau, Morrisette, and Vadnais families arrived in the 1840's. The city's namesake, Mr. Jean Vadnais, and his family made their home in 1846 on the southeast side of the lake that became known as Vadnais Lake. In 1858, the same year that Minnesota became a state, this area became part of White Bear Township.

On July 23, 1957, with a population of approximately 2,000, area residents voted to incorporate as the Village of Vadnais Heights. Within a month, on August 20th, residents elected the new village's first officials. In 1974, the village became the City of Vadnais Heights and adopted the Council-Manager form of government which it continues today.

Vadnais Heights is home to a treasured scenic and recreational area—Vadnais-Sucker

Lake Regional Park. This beautiful park features 1,200 acres of wetlands, woods, trails, and lakes. In addition, there are more than 100 acres of park land in Vadnais Heights.

Since its incorporation 50 years ago, the City has grown from a small, farming community to a lively suburban community with strong neighborhoods, prosperous businesses, and abundant open spaces.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the vibrant history of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing Vadnais Heights' 50th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT GRANTS ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, battling the meth epidemic is one of my top priorities here in Congress. Last year we passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act and I was pleased that the legislation included several important international meth precursor controls that I drafted. We've made good progress with controlling the supply of meth precursors and other enforcement issues, but so far treatment issues have been largely neglected.

This is why I am introducing the Enhanced Methamphetamine Treatment Grants Assistance Act. My legislation will create three separate grant programs under SAMHSA, each one targeted at a particular treatment need.

The first grant program will award grants to community organizations to coordinate wrap-around services for meth addicts rejoining the community. I've heard over and over again just how important these wrap-around services are, like housing and transportation assistance, job training and ongoing mental health counseling. Meth treatment does not end when an addict leaves a treatment facility. They need comprehensive services that will help keep them off meth and rebuild their lives, which is why my bill will help communities build a network of these vital wrap-around services.

The second grant program is an expansion of the existing substance abuse treatment program for pregnant and postpartum women to include all parents. Priority will still be given to those pregnant and postpartum women, but we're also going to make sure that parents can get treatment too so that they can get clean and keep their children out of the foster care system.

Finally, the third grant program will target those addicts who actively seek treatment, only to find out that they will have to wait months before a bed will be available to them. My legislation directs grant money to treatment programs that are going to target the people who just can't get treatment, no matter how badly they want it, so they don't have to go through the criminal justice system to receive help.

I am committed to expanding treatment resources so providers have the resources to reach more people and addicts can get the help they need. I urge my colleagues to join

me in this goal and to support the Enhanced Methamphetamine Treatment Grants Assistance Act.

TRIBUTE TO CRYSTLE STEWART, MISS TEXAS USA 2008

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to commemorate the accomplishment of one of my most remarkable constituents: Crystle Stewart. Formally Miss Fort Bend County, Crystle was recently crowned Miss Texas USA.

I am very proud that for the second year in a row a resident of the 22nd District has worn the Miss Texas USA crown. These successes prove true what I've known for quite some time—my district is home to the most intelligent, sophisticated and talented women in the country.

I commend Crystle not only because she brings a great deal of pride to Fort Bend, but because she truly is a role model for young women throughout Texas. Crystle bested 121 other contestants in this year's pageant, and is also only the second African-American woman to win Miss Texas USA, and the first in more than a decade.

Her triumph is a milestone, to be sure, but it is also a study in perseverance. Finishing as runner-up in both 2006 and 2007 and third runner up in 2005, Crystle never lost sight of her goal. Most importantly, Crystle is also a disciplined student. Throughout years of pageants and modeling, she has remained dedicated to her academic career, and is a hard-working student of consumer science and merchandising at the University of Houston.

I congratulate Crystle. She is a young woman with a very bright future ahead of her, and I know she will honor our great State at the Miss USA contest and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE OFFICER RUSSEL TIMOSHENKO

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, just over a week ago, the city of New York lost one of its brave heroes. Police officer Russel Timoshenko of Staten Island was murdered in cold blood by a career criminal during what should have been a routine traffic stop in Brooklyn. He was only 23.

Officer Timoshenko was also a constituent of mine, and his death reminds us how precious life is . . . and how it can be stolen from us in an instant.

Officer Timoshenko embodied the American dream. He was born and raised in the former Soviet republic Belarus. His parents, Tatyana and Leonid, brought him to this country as a young boy in 1993 to give him a better life. They didn't speak English and arrived with almost nothing—all for their son. Russel grew up in Staten Island and, ultimately, chose to give back to the city he loved so much. He

joined the New York City Police Department just over a year and a half ago.

Much has been said about this brave young man. His friends and family have told us what an amazing person he was and how much he meant to them. But it is the words of his mother that speak volumes about Officer Timoshenko. So tonight, I wish to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD what Tatyana Timoshenko said about a proud American . . . a hero police officer . . . her beloved son.

Speaking of their decision to immigrate to the United States: "I felt my child would have better opportunities here and a safer life. We were looking for a better life for our son . . . We wouldn't move just for us. We didn't speak English. We came here with nothing but six bags—two each . . . Do I regret it? A little, but at the same time, would he be the same person he is today if we didn't leave? I don't know . . . I know he was happy here."

Of the kind of person that her son was during his short life: "He never walked the stairs, he just flew up, skipping a step . . . And this flying, his steps, I can't forget them, I still hear them. I still can't believe it . . . He was truly unique. I want him to be remembered as a jolly, funny, kind boy. He was a leader and a hero."

Remembering the day her son became a member of the New York City Police Department: "We ordered sushi. It was a real holiday for him . . . He was really proud. I wanted him to be happy in life. He went to the academy, and I didn't want him to, but it made him happy."

And finally on the passing of her son: "I'm happy that we had such a miraculous child. That he died, it struck me in the heart, but there is nothing we can do now."

For Russel Timoshenko, his life was lost much too early. I offer my condolences to the Timoshenko family. My words cannot possibly ease your suffering or bring light to these dark days, but I want you to know that we grieve with your family . . . say a prayer for healing . . . honor Russel and his service to New York . . . and thank you for raising a young man of immense character and integrity.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2643, the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. For the first time in years, the House is investing the resources needed to improve air and water quality, protect our pristine natural landscapes and historic structures, manage wildfires appropriately, and increase services for visitors to national parks, refuges and forests.

H.R. 2643 provides \$2.5 billion for our National Parks—\$223 million above 2007 levels and \$148 million above the President's request. This impressive commitment reverses years of chronic underfunding that has significantly weakened the system and represents a major step toward upgrading our parks in time

for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. The bill also renews America's support for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities by including \$160 million for each program in Fiscal Year 2008. Significant increases over current funding levels will help arts and humanities programming across the country recover from a decade of deep cuts.

In addition, I am very pleased the bill includes funding for critically important U.S. Forest Service International Programs. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs promote sustainable forest management in countries around the world and return important technologies and innovations to the United States. H.R. 2643 includes \$8 million to support Forest Service efforts abroad—a much-needed \$1.1 million increase over the current level of funding.

The hard work of Forest Service professionals abroad is not a luxury; it is essential to the mission of the Forest Service. These International Programs support vital national priorities that matter to our constituents, including federal efforts to combat global climate change; strengthen the U.S. timber industry and fight illegal logging; protect North American migratory bird habitat; stop invasive species before they enter the U.S.; and improve America's global image by working in close partnership with Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Indonesia, Mexico, Liberia and many other key U.S. partners.

America's forests are part of a global forest ecosystem. Protecting and sustaining a healthy forest system in the U.S. requires the Forest Service to work with scientists and land managers in countries around the world. Consider the fight against invasive species. One invasive species alone—the Asian Longhorn Beetle—threatens to inflict losses up to \$138 billion on the U.S. economy. By investing in efforts to identify and suppress invasive species abroad, we can save the hundreds of billions of dollars needed to deal with a widespread infestation in America. In addition to saving taxpayers money, Forest Service International programs leverage private funds from groups including Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, this bill represents the values and priorities of the American people, from honoring our obligations to Native American communities to making critical investments in drinking water infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL M. WELLS, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Paul M. Wells, Sr. for a life dedicated to his family, country, faith, and fellow brothers and sisters. Paul passed away July 13, but the mark he left on the Cleveland community will endure.

Paul has always demonstrated a commitment to serving others. After completing his service to our country in the United States

Army, Paul returned to Cleveland and started his career in public service, working for the City of Cleveland in the Division of Streets. As his career progressed, Paul sought more opportunities to serve. He became a union steward in an effort to improve working conditions and protect his fellow brothers and sisters. Paul eventually was elected Local 1099 President in 1971, a post he held for over 25 years. Over the course of his career, Paul spearheaded numerous efforts that led to historic gains for union workers.

Paul's faith guided him throughout his life. Paul is reunited in faith with his high school sweetheart, Nita Ruth Murray, to whom he was married for over 50 years. He is survived by his four children Pauletta; Constance; Paul, Jr.; and Eric, as well as seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Paul M. Wells, Sr., for a life spent in service to his community. Paul seized every opportunity to improve the lives of others. May we all follow his example.

COMMENDING MR. PINKY KRAVITZ ON 50 YEARS OF RADIO BROADCASTS AND HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Pinky Kravitz on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on 50 years as an on-air radio talk show host in Atlantic City.

Starting his career on WLDB 1490AM and airing weekdays during the mid-afternoon, his first show was called "Pinky's Pool Party." Three years later, Pinky would move to his current home on WOND 1400AM, where for the last 47 years he has hosted his talk show at various times and locations across Atlantic County. For the past 28 years, he has broadcast live from Atlantic City's famed casinos including the Hilton, which is the current home of "Pinky's Corner."

A respected radio personality and dedicated community servant, Pinky has interviewed all of New Jersey's governors since 1974, all of the state's sitting U.S. Senators for the past 35 years, and myself on countless occasions—always with class and character. Without question, Pinky is an institution in southern New Jersey. On behalf of the House of Representatives and the residents of New Jersey, I would like to personally congratulate Mr. Pinky Kravitz who has entertained and informed his faithful listeners for five decades.

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as many of our colleagues in this House know, India prides itself on being the world's most populous democracy. Although relations between India and the United States have been rocky in the past, since 2004 Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a

“strategic partnership” based on shared values such as democracy, multiculturalism, and rule of law. In addition, numerous economic, security and globally focused initiatives, including plans for “full civilian nuclear energy cooperation,” are currently underway. I support these initiatives but I remain deeply concerned about the numerous serious problems that remain when it comes to India’s respect for the rights of all of her citizens.

In fact, according to the Department of State’s 2006 Human Rights Report for India: “Major problems included extrajudicial killings of persons in custody, disappearances, torture and rape by police and security forces. The lack of accountability permeated the government and security forces, creating an atmosphere in which human rights violations often went unpunished. Although the country has numerous laws protecting human rights, enforcement was lax and convictions were rare.”

Again, these are not my words; this is from the State Department’s official report on Human Rights. I firmly believe that as the United States and India move towards greater cooperation in numerous endeavors we must at the same time continue to insist that India adhere to the full expression of democracy and basic human rights; especially for members of ethnic or religious minorities.

For example, according to reports, on April 20, 2006, Sikh activist Daljit Singh Bittu was arrested after making a speech. He was charged with sedition and “making inflammatory speeches.” Mr. Bittu’s crime was to speak out against the acquisition of the land of poor farmers by the State of Punjab on behalf of private business firms. Fortunately, Mr. Bittu was ultimately released on bail. The issue of government taking land by eminent domain for private usage is also extremely controversial in this country, but to the best of my knowledge no one has ever been charged with sedition for speaking out about it. On June 2nd of this year, Daljit Singh Bittu, was again arrested and charged with sedition. What did Mr. Bittu do this time? He participated in a peaceful march protesting government inaction on several issues where some of the marchers—and by all accounts not Mr. Bittu—allegedly expressed their desire—unrelated to the topic of the march—for an independent Sikh nation of Khalistan by shouting “Khalistan Zindabad.”

As I understand it, according to the Indian Supreme Court in the case *Balwant Singh vs. State of Punjab*, the mere public use of the slogan “Khalistan Zindabad” is not illegal; and as the march itself was peaceful, it is difficult to understand how the Indian Government believes Mr. Bittu did anything that can, to the best of my knowledge, be legitimately considered a crime—much less sedition—under United States, International, or Indian law.

What is really at issue here, Madam Speaker, is the fact that India is a nation comprised of a hodgepodge of ethnicities, some of whom do not wish to be a part of Hindu-dominated India. The conflict over the Muslim-majority region of Jammu and Kashmir is perhaps most familiar to Americans as it has sparked three major wars between India and Pakistan, but it is by no means the only ethnic or religious conflict roiling India. In 1948, India promised a free and fair plebiscite on the status of Kashmir. No such vote has ever been held. As our Nation fights to spread democracy to oppressed people across the globe, why don’t we insist on a simple democratic vote, with

international monitors, in Kashmir, in Punjab, Khalistan, in predominantly Christian Nagalim, and wherever people seek their freedom from India? The answer tragically is all too obvious, in the world of international diplomacy and geopolitics, sometimes expedience and “good relations” trump freedom and human rights.

I do not know whether the plebiscite promised to the people of Kashmir will ever happen, and I do not know whether a Sikh nation of Khalistan or a Christian nation of Nagalim will ever come into existence; but I do know that the Muslims of Kashmir, the Sikhs of Punjab/Khalistan and the Christians of Nagalim should never have to live in fear for freely and peacefully expressing their opinions.

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PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-  
EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 980, which ensures that police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and other public safety officers have basic collective bargaining rights. Americans depend on public safety workers and first responders to keep us safe and healthy. These critical personnel should be able to depend on Congress to provide them basic rights, including the ability to negotiate for the wages and benefits that they deserve.

This bill promotes the development of labor-management partnerships, which are frequently established through collective bargaining. These partnerships enhance public safety by increasing communication and cooperation between employees and employers, leading to more effective and efficient delivery of services.

It is important to note that the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act in no way undermines existing State laws. It simply establishes a basic minimum standard that most states already meet and many exceed. This balanced legislation does not force parties to reach agreement, but rather opens the door for dialogue and negotiation. Additionally, H.R. 980 recognizes that public safety officers play a significant role in emergency situations, and for that reason includes a provision outlawing strikes.

This bipartisan bill is widely supported by the American public, and it is endorsed by the International Association of Fire Fighters, Association of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Fraternal Order of Police, International Union of Police Associations, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

It is essential for all workers to have a voice at work. Please join me in supporting collective bargaining rights for public safety officers.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF  
EMIL “LUCKY” REZNIK OF  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emil “Lucky” Reznik’s dedication to the community of South Bend, Indiana. Since its conception 40 years ago, Lucky has served on the South Bend Public Transportation Board of Directors which established the successful TRANSPO bus service in the greater South Bend area. This service, cultivated in part from Lucky’s vision, provides over three million rides each year to area residents.

When not working hard with TRANSPO, Lucky is a popular advocate for higher education, specifically at Indiana University and Indiana University South Bend. His service with the Indiana University Alumni Association, the Indiana University South Bend Board of Advisors and as president of the Indiana University South Bend Alumni Board earned Lucky the Indiana University South Bend Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1982 and the very first Sue H. Talbot Distinguished Hoosiers for Higher Education Member Award in 2006.

This month, TRANSPO is honoring Lucky with a celebration dinner and the presentation of a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. Mayor Steve Luecke of South Bend will be presenting Lucky with the keys to the city. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels will also present Lucky with the Outstanding Hoosier Award. Lucky will receive other commendations from Indiana Speaker of the House B. Patrick Bauer and Mayor Jeff Rea of Mishawaka.

It is my pleasure to join these dignitaries and the people of St. Joseph County by paying tribute to the many years of unselfish dedication of this tireless and devoted civil servant, Lucky Reznik. The South Bend and Mishawaka communities have been forever changed thanks to his commitment.

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TRIBUTE TO DURANGO CITY  
MANAGER BOB LEDGER

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished civic leader from my district. After 25 years of service, Robert F. Ledger Jr. will retire as the City Manager for Durango, Colorado. His long history as a public servant has been marked with dedication and integrity at every stop.

Mr. Ledger has led Durango through both troubled and prosperous times, always with a passion for progress and in a way that preserved the historic and environmental ethic of the community. He championed numerous public works projects, encouraged community policing, opened city government to the citizens of the community and encouraged the public workforce to be the best that it could be.

Durango has come a long way under Bob Ledger. During his time with the City of Durango he oversaw the construction of public

recycling buildings, water and wastewater treatment facilities, police substations, parks, a world class recreation center and many trails including the renowned Animas River trail. Programs started by Mr. Ledger include publicly accessible geographic information systems, recycling collection and processing, historic preservation efforts, planning and community development operations, broad-based public safety reorganization, and award-winning financial management and reporting. Bob Ledger has led the City of Durango in its efforts to build or expand public library facilities, public transit, wastewater facilities, airport infrastructure, and numerous recreational opportunities.

Mr. Ledger could not have accomplished all that was done in Durango over the last 25 years without the support of a strong staff, visionary city councils and the community of Durango as a whole. But without his drive, talents and skills many of the changes that have occurred in the Durango community would never have been realized. A man of passion and compassion, his legacy will live long. I salute Mr. Bob Ledger for his long and distinguished career of public service and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 50, THE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT AND H.R. 465, THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 50, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act through 2012, and in support of H.R. 465, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act. These conservation funds have a tremendous impact on the survival of threatened species.

The ivory and bushmeat trades, as well as competition from humans for space and resources, continue to threaten the survival of the African Elephant. Rhinos and tigers similarly fall victim to these black market trades. In addition, deforestation and overworking have had devastating impacts on Asian Elephant

populations. The grants awarded through the MSCF have proven to be effective in creating nature reserves, enhancing wildlife and ecosystem management, and developing antipoaching campaigns, helping to combat the practices that endanger these species the most.

As of January, the Department of Interior had approved 280 conservation grants in 23 African countries to assist African elephants, 321 grants for rhinos and tigers, and 171 grants for Asian elephants. By using \$17 million in federal funding, the African elephant program has leveraged \$72 million in private matching funds, and the rhino and tiger program has generated nearly \$20 million in private funds to match its federally allocated \$7.8 million. The Asian elephant program has been almost as successful, leveraging \$10 million in private matching funds from \$7.8 million in federal funding.

H.R. 50 and H.R. 465 would reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Fund to support three important international conservation laws and help to protect these animals on a federal level. I strongly urge their support.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

July 25

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine S. 732, to empower Peace Corps volunteers.

SD-419

Veterans' Affairs

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

SD-562

10 a.m.

Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of David H. McCormick, of Pennsylvania, to be an Under Secretary, and Peter B. McCarthy, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, Kerry N. Weems, of New Mexico, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Tevi David Troy, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Charles E. F. Millard, of New York, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 625, to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, S. 1183, to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, S. 898, to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention, a bill entitled, "Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007", and the nominations of Diane Auer Jones, of Maryland, to be Assis-

ant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, David C. Geary, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences, and Miguel Campaneria, of Puerto Rico, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, and other pending calendar business.

SD-106

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dennis R. Schrader, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Gulf Coast disaster loans, focusing on the future of the disaster assistance program.

SR-428A

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the national foreclosure crisis, focusing on subprime mortgage fallout.

SH-216

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 169, to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, S. 278, to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas in the United States, S. 289, to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, S. 443, to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, S. 444, to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, S. 471, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska, to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail, S. 637, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor in Alabama and Georgia, S. 645, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide an alternate sulfur dioxide removal measurement for certain coal gasification project goals, S. 647, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, S. 722, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 817, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide additional authorizations for certain National Heritage Areas, S. 838, to authorize funding for eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, S. 955, to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, S. 1089, to amend the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act to allow the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation

Projects to hire employees more efficiently, S. 1148, to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, S. 1182, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act, S. 1203, to enhance the management of electricity programs at the Department of Energy, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1728, to amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Na Hoa Pili O Kaloko-Honokohau Advisory Commission, H.R. 85, to provide for the establishment of centers to encourage demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, H.R. 356, to remove certain restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District's ability to use certain property acquired by that District from the United States, H.R. 407, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, and H.R. 995, to amend Public Law 106-348 to extend the authorization for establishing a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and other pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

Superfund and Environmental Health Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice programs.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Pakistan's future, focusing on the challenges of building a democracy.

SD-419

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

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

SR-253

3 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. (Public Law 109-435).

SD-342

3:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reforming key international financial institutions for the 21st century.

SD-538

July 26

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine extraordinary rendition, extraterritorial detention, and treatment of detainees, focusing on restoring our moral credibility and strengthening our diplomatic standing.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Grim, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Budget

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Jim Nussle, of Iowa, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine preparation taken for digital television transition.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the case for the California waiver, including an update from the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1060, to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, S. 453,

to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections, S. 1692, to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, an original bill entitled, "School Safety and Law Enforcement Act", and the nomination of Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United Nations Human Rights Council, focusing on its shortcomings and prospects for reform.

SD-419

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine the Railroad Safety Enhancement Act.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 300, to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, S. 1258, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities, S. 1477, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado, S. 1522, to amend the Bonneville Power Administration portions of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2014, and H.R. 1025, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and con-

servation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

July 31

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ronald Spoehel, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, William G. Sutton, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Thomas J. Barrett, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and Paul R. Brubaker, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine death and serious injury relating to oxycontin and defective products.

SD-226

9:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

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

SD-562

August 2

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253