

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KATHARINE PHILLIPS SINGER, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to recognize a true Southern lady who, over the course of the past few weeks, has become a familiar face and distinctive voice throughout America, Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer of Mobile, AL.

Her story, which is told in the Ken Burns' highly-acclaimed documentary, "The War," represents the significant sacrifices—and obvious concerns—of millions of American families whose loved ones were fighting the forces of evil during the Second World War.

Whether it was rationing food by cooking without essential ingredients, saving tin cans or purchasing war bonds, World War II was a time when all Americans were called upon to do their part to contribute to America's success.

Young Katharine was just a sophomore at Auburn University when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and her 17-year-old brother, Sidney Phillips, signed up for the Marines. Upon graduating in 1944, she returned to Mobile and began working in a day care center for shipyard workers' children. She volunteered at the Red Cross canteen at the railroad station and served coffee and donuts to the troops aboard trains as they passed through town. She also volunteered with the Red Cross motor pool and regularly drove officers around town.

At the end of the war, Katharine began working as a stewardess for Waterman Airlines. In 1947, she married Harvey Singer, a Waterman pilot and former WWII naval pilot. They lived in Ohio for many years and returned to Mobile in 1970. The mother of two daughters and the grandmother of four, Mrs. Singer runs her own antique linen business in Mobile.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer in "The War" provides us all with an appropriate time to pause and thank her and all of the concerned families who shared their loved ones with the world during this trying time.

Not only did she provide an intimate story of what it was like here at home during the war, but along the way she became a prominent storyteller for a documentary that I believe should be required watching in every school in America. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mrs. Katharine Phillips Singer for her love of family and love of country.

CORPORAL STEPHEN R. BIXLER
POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, from June 29 to August 1, 2007 I asked members of the Suffield, CT, community to share their opinion on changing the name of the local post office to honor Cpl Stephen R. Bixler. During that period, my office received over 170 letters, calls and e-mails in overwhelming support of the idea. The comments I received described a thoughtful and compassionate man who wanted nothing more than to serve his Nation and make a difference for his community, and I wanted to take a moment and share some excerpts with my colleagues.

"Being the very proud and saddened grandmother of Cpl Stephen R. Bixler, renaming the Suffield Post Office in his honor would be a special tribute, keeping his memory alive for all who knew, loved, and respected him. He gave his life to secure our freedom."—Cpl Bixler's grandmother.

"Stephen Bixler was a close friend of mine, in which I served with during Operation Iraqi Freedom with 3rd Battalion 8th Marines. During this period, Stephen showed what it meant to be a Marine through his hard work and dedication to the Marine Corps and in making the quality of living for the Iraqi people better. From when he was a Boy Scout, Stephen went out of his way to provide service to others. Being part of the Boy Scouts, Stephen was able to excel in all that he did leading him to earn Eagle Scout. Stephen decided to serve his country and protect others by joining the United States Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps, Stephen utilized his outstanding qualities of selflessness, determination, and dedication to the job at hand. Stephen strived to be the best at everything that he did. When 3rd Battalion 8th Marines returned state-side, Stephen volunteered to return with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion for a second tour of duty in Iraq. He successfully completed his first of many schools when 2nd Recon Battalion asked for volunteers to leave to go back to Iraq. Stephen jumped at the opportunity and did it courageously. Before Stephen left, he told me that he did not think that he would make it back this time. Stephen went to many schools in Suffield, CT, when he was home and loved to talk to the students about his experiences. Stephen went on the deployment and lost his life in Fallujah, Iraq doing what he loved.

During the time I knew Stephen, I saw that he was a courageous and selfless individual by his actions. He changed the life of everyone whom he came in contact with. His service in the Marine Corps and in Boy Scouts made a lasting impression on Suffield, Connecticut residents, and on to all those who knew him. Stephen's loss has deeply impacted his family and those who had the pleasure of voting for him."—A fellow marine who served with Cpl Bixler.

Stephen gave his life selflessly while serving his second tour of duty in Fallujah, Iraq

on May 4, 2006. Stephen served our country proudly knowing that the risk to himself was of the highest level and yet he went straight for the front lines. It is important to note that Stephen was given the Medal of Valor for his final act which saved the lives of his fellow marines traveling through a desperate area of the Al Anbar province. It was Stephen who noticed the danger along the route and who stopped his caravan to investigate and mitigate the danger.

Stephen was a valuable member of our community as a young person who was always willing to give of himself as a Boy Scout (Eagle Scout rank), a member of the St. Joseph's Church, and as a friend who was filling to volunteer to help whenever the opportunity arose.

Stephen's willingness to help his community was not limited to Suffield, CT. His devotion to the Marines was Stephen's way to serve our country on behalf of us all.

Just before he returned to Iraq for his second tour of duty, I asked Stephen why he felt he needed to return. His response was simple. He said that the Iraqi people needed his help. He told me that after a few days of the Marine presence in the small towns of the Anbar Province that children returned to play and that people were back at work in the shadow of security provided by Steve and his fellow marines. Steve was humble in his view of his profound work."—Friend of Cpl Bixler.

Stephen Bixler was a close friend to both my husband and I, whom my husband served with during Operation Iraqi III 04-06. I had the privilege of knowing Stephen outside the United States Marine Corps. Stephen was a hardworking, dedicated and thoughtful individual. He always thought of others before throwing himself into the mix. His family and friends always came first. He exemplified what it meant to be a great friend, a great Marine, and a great leader. I only know the stories from Iraq either from my husband or his brother. They talked nothing of greatness and leadership. Stephen knew what he was doing, loved what he was doing and was passionate about being a Marine. Stephen became like a brother to me. Staying at our house and helping my husband out when something needed to be fixed. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty. He always came with a smile and left with one. His attitude was always positive even on those tough days at work.

Knowing Stephen made me a better person today. There is not a day that goes by that I do not walk past the pictures we have hanging in his memory or a night that I fall asleep that I am not thinking of him. He was a loved individual with so much to offer. His loss will always leave a lasting impression not only in Suffield but everyone that he reached out to."—Friend of Cpl Bixler.

Stephen Bixler was a close friend of both my brother and I, whom my brother served with during Operation Iraqi Freedom III 04-06. I also had the privilege of serving with Stephen Bixler in Camp Fallujah during this deployment. During this period, Stephen exemplified what it meant to be a Marine and a citizen soldier through his hard work and dedication to helping to improve the standard of living for numerous Iraqi families." "During the short time that I knew Stephen,

• 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.

I learned that he was a caring and selfless individual by his actions. His life impacted those he came in contact with, extending beyond his friends and family. His service to others made a lasting impression not only on Suffield, Connecticut residents, but it extended to the citizens of Iraq and fellow service members within the armed forces. Stephen's loss has deeply impacted those that knew him and his family."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"We knew him as a wonderful friend, student, track teammate, and overall outstanding citizen. Please help facilitate this honor to his memory."—Friends of the Bixler Family.

"A unique way of remembering our own and the tremendous price families pay for something others may take so lightly."

"Steve was an exceptional young man that my wife and I knew well. He attended our church and was an altar boy. His dream was always to be a Marine and he gave his life in the service of his country doing what he wanted to do. We have shared many moments with his mom and dad, Linda and Richard, grieving over the loss of someone so young."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"In my opinion, there would be no better way to honor both Stephen and his family than by renaming the Post Office. Stephen is a hero, and I believe this is the very least he deserves for the sacrifice that he has made for his country. It is now our turn to repay our respect and honor by renaming the Suffield Post Office in Cpl. Bixler's name."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"My senior year I attained a car for the first time and I would drive Steve to practice and home at the end of the day. We got along great, we could always make each other laugh at the littlest things and others on the tram would laugh with us. We used to hang out so much the athletic director didn't realize I was two years older than Steve. I had a great time with him and I will truly miss him. Steve was a great student and enjoyed by everyone, he was a talented young man."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen Bixler was one of my older brother's closest friends. They ran cross-country and track together in high school and I remember always going to the meets and watching them compete. Steve was quite possibly one of the nicest guys on the team, if not the entire high school. Stephen entering the Marines and defending his country was something he felt passionately about. I support your idea to rename the Post Office in memory and honor of Stephen Bixler. What he did for our country may not be known to many people throughout the country, but it is widely known throughout our town and I believe that this renaming would be an honor in his family's eyes."—Friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen graduated from Suffield High School in 2003, 2 years after our son and one year before our daughter. He and our son Jon were good friends, having competed together in Cross Country and Track & Field at Suffield High. During the years that Jon had his license, and Steve was still too young, Steve was the one exclusive passenger who was picked up each morning on the way to school and returned home each evening after a meet or practice. The two of them, and the old truck they rode in back and forth to school, were men on a mission who could only be deterred by the chance to do 'donuts' in an empty high school parking lot with a fresh covering of snow!

"During the summer, they were part of a small group on the Cross Country team who attended running camp in Vermont. They always enjoyed entertaining us with the stories they brought home about the camp antics and the occasional practical jokes."

"Steve was a model student, with a warm personality and a great sense of humor. He was also quiet and serious with a great respect for his family and country. All during high school, Steve's friends knew his first dream was to be a U.S. Marine. When many of his friends left for the 'footloose' life of being new college students, Steve left for the most difficult job—Marine training. As a marine, Steve's assignments throughout the world had one cause and that was to assist people in need. Steve was a young man that any parent would be honored to have as a son."—Parents of one of Bixler's close friends.

"The Iraq war is not a subject that comes and goes—it is always on the air. Its everlasting presence reminds me of Stephen Bixler—in my studies, watching the news, even conducting research at work.

"Naming the post office after Steve would not just be an honor to Steve but also a gift to the people of Suffield. Though we can never bring Steve back, and no building can compensate for his death, feeling like we have paid tribute to Steve is a necessary part of the community's healing."

"I graduated High School with Stephen Bixler and considered him a friend. I remember going to Stephen's house to play when I was very young and I remember riding the bus with him for as long as I can remember. For all of my years as a student in Suffield, I can remember Stephen's house was always extensively decorated by his mother. When these decorations went from hoping for his return, to mourning his loss, the effect was well felt throughout the community in the deepest, most heartfelt way. Stephen was well liked and greatly respected, and will forever be appreciated. As long as Stephen's family supports the honor then I believe nothing should stand in the way of this."—Classmate and friend of Cpl. Bixler.

"Stephen was my cousin. He lost his life fighting for us in Iraq. Stephen loved what he did, being a Marine. He lost his life doing what he loved. Growing up, Stephen emulated the "All American Kid". An athlete, a scholar and Eagle Scout. He defined what all Marines should strive to be. Aside from all these things, Stephen was a son, a brother, and a friend to many. He has made our family proud, and anyone who knew him. Anyone who didn't know him missed out on a wonderful person."—Cousin of Cpl. Bixler.

"As a former classmate and teammate of Corporal Stephen R. Bixler, I can attest to his deserving the honor of the Suffield Post Office name. Steve was a valued member of every team, class, and organization that he participated in. He was always there to encourage creativity, determination, and strength in the people around him. Steve lived his dream by joining the Marines. He seemed to have found a home in his service. As a Marine, he was able to stand out from the crowd, just as he did as an athlete and intellectual. Steve deserves this honor because he gave his life for his country. Steve deserves this honor because he was one of America's finest soldiers. However, Steve mostly deserves this honor because of who he was as a person. He was kind and sought out the best in those around him. He was an inspiration to everyone and that is why the Suffield Post Office should be named the Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office."—Classmate of Cpl. Bixler.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JANE
EVENS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mrs. Jane Bridges Ferrenbach Evens. Jane has been selected as the 2007–2008 Freedoms Foundation—Missouri (St. Louis) Chapter "Spirit of '76—Patriot." The Freedoms Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

Jane has been an active member of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge since 1972, organizing and promoting the chapter with enthusiasm. She served as the National Chair of Development for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for the last 6 years and is currently acting Senior Advisor to the Development Department. Jane has also volunteered her time and energy to numerous other organizations, including the St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Youth Emergency Service, Hosea House, Girls Club of St. Louis, Kirkwood Rotary Club, to name just a few.

A native of Webster Groves, Missouri, Jane is married to Robert D. Evens. She has two successful daughters, both working in the medical field, and two grandchildren.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the Patriots, who have gone before us, I want to thank Jane for her commitment to preserving our history and congratulate her for being selected 2007–2008 "Spirit of '76—Patriot."

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN HENKES

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Racine, Wisconsin, native and author Kevin Henkes is to be commended for his numerous literary achievements. Recognized as an outstanding children's author, Henkes has contributed to the national landscape of children's literature and delighted children with his thoughtful mixture of words and art. Born in Racine, Henkes attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently lives in Madison with his wife, Laura, and their children. Several of Henkes' books have garnered awards, including the prestigious Caldecott for *Kitten's First Full Moon* in 2005. He also received the Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award for a Wisconsin author/illustrator for *Kitten's First Full Moon* (2005), *Sun and Spoon* (1997), *Protecting Marie* (1995), and *Words of Stone* (1993). On October 14, 2007, the Racine Public Library will honor Henkes when one of his works, *Julius, the Baby of the World*, is performed as a musical for over 4,600 first- and second-grade students and the general public. The Downtown Rotary Club, Friends of the Library, Hughes House, Johnson Foundation,

Junior League of Racine, Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Over Our Head Players, the Racine Community Foundation, and the Racine Public Library Endowment Fund have all contributed to this celebration.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS JAMES DOSTER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SFC James Doster of White Hall, AR, who died on September 29, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 38 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations in Iraq.

Sergeant First Class Doster graduated from White Hall High School before attending Hendrix College. While in college, his deep sense of unity and teamwork led him to join the United States Army and honorably serve his country. Although he was a quiet man, everyone who had the privilege to meet and know him was immediately made aware that he had a big heart and could see how much he cared for all those around him. He was a dedicated family man who was always there for his family—especially his two daughters, whom he adored.

Sergeant First Class Doster joined the Army in 1990, and his proud service will continue to live on and serve as an inspiration to the many soldiers who knew him and fought alongside him in combat. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kansas. His bravery, courage and dedication to the Army are exemplified by his 17 years of service. He believed so deeply in the Army that he also served as a recruiter helping others gain the passion and sense of camaraderie, service and love of his country that he possessed.

SFC James Doster will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, a father and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, Amanda Doster; his two daughters, Kathryn and Grace; his mother, Billie Doster; and his brother, Rob Doster. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him. I honor Sergeant First Class Doster for his bravery, his patriotism and his service and I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES JERRY BOYINGTON, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of James Jerry Boyington, Sr.

Jerry Boyington, former State senator and Baldwin County commissioner, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A native of Bay Minette and a longtime resident of Fairhope, Jerry was a decorated major in the U.S. Army and veteran of the Vietnam War, and he served his country with honor and distinction.

Jerry's legacy in Baldwin County and the State of Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication to the people of southwest Alabama. In addition to serving in the Alabama Senate and as chairman of the Baldwin County Commission, he also served as Baldwin County administrator and chief corrections officer for the Baldwin County sheriff's office.

Jerry's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, helped county officials pass zoning legislation, which has proven critical to the county's growth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. James Jerry Boyington Sr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Linda Boyington; their daughter, Shanna Boyington; their sons, Chris Boyington and Clay Boyington; his brother, Curtis Boyington, his sisters, Lucille Adams, Foy Kusion, and Jewell Boyington, and two grandchildren, James J. Boyington, III, and Anna Boyington—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious issue facing the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

On July 15, 2007 aboard the United States Coast Guard barque *Eagle* training vessel, a Third Class male minority cadet returned from watch to his stateroom to find a small noose in his bag. The next morning at an all-hands muster, the cadet stepped forward to show the entire crew the noose and make clear that he was offended by it. Although the person responsible could not be identified, the commandant of the *Eagle* held an "all hands" meeting to outline the clear standards of conduct and expectations for Coast Guard cadets. The Academy followed up by conducting race-relations training for all cadets. Alarming, the officer conducting the training later found a noose in her office as well.

I recently had the opportunity to speak to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Thad Allen, to express my concern over these incidents. Racism and hate have no place at our military academies, on our academic campuses or in our society. Our discussion made it clear to me that the Coast Guard takes this matter seriously, and is working to get to the root of the problem and identify the perpetrators. The Coast Guard

Investigative Service is currently reviewing this matter and I am confident that they will do all they can to ensure that those responsible for these hateful acts are held accountable for their actions.

We must make clear that actions like this have no place at the Coast Guard Academy—a facility that is shaping future officers responsible for the protection of our nation. The image of the noose is an enduring symbol of the brutal lynching that occurred in the south during the civil rights era and its powerful effect should not be taken lightly nor its evocation tolerated. It is important that the Coast Guard, and our society, sends a strong message to these misinformed individuals that there is zero tolerance for racism and hate.

The Coast Guard Academy has always held the highest standard of academic excellence and world-class training for those who protect our shores. The Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty are more than simple words—they are a way of life that the Academy strives to engrain in every cadet.

A vast majority of the cadets represent the best the Coast Guard and our nation have to offer: bright, dedicated young men and women who demonstrate tolerance and respect for each other, regardless of race or background. Those who do not meet the Coast Guard's core values simply have no place at its Academy.

CONGRATULATING MR. DENNIS
HAHN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF ST. LOUIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mr. Dennis Hahn. Dennis has been selected to receive the 2007 Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge's George Washington Honor Medal. The Freedoms Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close link between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

Dennis is a charter member of the St. Charles, Missouri chapter of the Fernando de Leyba, the Sons of the American Revolution, founded in 1997. He is a charter member and Vice President of the Missouri Postal History Society since 2001. Dennis is an active member and Treasurer at the First Baptist Church of St. Charles, Missouri, as well as Sunday school teacher, Chairman and member of numerous committees, current President of the school board, and member of the St. Charles City Economic Development Commission.

Dennis is married to Shirley Hahn, a public school teacher for the St. Charles school district. He is also the father of the three children and grandfather of five.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the patriots who have gone before us, I want to thank Dennis Hahn for his commitment to preserving our history and congratulate him for being selected for the 2007 George Washington Honor Medal.

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, The Racine Public Library is to be commended for its years of service to the people of Racine, WI. On October 14, 2007, the library will celebrate 75 years of preschool storytime. The Junior League of Racine, which has sponsored the storytime since it began in 1932, and the Choral Arts Society of South-eastern Wisconsin have partnered to bring to the stage a musical version of the beloved children's classic, "Julius, the Baby of the World." It will be performed for over 4,600 first- and second-grade students, and the event will celebrate both the Racine Public Library's commitment to children and Racine native and children's author Kevin Henkes. Participants in this great celebration include the Downtown Rotary Club, Friends of the Library, Hughes House, the Johnson Foundation, the Junior League of Racine, the Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Over Our Head Players, the Racine Community Foundation, and the Racine Public Library Endowment Fund. The Racine Public Library has the distinction of being the first in the Nation to present preschool storytime in 1932. Since then, the library has continued to pursue innovation and remains dedicated to children's programming.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK RESOLUTION**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to recognize October 7–13, 2007, as Fire Prevention Week and to highlight the commitment of the Congress and the American public to honoring the courageous service of firefighters, and to underscore the importance of public awareness of fire prevention and planning.

I am glad to be joined today in introducing this bipartisan resolution by Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as well as Congressmen HENRY CUELLAR, PETER KING, CHARLIE DENT, and DAVE REICHERT.

America's firefighters have never wavered in their selfless commitment to preventing the loss of lives and property, and we must maintain our commitment to recognizing the service that they perform on our behalf.

I recognize that America's firefighters demonstrate heroism and fortitude not only through their responses to fire emergencies, of which there are over 1,600,000 per year, but also through their selfless support to communities affected by emergencies of all kinds.

Firefighters come to the aid of the communities they serve during fire emergencies, at the onset of natural disasters, in response to acts of terrorism, and in the wake of any events that threatens the lives and safety of the American public.

As we reflect each year on the bravery of firefighters who risk their lives in the line of

duty, we also recognize the significant role of these individuals in providing medical care, responding to emergency rescue situations, and encouraging our communities to take measures to protect themselves from harm.

We traditionally have paired our appreciation for the honorable service of firefighters with our focus on educating the American public on fire safety methods, since the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922.

In closing, I urge the Congress to honor the sacrifices made by these courageous men and women by supporting this resolution.

HONORING LEE SENTELL AND THE
ALABAMA BUREAU OF TOURISM
AND TRAVEL FOR BEING NAMED
THE BEST IN THE SOUTH**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Lee Sentell and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel for being named the best in the South by the Southeast Tourism Society.

This is the third time in four years that Lee and his outstanding team of professionals have received this prestigious award. The department was nominated for its "Year of Alabama" Arts campaign.

The award winning food campaign of 2005 featured a brochure of "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama before You Die," which was selected as the best promotion in the country by the National Council of State Tourism Directors. In 2004, the agency was recognized for its garden campaign.

Alabama's tourism industry has continued to thrive under Lee Sentell's strong leadership. The industry's economic impact on the State's economy is expected to reach an all-time high of \$9 billion in 2007. Last year, over 22.3 million people visited the State of Alabama, with my home area of Mobile and Baldwin counties among the 5 most visited counties.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Sentell and all of those at the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel for being named the best in the South by the Southeast Tourism Society. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the First Congressional District and the entire State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING RALPH W. STURGES,
MOHEGAN INDIAN CHIEF**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mohegan Indian Chief, Ralph W. Sturges. Chief Sturges died on September 30, 2007.

Chief Sturges was a renaissance man whose commitment to community and Nation knew no bounds. In 1938, following the devastation of the New England Hurricane, Chief Sturges contributed to cleanup and relief ef-

orts in eastern Connecticut under the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). After his work in the CCC, Chief Sturges joined the Army's intelligence division, serving in World War II in New Guinea and the Philippines, ultimately earning a bronze star for his service. In subsequent years, he became the Director of Public Relations for New England divisions of the Salvation Army and a board member for the Directors for Connecticut Hospice.

In 1992, prior to federal recognition of the Mohegan Nation, he was elected "Chief for Life", which he dutifully filled until his passing on September 30, 2007. In 1994, his legacy was solidified with the federal recognition of the Mohegan Nation, a cause that he inherited from his mother and tirelessly saw through to fruition. In 1996, Chief Sturges secured development plans for the Mohegan Sun, which is now one of the world's largest and most successful casinos. At every step of the way, Chief Sturges was careful to reach out to his community and neighbors making the success of Mohegan Sun a harmonious addition to southeastern Connecticut.

In addition to his military accolades, philanthropy work, business endeavors, and leadership roles, Chief Sturges was a notable artist. His sculptures have graced the halls of the Connecticut State Capitol, Montville High School, and the Mohegan Sun.

While his passing brings sadness to the Connecticut community, his legacy and contributions will be remembered for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents to honor his life and offer condolences to his family.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JUNE
LANZ**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mrs. June C. Jablonsky Lanz. June has been selected as the 2006–2007 Freedoms Foundation "Spirit of '76—American Patriot" regional award. The Freedoms Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close links between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

June is a thirty-nine-year member of the National Society of Daughters of the Revolution, DAR. As State Regent of the Missouri State Society of DAR, June successfully placed the 1809 Cold Water Cemetery on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Register of Historical Places and restored and rededicated the Madonna of the Trail Statue in Lexington, Missouri.

June is a member of the Missouri Historical Society, the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge and a Friend of the St. Louis Art Museum. She has published a history of Missouri State Society Daughters of the Revolution, which includes American Revolutionary Patriots reported buried in Missouri. She has provided this to the National Society DAR and other research facilities.

Married for 55 years, June and her husband, George Lanz, have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

As one who has a deep and abiding love for American history and the patriots who have gone on before us, I want to thank June Lanz for her commitment to preserving our history and congratulate her for being selected 2006–2007 Regional “Spirit of ‘76—Patriot”.

TRIBUTE TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FATHER CAREY COUNCIL 1280

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Spaker, I rise today in honor of the Knights of Columbus Father Carey Council 1280 of Carteret, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on October 24, 2007. This fraternal organization has assisted thousands of Carteret residents with its volunteer work and served as vital support for members in need.

The Knights of Columbus, initially formed to help sick, disabled and needy members and their families, extended their work to assist others in their communities. In this spirit, in 1907, a group of 57 Catholic gentlemen established a council in the Borough of Carteret, New Jersey. The Father Carey Council 1280 was founded on November 24, and today, its 500 members continue to serve true to its principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

The Father Carey Fourth Degree Assembly #0677 was later formed in 1947 to foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large, as well as encourage active Catholic citizenship. To promote these ideals, the Father Carey Fourth Degree Color Corps was created, and actively participates in Carteret’s parades and ceremonies, in addition to the borough’s church communions, confirmations, and anniversary celebrations.

Today, the Father Carey Council continues to be active in the Carteret community by volunteering and assisting its sick, disabled, and needy, emulating its founding members. The Council hosts semi-annual blood drives, a youth free throw contest, and assists at veteran’s hospitals. The Council also sponsors the Youth Squires Program, which gives Catholic young men the opportunity to learn the skills and attitudes of Catholic leadership. The Council’s Buddy Group, created to engage the borough’s mentally disabled community, hosts several yearly gatherings that include movie nights, dinner dances and holiday parties.

Please join me in congratulating the Knights of Columbus Father Carey Council 1280 of Carteret, New Jersey on their 100th anniversary. I also want to express my gratitude for their service to the residents of the Borough of Carteret.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD KELLY ANSCHUTZ

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mrs.

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER and Mr. JERRY MCNERNEY to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Edward Kelly Anschutz.

A third generation plumber, Kelly joined the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Union Local 159 in 1967. After serving his apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman plumber, he was elected to serve as the Assistant Business Manager and eventually the Business Manager for the local for 13 years. He was so well respected; in his last term as Business Manager, he was elected without any opposition.

Kelly was courageous in his efforts to support his union brothers and sisters and their interests at every level. Whether working with a member or an employer, he was well respected and liked by all. Kelly was also a great personality; he had a wonderful sense of humor and truly enjoyed people.

While we realize words may do little to lessen the impact of this loss, we trust that the memories shared will help Kelly’s family, friends, and union brothers and sisters realize the scope his influence had on working people and their families.

Madam Speaker, because of Mr. Anschutz’s contributions to his community, it is proper for us, and it is my honor, to pay tribute to his life today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would have voted on Wednesday, October 3, however I was unavoidably detained, and I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 934 and “yes” on rollcall No. 935.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DORIS LOCKEY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the life of one of my constituents. Mrs. Doris Lockey has served as the manager of the Social Security Administration District Office in Conroe, Texas since 1986. This alone is noteworthy.

But October 22, 2007 will mark her 40th anniversary as an employee of the Social Security Administration. Starting out as an account number clerk in 1967, I doubt Mrs. Lockey thought she would still be serving her Nation today. Whenever the residents of Texas’ 8th Congressional District need help with their social security benefits, Mrs. Lockey is the person they turn to. No matter how big or small the problem, Mrs. Lockey always makes herself personally available to help. This was most evident in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when, along with her team, she helped numerous individuals and families with their benefits and so much more.

While after 40 years most people would be celebrating retirement and the chance to collect the benefits she has spent a lifetime overseeing, Mrs. Lockey shows no signs of slow-

ing down. I know that the people she works with on a daily basis have learned from the dedication she has demonstrated over the years. And today I hope that all of our public servants and Americans appreciate the dedication she demonstrates on a daily basis.

Mrs. Lockey is not just defined by the work she does for the Federal Government but the impact she has on our community. She volunteers with numerous local organizations that make life in Montgomery County, Texas better. She just finished a term as the President of the Rotary Club of Conroe and has served on the boards of the local United Way and The Friendship Center’s Committee on Aging. Still today, she serves on the United Way’s Success by Six Leadership Committee and is a very active member of Longmire Road Church of Christ.

In knowing Mrs. Lockey, what I find impressive is the fact that she takes the time to mentor a local child at Runyan Elementary School every week. The stories she is able to tell, the life lessons she is able to impart to young children provide our youth with a tremendous opportunity.

Today, I join with her family and friends, Southeast Texas, her colleagues at Social Security Administration offices in Conroe, Houston, Pasadena and Galveston, the American people and my colleagues in Congress to mark Mrs. Doris Lockey’s 40th anniversary as an employee of the Social Security Administration. I am honored to recognize her amazing contributions and offer my best wishes and encouragement as she continues a life of public service with the Federal Government and her numerous volunteer activities.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, the horrific violations of human rights in Burma have alarmed leaders in the United States and around the world. When repressed people across the globe cry out for help, America has an obligation to lead the calls for justice and equality. In Burma, a nation with a long history of egregious human rights violations, a repressive regime has cracked down on civil liberties and peaceful protests. The State Peace and Development Council, a military junta and illegitimate ruling party, has brutally cracked down on dissidents using rape and murder as their tools of terror. Now, leaders of the legitimately elected opposition, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, face increased violence and incarcerations. This bipartisan resolution expresses Congress’s support for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and restoration of democracy in Burma. I believe the United Nations should swiftly act in response to this dangerous and growing threat in Southeast Asia. As the world watches the events in Burma, the United States must take a firm leadership role to speak for the voices that have been silenced by repression and make perfectly clear that this brutality will not be tolerated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on September 25. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 895, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H.R. 1400, To enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by imposing additional economic sanctions against Iran, and for other purposes.

Roll 896, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 584: Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month."

Roll 897, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Con. Res. 210: Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Roll 898, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 663: Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

Roll 899, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 548: Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon.

Roll 900, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 642: Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown.

Roll 901, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 557: Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda.

Roll 902, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Table the Motion to Appeal the Ruling of the Chair.

Roll 903, September 25, 2007: On Ordering the Previous Question. H. Res. 675—Rule providing for consideration of the SCHIP bill.

Roll 904, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 675—Rule providing for consideration of the SCHIP bill.

Roll 905, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 95—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
ROBERT J. FLOOD**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Robert J. Flood, a fallen WWII veteran whose remains have finally been returned home to Chambersburg, PA. Robert Flood was killed in Germany in July 1944, when his plane was lost during a bombing raid on an aircraft factory in Bernburg. For 63 years, Robert Flood and his crew were unaccounted for.

Flood was only 22 years old at the time of his death. Prior to his service in WWII as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, Sgt. Flood was employed at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Franklin County PA; a facility that remains active today in support of our current war against Al-Qaeda.

Sgt. Flood was injured in England in 1944 when his plane crash landed after running out of fuel. After recovering from his injuries he was assigned to another bomber, which was lost during the air raid in Germany. The fate and final resting place of Sgt. Flood and his crew remained unknown until 4 years ago when pieces of his plane and the remains of its crew were discovered in a field in Germany. Thankfully, through DNA testing, the identities of the crew were finally revealed, allowing Sgt. Flood to return home.

Robert Flood's name is engraved on the Wall of the Missing at the American Cemetery in Belgium. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart with a Presidential Accolade in 1945. Sgt. Robert Flood is survived by one brother and several nieces and nephews. His return home brings comfort and relief to his family, who went years without information about his death. Madam Speaker, Robert Flood dedicated his life to serving his country. His homecoming is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices our soldiers make in service to our Nation. Our thoughts are with his family, his fellow WWII veterans, and members of his community. Another soldier has been brought home.

HONORING BRANDON THORSEN OF
TRENTON, FLORIDA**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army PFC Brandon T. Thorsen of Trenton, Florida, was killed by a gunshot while serving on guard duty in Baghdad, Iraq. Private First Class Thorsen is survived by his mother Susan Hostutler of New York, father Donald Thorsen of Trenton, Florida, sisters Sharony Sheldon of Spring Hill, Florida, and Amber Gay of Trenton, Florida, brother Dereck Hardyman of Gainesville, Florida, and his fiancée, Chana Gilbert of Newberry, Florida.

Growing up in Levy County, Brandon attended Chiefland High School, where he was

remembered as an outgoing and charming young man with a great sense of humor. A defensive lineman and left tackle on the football team, Brandon played an important role in the team's success during the 2003 season. A lover of the outdoors, hunting and fishing, Brandon had plans to join the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a game warden following his 4-year commitment to the Army.

Graduating Chiefland High School in 2005, Brandon fulfilled his ambition to serve the United States military when he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry 2nd Battalion following his enlistment. Inspired by the events of September 11, Brandon completed basic training at Ft. Benning in Georgia, and then went to Ft. Bliss in Texas for his combat infantry training prior to his service in Baghdad that began in November 2006.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like PFC Brandon Thorsen who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Brandon have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia. For the last 50 years Aquinas High School has taught moral and ethical standards, skills for living and self esteem, and a Christian integration of spirit, mind, and body in each of its students. As a proud graduate of Aquinas I would like to I take this opportunity to congratulate the school on its 50th Anniversary and mention how this great institution has affected my life.

After graduating, I thought it would be Aquinas' strong academic curriculum that would be most beneficial towards my future aspirations. However, I must admit that I was wrong, While the strenuous academics at Aquinas laid the foundation that prepared me for success at Georgia Tech and The Medical College of Georgia, it was the faith and ethical standards taught at Aquinas that truly prepared me for life's struggles.

While opening and running my medical practice the respect for life taught at Aquinas led me to value and care for life at all stages, from conception on. Now that I have left my medical career to serve as a Member of Congress I find my lessons from Aquinas more valuable than ever. On a daily basis I am confronted by difficult questions that affect millions of lives. If it were not for the moral standards and faith in God taught at Aquinas, I do not believe that I could fully represent the people of Georgia's 11th District.

Knowing the positive impact that Aquinas High School has had on my life as well as thousands of others, I stand today to thank Aquinas for its work over the last 50 years and wish it continued success in the next 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
HISPANIC UNIVERSITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the "National Hispanic University on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

I have the pleasure of representing one of the most diverse cities in America and in California—San Jose. Along with the rich diversity of the people, culture and traditions in San Jose is a firm commitment to higher education. This commitment stems not only from our mantle of being the "Capital of Silicon Valley," but also from a strong tradition of excellence in collegiate education, as demonstrated through our world renowned University of California and California State University systems.

The National Hispanic University was established in 1981 to serve the needs of Hispanics, women, other minorities and other learners. Although programs through the UC and CSU systems attempted to address the burgeoning numbers of minorities who needed higher education, and many Latinos benefited from these initiatives in the 1970s and 1980s, the gap between Hispanics and others continued to widen.

The National Hispanic University, NHU, was founded after extensive research about the success rate and high quality of education provided by historically black colleges and universities that graduated (and still do today) almost half of the African American professionals in American society. NHU believed that a small private independent college could make a difference in the graduation of Hispanic professionals in education, technology, and business.

Dr. B. Roberto Cruz, the founding President of NHU and its academic visionary for 22 years, paved the pathway of success for NHU. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit and firm commitment is the driving force behind the establishment of the University and his spirit remains today in the halls and classrooms of NHU.

NHU's current president, Dr. David P. Lopez, along with the Board of Trustees and Advisors, are continuing in Dr. Cruz's spirit to ensure that the University remains committed to its standards of excellence and the core values of its foundation that made it the fine institution of higher education it is today.

It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the National Hispanic University on its 25th anniversary and wish it many more years of continued success.

CELEBRATING THE MCA'S 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Museum of Contemporary Art, MCA, in Chicago. Since opening its doors in October 1967, the MCA has served as a home and artistic outlet for modern day artists.

Through photography, performance, painting, sculptures, and video and film, the Museum houses modern visionaries' ideas and passions. Visitors to the museum are able to witness artistic interpretations of the cultural, social, and historical highlights of our time. As one of the largest modern art museums in the country, the MCA is a place where the public can be informed, educated, and stimulated by the creative process.

Its opening in 1967 gave Chicago and its visitors access to artwork from modern day artists. Dan Flavin, an American minimalist, and Mexican artist Frida Kahlo displayed their first solo exhibitions at the MCA. The MCA was also the first American museum to exhibit the work of Spanish artist Antoni Tapies. The museum also houses the works of American artist Jeff Koons and American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and many others. Recently, the MCA has exhibited the works of photographer Wolfgang Thilmans, American minimalist Richard Tuttle, and Chicago-based cartoonist Chris Ware.

In 2006 the MCA received the Arts Presenters/MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Arts Access. The MCA's commitment to providing access to art for people with disabilities has established the MCA as an institution which embraces artistic talent from all people.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this institution. I would like to thank the Museum of Contemporary Art for their contributions to Chicago's outstanding cultural tradition, and I congratulate every one of the artists and employees that has made their 40 years possible. I look forward to more decades of outstanding exhibits at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 18, 2007 and Wednesday, October 3, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall votes 873 and 935.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 935, and "nay" on rollcall vote 873.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to comment on Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thousands of women everyday face a daunting fight against this disease. This is a time to recognize this modern-day medical challenge affecting so many women and their families.

The medical professionals who assist women through early detection or treatment should be highly commended this month. This is why it is important to congratulate medical partners such as Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco, TX in my Congressional District.

This Thursday, October 4, Knapp will conduct a Women's Health Fair as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is through community awareness of prevention, screening, treatment, and support that women are beating breast cancer every year. Every woman is at risk and this Health Fair is particularly valuable in the existing health care climate when projections estimate that over 40,000 women will die from breast cancer this year. Events such as this during Breast Cancer Awareness Month are essential.

The increasing success stories of 2 million women survivors every year show that these events empower women to find out how to care for themselves and, by extension, their families and communities through utilizing cancer screening methods effectively. Knapp Medical Center is helping the predominantly Hispanic community in my South Texas region with this Health Fair since late detection among Hispanic women is a serious concern. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women and the second most commonly diagnosed among this group of women.

I commend Knapp Medical Center and the American Cancer Society and their exceptional doctors, nurses, and staff for hosting this free public educational event. I urge every American to learn about breast cancer and encourage their mothers, daughters, and wives to get checked and become informed about the best preventive practices. Finally, during this important month I applaud all the efforts of America's doctors and researchers who greatly contribute to the success stories of our courageous women who live with and beat breast cancer.