

travelling preacher, preaching a philosophy of inclusion, tolerance, and universalism. "There is neither Hindu nor Muslim," he said, and he used both Hindu and Muslim titles for God. Guru Nanak met with both Hindu and Muslim leaders.

His following continued to grow. He eventually settled in Kartarpur, Punjab.

Guru Nanak taught that humans could approach God directly, that God is a formless, unified being. He taught that we could do this by many means including meditation, purification, spiritual purity, and achieving detachment. He encouraged charity. He taught that caste didn't matter. All that mattered was following the spiritual path. He admonished his followers to oppose tyranny and repression.

The teachings of Guru Nanak and his successors are recorded in the *Adi Granth*, the holy scripture of the Sikh religion, also called the *Guru Granth Sahib*. It is written in Punjabi, the language of the Sikhs, which was not considered acceptable by the other religious leaders of the time, but which shows that God favors no caste or group.

Guru Nanak's birthday is a major occasion for the Sikh Nation and I congratulate Sikhs worldwide on the celebration of his birth, which gave rise to their religion.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG
GASPEREEZ AND LAURIE CONNER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Gasperecz and Ms. Laurie Conner, in anticipation of the joyful event of their marriage on October 26th, 2007. The institution of marriage is one of the most sacred, cherished and effective traditions in society, and I am pleased today to pause and offer my congratulations to Greg, and best wishes to Laurie, as they approach this important milestone in their lives.

Greg and Laurie have been longtime companions and soul-mates, and they both cherish their proud heritage as lifelong residents of New Orleans, Louisiana. Side by side, in steadfast support of one another, they have celebrated the best of times, and weathered the worst of storms, as survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

In September of 2005, Greg and Laurie were each living the American Dream of home ownership, and Laurie owned a rental property as well, all in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans. Although they were both able to evacuate in the days before the storm, they had to leave behind a lifetime of possessions in the homes they loved so much. By the time they were able to return, they found their homes defiantly still standing, but the structures and entire contents, were a total loss. All 3 houses, wiped out in a single day.

In December of 2005, my wife and I decided to celebrate our first wedding anniversary in New Orleans. And we decided to drive from southern West Virginia to southern Louisiana, so that we could better appreciate the storm's damage to the entire region. We went to New Orleans to show our support for the community in some small way, and to personally tell any survivors that we could find, that they had not been forgotten.

It was on that visit that I came to know Greg Gasperecz and Laurie Conner, in what had to be the bleakest period of their lives. They were just beginning to comprehend the totality of their personal loss, and that of their beloved hometown. Yet they spent an entire day and evening, offering us an extended tour of the affected areas, including their homes, and they proudly took us on a tour of the unmistakable French Quarter; which was still proudly vibrant under the dire circumstances that persisted. That day, we stood atop the sandbags that had been dropped 3 months earlier at the breach of the 17th Street Canal, a stream of lake water still slowly spreading into the street below. Greg offered his insight and expertise as he explained the environmental implications of both the cause and the effects of the disaster.

Greg and Laurie had so much to be sad about at that time, but they were still the most charming hosts for which the city could ever hope. I was touched by their pride and compassion, and inspired by their stoic resolve to remain and to rebuild. And 2 years later, rebuild they have. It is my understanding that in the last week, they have finally been able to begin construction on a brand new home, in their same Lakeview neighborhood. And this week, in their beloved French Quarter, they will stand before their loved ones and recite their vows of marriage to one another. Greg and Laurie realize that they have been blessed; to have each other, to have survived this epic disaster, and to have been able to rebuild their home and their lives. They don't take any of that for granted, instead, have chosen to recommit to rebuilding their community, and give back to the city that has given them so much. This is so characteristic of the proud and tough West Virginia work ethic and belief in God.

Madam Speaker, I close my remarks today with congratulations to Greg and Laurie. I ask that you join me in wishing them well, and trust that they will have many happy years together in New Orleans, LA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, due to the recent passing of my mother, I have been absent in Washington since Thursday, October 18 and have missed a number of votes. However, if I had been present, this is how I would have voted on each rollcall:

Rollcall No. 981: On Approving the Journal, "aye".

Rollcall No. 982: Passage, Objections of the President Notwithstanding of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 983: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Parks Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 984: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 985: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Supporting the Goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, "aye".

STRONG SUPPORT OF PRIVILEGED
RESOLUTION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this privileged resolution to censure Representative PETE STARK (CA), offered by the Republican Leader. Like many of my colleagues, I was disgusted by the comments of the gentleman from California, Mr. STARK.

Regardless of his personal feelings on the war in Iraq or any other issue before Congress, Mr. STARK's comments were distasteful and not in keeping with the traditions of the House of Representatives. His despicable statements on October 18, 2007 about the Commander in Chief, his colleagues in Congress, and the men and women who are serving our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan should be condemned.

Mr. STARK just doesn't get it. The service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform deserve to be honored and applauded in Congress—not chided and denigrated by his senseless remarks. I found his recent actions on the floor of the House to be extremely disrespectful of our military and our Commander in Chief. We face serious challenges at home and abroad and Mr. STARK should consider the impact of these comments before opening his mouth in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SELLERS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who rose through the Sheet Metal Worker ranks to become a figurehead and an important contributor to the Sheet Metal Worker community. Joseph Sellers, Jr. is a self-made man who has worked hard to get to where he is today. He began as an apprentice in 1980, and became a journeyman in 1984.

Joseph Sellers, Jr. began his career on the Local 19 Executive Board in 1994. Two years after, he was elected to the position of training coordinator, which he held for 4½ years. He followed this position with the position of business representative, and then was unanimously elected by the Local 19 Executive Board to the office of president and business manager. In June of 2003, he was again unanimously elected to this position. He is currently serving his third term in this office.

During his tenure on the Local 19 Executive Board for the Sheet Metal Workers, Mr. Sellers has held a number of other important positions, and left his mark in each of them. These titles include President of the Pennsylvania State Council of Sheet Metal Workers, President for the Metropolitan Association of Presidents and Business Representatives, President of the Board of Directors for the National Energy Management Institute, Vice President of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, and Vice President of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO.