

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 2007 INDUCTEES TO THE UPS CIRCLE OF HONOR

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George David, Jr. of Western Springs, Charles Cech of Burbank, Carl Sandrik of Oak Lawn, and William Stevens of Chicago for their induction into the United Parcel Service Circle of Honor.

In 1955, UPS created the elite Circle of Honor award to commend its safest employees. Circle of Honor drivers, who now number more than 4500, are recognized only after completing 25 years without accidents. On October 2, 2007, UPS inducted 785 new drivers into the Circle of Honor. These extraordinary employees were honored with a ceremony as well as an advertisement in USA Today.

I am proud to report that among this year's inductees were four residents of my district. These four individuals are exemplars of responsible and conscientious driving habits, and as such contribute greatly to the safety of our Nation's roads and highways and all those who use them.

I rise today to join UPS in congratulating Mr. David, Mr. Cech, Mr. Sandrik, and Mr. Stevens for their wonderful 25-year achievement. I applaud their successful efforts to make safety a top priority while they perform their jobs and wish them a safe journey on the miles ahead.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF BUFORD INTERMEDIATE CENTER IN MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, not only our courageous men and women in uniform, but the students at Buford Intermediate Center in Mt. Vernon, IL, for their contributions to our service men and women.

The pupils at Buford personally welcomed home Zach Wood, Brian Gibson, and Tony Mays, all National Guard soldiers, from a 15-month deployment in Iraq. Along with welcoming home soldiers, the students are raising money for gift cards for soldiers who will be serving during the holidays. In addition, the students send care packages and letters to the soldiers to become acquainted with them.

After their welcome home, the soldiers took time to answer questions from the students ranging from fast food opportunities to the deaths of fellow soldiers to help students and faculty better empathize with the soldiers and their struggles.

Now, more than ever, our service men and women need the encouragement dem-

onstrated by the students at Buford Intermediate School to show they are in our thoughts and prayers. We must demonstrate our support and admiration for their work and I thank these students for the example they have set for us.

I applaud the students at Buford Intermediate School for their service to our men and women serving in Iraq. May God bless them for their efforts and may He continue to bless America.

IN HONOR OF BORBA FARMS AS THE 2007 AGRICULTURAL BUSI- NESS OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Borba Farms of Riverdale, California for receiving the 2007 Agricultural Business of the Year Award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Borba Farms began in 1919 when A.J. Borba emigrated from the Azores Islands off Portugal and started a dairy farm in Riverdale with 40 cows and 120 acres of land. Eventually, A.J.'s sons, Ross, Sr. and Darril diversified their farming operation by expanding into cotton, tomatoes, and other row crops. The sons of Ross Borba, Sr. and his wife Justina, Mark and Ross Borba, Jr., now farm about 8,600 acres of crops that include lettuce, cotton, tomatoes, garlic, onions, alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat and almonds. The success of the Borba family's farming operation is evident in the quality of these crops, which often garner high praise from chefs, and appear in Farmer's markets around the State.

Also, the Borbas have been active in addressing water, marketing and political issues important to the industry, serving as leaders in the National Cotton Council, Westlands Water District, the California Leadership Program and other organizations. This involvement further emphasizes the Borba's commitment to their trade and their strong ties to California's San Joaquin Valley.

Borba Farms is a model institution and a shining example for other industry professionals. It is with great pride that I congratulate Borba Farms on receiving this distinguished award, and I wish them success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING AN- NIVERSARY OF GENE AND CHAR- LOTTE GRAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gene and Charlotte Gray on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Married in 1957 at Sacred Heart Church, the Grays are long-time Chicago residents and the proud parents of four children. Gene worked as a machinist before starting his own corporation, G7G, Inc. and owning the Family Pride Laundromat in Summit, Illinois. After their children were grown, Charlotte returned to work and eventually retired from the Tootsie Roll industry.

Gene and Charlotte have been active members of their community, where together they have served as coaches in the Clear Ridge Baseball Association as well as treasurers of the Southwest Senior Citizens Program. I will always think of Gene as "coach" because he was my coach when I played baseball in Clear Ridge Little League. As a program manager for the Community Economic Development Association, Gene has been instrumental in assisting low-income senior citizens throughout the district to receive gas and electric services. Gene has also ably served the community of Chicago as a volunteer in my district office for a number of years.

It is my honor to recognize Gene and Charlotte Gray and provide my heartfelt congratulations to them on this wonderful event in their lives. Together they exemplify the ideals of strong family and community involvement. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Grays as they and their family celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Joseph's Church in Olney, Illinois as they celebrate their 150 year anniversary.

The St. Joseph's Church in Olney, was established in 1857 by Father Laughren and celebrated its 150 year anniversary on October 7, 2007. It was Bishop Junken, who was appointed as the first Bishop of the Alton Diocese by His Holiness Pope Pius IX in 1857, who selected Father Laughren as the founding Pastor of St. Joseph's Church. The first church was built in 1861 on property that was donated by Thomas Lily at the corner of Fair and Butler Streets. The church was then moved on rollers to its present location to Elliot and Chestnut Streets.

A prominent family of the time, that of Dr. George Weber, was very influential in establishing St. Joseph's school do to the fact he wanted to provide his own children with a Catholic education close to home. When the school was completed in 1907, Weber strove to bring the Ursuline Sisters of Paola, Kansas, who taught from 1907-1914, to the school. It grew to 70 students by the fall of 1908.

Construction of the present day church began in 1937 and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day in 1938. The exterior of the church

• 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.

remains basically unchanged to this day, and the parish is presently serving about 700 families. The first and smaller parish house was purchased from the estate of C.P. Porter in 1953 and originally served as the sister' covenant. A larger and more modern structure was then built and became known as the Parish House but was then demolished in 1997 to make room for a more spacious building to enhance the parish facilities.

I salute St. Joseph's Church as it is an icon in the city of Olney and has provided a sense of stability and constancy as it has endured many tests during the course of the last 150 years. Members of the church and community equally have had this pillar of strength given to them by the church, which is something that will expectantly remain important for the city of Olney for at least an additional 150 years.

HONORING NAT DIBUDUO AS THE
2007 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Nat DiBuduo, President of Allied Grape Growers in Fresno, for receiving the 2007 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. His service and commitment to various agricultural organizations is worthy of respect and admiration. Some of these include The Big Fresno Fair, Fresno City Planning Commission, United Cerebral Palsy, the Bulldog Foundation at Fresno State, and the University's Viticulture and Enology Industry Advisory Board.

A native of California's San Joaquin Valley, Nat attended California State University, Fresno where he earned a B.S. in Plant Science/Viticulture and a minor in Business. Nat is also a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program. Over thirty years ago his family pioneered the wine grape industry in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Nat has been able to glean valuable experience in wine grape production and processing through his involvement with his family's local winery. Nat holds a Certified Pest Control Advisor's license as well as a Department of Real Estate sales license. Nat's wide range of work experience has also contributed to his extensive knowledge in the agricultural field. One of his previous positions involved overseeing the farm management of 24,000 acres of winegrapes, nuts, and vegetables. He holds extensive exposure to regional wine growing in the Central San Joaquin Valley, and throughout other wine producing regions of the state.

Nat's proficiency is virtually unmatched. He was hired in May of 2000 to replace the outgoing president of Allied Grape Growers of Fresno, an organization which represents 500 grape growing members throughout the state of California. Together they annually produce 200,000 to 250,000 tons of wine grapes.

The leadership and commitment Mr. DiBuduo has shown in Fresno County, where he and his wife Marilyn live, has never

wavered. He personifies a man of great principle and integrity. Nat is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of agricultural professionals. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS McDONALD-LINN
CHICAGO RIDGE POST 177 ON ITS
85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the VFW McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 as they celebrate their 85th Anniversary. Through their dedicated and unwavering service to their community and their country, the veterans of the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post continue a strong tradition of patriotism and duty.

Named in memory of two World War II servicemen killed in 1945, the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 has undergone many changes. The Post was originally chartered in November 1922 as the Joseph J. Lucas VFW Post 1671 and has since merged with other VFW Posts throughout the area. Charged with the purpose of promoting patriotism, aiding war veterans, and assisting the community, the veterans of Post 177 have distinguished themselves with their patriotic spirit and devotion to the community.

Throughout its long history, the McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post has endured its share of hardships. In 1974, an electrical fire destroyed the inside of the Post building. As a testament of the strong will of these veterans and the strength of their community, donations from VFW members enabled the veterans of the Post to rebuild the VFW building with their own hands. The McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post on Ridgeland Avenue continues to serve today as a community landmark and a place of camaraderie for our nation's heroes.

The extraordinary level of community involvement of the veterans of Post 177 has been a great source of pride for its members. As sponsors of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition for high school students, they promote the values of patriotism while helping provide scholarships to enable high school students continue their education. The members of Post 177 are always ready to assist fellow veterans when they are in need, visiting sick veterans at home, in hospitals, or nursing homes.

I rise today to recognize the VFW McDonald-Linn Chicago Ridge Post 177 on their 85th anniversary. Through their staunch patriotism and outstanding contributions to their community, the veterans of the McDonald-Linn Post nobly continue the legacy of service they began when they first answered the call of duty. I commend them for their ongoing community work and their courageous service to our country in time of war. I am honored that my district is home to such an exceptional organization, and I am proud to congratulate them on their 85th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE HOUSATONIC
VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL ENVIROTHON TEAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, today I take great pride in recognizing five extraordinary students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT who won this year's International Envirothon competition.

They started off their quest last fall by training for Connecticut's Envirothon, sponsored by the State's five conservation districts and the State's Department of Environmental Protection. The Envirothon, started in 1992 by Connecticut's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, now includes teams from 50 schools from around the State. Through this event, both students and teachers have benefited by meeting people working in a broad range of environmental careers and have experienced both professional and academic growth.

In preparation for the competition, each team, led by a teacher or advisor, receives curriculum materials and is invited to a series of training workshops. All of this extensive training culminates in a field day competition—this May, it was held in Farmington, CT. The hard-working students from Housatonic Valley Regional were the top-scoring team in four out of the five subject areas and garnered particularly high scores in Clean Renewable Energy, Wildlife, and Soils.

Their preparation paid off yet again as they competed in the extremely competitive Canon North American Envirothon, which took place in upstate New York. While competing against teams from over 40 States as well as a few Canadian provinces, Team Connecticut secured another first place victory—making them the Envirothon's international champion.

A particularly impressive accomplishment was Team Connecticut's Oral Presentation. With only 10 hours to prepare, in which they responded to a challenge to design and create a clean renewable school building, Team Connecticut scored 156 out of a possible 200 points. Team Connecticut's teamwork and talent shows how truly committed they are to a future founded on clean renewable energy and innovative ideas to keep our environment sustainable.

The students, Linnea Palmer Paton of Sharon, Andrew Alquesta of East Canaan, Sunny Kellner of Warren, Arlen Kleinsasser of Falls Village, and Jeremy Kleinsasser of Falls Village, will each be receiving \$5,000 in scholarships from the Canon North American Envirothon. I commend the students and their teachers for all of their hard work, as well as the Northwest Conservation District for encouraging their growth. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors and ask all the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating their great accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE KESSLER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mike Kessler, who died on October 4, 2007 after a short illness. Mike was an active member of his community and a zealous political activist. I will always be thankful to Mike and his wife, Lillian, because they encouraged me to run for Congress.

Mike, a longtime political activist, was born in the College Point area of Brooklyn, New York on September 9, 1916. He married Lillian Hecht in 1941 and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 where he served until 1945.

In the late 1940's Mike and Lillian moved to the west coast, where he earned a degree in Education, started a family, and worked as a furniture sales representative. Despite their active personal and professional lives, he and Lillian always found time to champion the civil rights and social justice causes important to them.

Mike achieved many impressive and diverse goals while working as a political activist. As part of the Hayward Demos' response to incidents of racial discrimination, Mike campaigned for adoption of the "No Room for Racism" resolution. Because of his efforts, the "No Room for Racism" placard is now proudly displayed in many cities and schools throughout California. He challenged the Patriot Act, which he said was not only racist but would curb the rights of many citizens. He also advocated for a U.S. stamp in recognition of Paul Robeson. Most recently, Mike was an outspoken advocate for a single payer health care system.

Mike was a lifelong Democrat and was never shy about his politics or seeking justice for those forgotten members of the community who could not advocate for themselves. His intensity, while sometimes overwhelming, did not obscure his sincerity and desire to help create a better world for all, regardless of race or creed.

Mike Kessler's constant activism and dedicated efforts to make a difference will be missed and long remembered. On November 17, 2007, Mike's family and friends will gather to celebrate his life. It was a life well lived where he provided hope, promise and recognition to many. He left his mark on the world and his light will continue to shine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: November 5, 2007: rollcall vote No. 1034, on motion to close portions of the Conference on the FY2008 Department of Defense Appropriations, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1035, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 513—National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1036, on motion to

suspend the rules and agree, H. Res. 744—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING VICTOR DAVIS HANSON,
PH.D.**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victor Davis Hanson upon being honored with the 2007 "Friend of Israel" Award. Dr. Hanson is to be honored at the annual dinner for the Republican Jewish Coalition of Central California on November 4, 2007 in Fresno, California.

Dr. Hanson grew up as a Central Valley farmer. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelors Degree in Classics in 1975. He attended the American School of Classics Studies in 1978 and 1979 and received his Ph.D. in Classics from Stanford University in 1980. He was a full-time farmer on his tree and vine farm before joining the staff at California State University, Fresno in 1984 to initiate a classics program. In 1991, he was awarded an American Philological Association Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is given annually to the country's top undergraduate teachers of Greek and Latin.

Victor Davis Hanson has been honored with many achievements and awards. In 1992–1993 he was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavior Sciences and he was a visiting professor of classics at Stanford University in 1991–1992. He has been the recipient of the Eric Breindel Award for opinion journalism (2002) and an Alexander Onassis Fellow (2001). Further, Dr. Hanson was named as alumnus of the year for the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2002. From 2002–2003 he was the visiting Shifrin Chair of Military History at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He was honored with the Manhattan Institute's Wriston Lectureship in 2004 and the 2006 Nimitz Lectureship in Military History at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Hanson has authored about 170 articles, book reviews, newspaper editorials and essays that discuss Greek, agrarian, domestic policy, military history and contemporary culture. He has written or edited sixteen books. He has been published by the University of California Press, Routledge, Free Press, Cassell, Doubleday, Encounter and Random House. Dr. Hanson has had editorials published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, International Herald Tribune, New York Post, National Review and Washington Times along with numerous others. Dr. Hanson has used these different outlets, in his writings and speeches, to place a focus on the importance of Israel, while keeping the priority on the United States. Dr. Hanson has been a champion of the cause to keep Israel in mind with the United States' foreign policy.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Victor Davis Hanson upon being awarded with the 2007 "Friend of Israel" Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Hanson many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, November 5, 2007, I was unable to cast my vote on Closing Portions of H.R. 3222, H.R. 513, and H. Res. 744 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1034 on Closing Portions of the Conference on H.R. 3222, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1035 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1036 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 744, Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 961 through 971. I was absent on Monday, October 29th through Friday, November 2nd due to an illness in the family.

If I were present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 1010, "yea" on rollcall vote 1011, "yea" on rollcall vote 1012, "nay" on rollcall vote 1013, "yea" on rollcall vote 1014, "yea" on rollcall vote 1015, "yea" on rollcall vote 1016, "yea" on rollcall vote 1017, "yea" on rollcall vote 1018, "yea" on rollcall vote 1019, "yea" on rollcall vote 1020, "nay" on rollcall vote 1021, "nay" on rollcall vote 1022, "nay" on rollcall vote 1023, "yea" on rollcall vote 1024, "nay" on rollcall vote 1025, "yea" on rollcall vote 1026, "nay" on rollcall vote 1027, "nay" on rollcall vote 1028, "nay" on rollcall vote 1029, "yea" on rollcall vote 1030, "yea" on rollcall vote 1031, "yea" on rollcall vote 1032, "nay" on rollcall vote 1033, "yea" on rollcall vote 1034, "yea" on rollcall vote 1035, and "yea" on rollcall vote 1036.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DANBURY CHAPTER OF THE NAACP

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, throughout America, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, has worked tirelessly to ensure our Nation's creed, "that all men are created equal," rings true.

Recently, Connecticut's Greater Danbury Chapter of the NAACP celebrated its 50th anniversary. I rise to honor the efforts and contributions of those who have been instrumental in the development of this local chapter over the years and commend them for their support and dedication to the community.

During the height of the civil rights movement, the Danbury chapter of the NAACP was actively involved in numerous local and national events in pursuit of justice and equality. In 1963, approximately 75 members traveled from Danbury to Washington, DC to listen to Dr. Martin Luther King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech and participated in the historic March on Washington.

In 1979, Danbury's main street was flooded with some 400 people, including the son of President Jimmy Carter, James Earl "Chip" Carter, to march from Kenney Park to city hall protesting the distribution of offensive pamphlets by a member of the Klu Klux Klan.

And in the 1960s and 1970s, the Danbury NAACP was instrumental in influencing policy changes to encourage the hiring of African-Americans and minorities citywide in response to discriminatory hiring and admission practices at the Henry Abbott Technical School.

Today, continuing the tradition of promoting social justice, the Danbury chapter of the NAACP is focused on improving affordable housing, ensuring quality education for children and adults, and encouraging people to vote and participate in the political process. Under the leadership of the Reverend Ivan S. Pitts, the chapter has seen a surge in membership, amplified meeting attendance, and the renewed respect of its leaders within the community.

Beyond today's chapter leadership, I would like to formally applaud former presidents of the Danbury NAACP over the past 50 years: Constantine Brandi, the Reverend Leslie G. Lawson, Richard Brown, Dr. Frederick Adam, Samuel Hyman, Sylvester Craig, Ben Andrews, Robert Cherry, Jr., Harold Taylor, Gladys Cooper, the Reverend Aaron Samuels, William J. Knight, Stanford Smith, Sr., Daryle Dennis, Sherrie Neptune, and the Reverend Donald Dolberry.

Recent events in Danbury remind us that racism is not just a historical stain in our community—it is ever present. The Danbury chapter of the NAACP is an example and an inspiration to all organizations dedicated to the cause of justice and I am proud to recognize them for their efforts. I ask that all Members of the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring their 50 years of outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS AND SUPPORTING THE VICTIMS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, over the course of just one week, my home State of California has witnessed the most destructive and expansive wildfires in its history. Across southern California, more than a dozen large fires fueled by powerful Santa Ana winds burned over 500,000 acres. The flames engulfed forests, homes and businesses alike. In my congressional district, the city of Malibu lost homes, a community church, and Castle Kashan, an iconic landmark on the California coast.

As these fires raged, thousands of courageous firefighters risked their lives to battle the flames, tirelessly working shift after shift in grueling conditions. Hundreds of volunteers donated money, resources, and time to help the nearly 1 million Californians evacuated at the height of the crisis. Officials at all levels of government acted swiftly to coordinate a rapid response. While we grieve for the hundreds of families who have been devastated, we must be thankful that even greater losses were averted.

The damage caused by the fires is staggering in its scope and heartbreaking in its impact on those who must start over from scratch. But Californians are resilient and determined to restore their communities and rebuild their lives. Today we stand in solidarity as we consider H. Res. 778, a resolution honoring the first responders and supporting the victims of the southern California wildfires. This resolution sends an important message to all Californians that the Nation is with them, and that Congress stands prepared to provide the assistance they need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RANDY BLACK, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Black, Sr., who is the recipient of the 2007 Lieder Award. The Lieder Award is given annually to a person or organization that demonstrates outstanding leadership in the southern Nevada real estate industry by the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Randy has had a lasting impact on southern Nevada that began when he enrolled in Clark County Community College in an effort to become a realtor. Throughout his career he has had a multi-faceted experience, working as a title examiner for First American Title/Stewart Title, a commercial real estate salesman with Robert Realty Investment and Development, and a commercial real estate broker with Consolidated Realty and Management. Since 1977, he has served as the chairman of the board, owner, and broker with Diversified Re-

alty. He has also been a partner with many different businesses in southern Nevada including Beano's Casino Restaurant and Lounge and Shuck's Seafood Restaurant and Lounges. In addition, he has been a managing partner with Virgin River Hotel and Casino, Casablanca Hotel Resort and Casino, and Oasis Resort Casino in Mesquite, Nevada. Randy also owns many development projects in southern Nevada.

Along with all of his work in the real estate industry, Randy has also dedicated his time to various boards and commissions. He has been active with the City of Las Vegas Citizens Advisory Board and the Nellis Air Force Base Support Team. He has utilized his expertise in real estate to contribute his time to the Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association and the Las Vegas Board of Realtors Political Action Committee.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Randy Black, Sr. His constant commitment to the advancement of the real estate community in southern Nevada is honorable, and I wish him congratulations as the 2007 Lieder Award recipient.

PROTECTING VETERANS FUNDING LETTERS

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I submit the two letters I referred to in my 1 minute this morning.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2007.

Office of the Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID: We write today to ask you to keep the Senate in session the week of October 8, to help pass this years' veterans appropriations. Now that we are already into the new fiscal year, it is imperative that the House and Senate reach a prompt agreement on the conference report on the FY2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 2642).

It is unfortunate the Senate has been unable to act upon many of its Constitutionally mandated appropriations bills. While the House continues to wait upon the Senate to complete its work, we call upon you to quickly move veterans appropriations through conference so a final version of the bill may be passed and presented to the President. We believe that veterans issues rise above the partisan divisions of Washington which is evident by the passage of the FY08 MilCon-Veterans appropriations with overwhelming majorities in both Houses, 501-3 combined.

The Senate cannot allow this critically important funding to continue to fall victim to the usual partisan wrangling which occurs all too often in Washington. If tragedies such as the recent revelations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center are to be diverted in the future, we must pass veterans funding now. From FY 2001 the total VA budget rose from \$48 billion to approximately \$70 billion in FY 2006, a 46 percent increase. This year, the House voted to increase funding by \$6 billion dollars over FY07, one of the largest in the 77 year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Because we have asked so much of our brave men and women in uniform

during the War on Terror we must uphold our commitment to veterans upon their return home.

Earlier in the year, the new Majority agreed they would continue the trend of significant increases in veterans funding begun by the Republican Congress. We ask you to honor that agreement and see the commitment we made to our veterans is upheld.

We must never forget the sacrifice of our veterans. As members of Congress, we have a solemn obligation to fulfill our promises to them. We ask you to look past the heightened partisanship of our times and unite us on this issue by making it a first priority to bring a stand-alone veterans appropriations bill through conference so the Congress may present the President with a bill no later than October 12, 2007.

Sincerely,

Steve Pearce, Tim Walberg, Jean Schmidt, Darrell Issa, Jim Saxton, Don Young, Scott Garrett, Jeff Miller, Trent Franks, Duncan Hunter, Jo Ann Davis, Pete Sessions.

Phil Gingrey, Phil English, Thelma Drake, Jeb Hensarling, Ginny Brown-Waite, Peter Roskam, Vito Fossella, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, John Carter, Dan Burton, K. Michael Conaway, John Kuhl.

Tom Feeney, Tom Price, James Sensenbrenner, Gus Bilirakis, Wally Herger, Doug Lamborn, Greg Walden, Gary Miller, Michele Bachmann, John Kline, Tom Tancredo, Geoff Davis.

Adrian Smith, Paul Ryan, John Doolittle, John Peterson, Rick Renzi, Mark Souder, Louie Gohmert, Michael McCaul, Randy Neugebauer, Wayne Gilchrest, Jim Gerlach.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, September 17, 2007.

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,

U.S. Capitol,

Washington, DC.

MADAM SPEAKER: We write to urge you in the strongest possible terms to reach a prompt agreement on the conference report on the FY2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 2642). Few issues are more important than adequate funding for our nation's veterans. The leadership in the House cannot allow this critically important funding to fall victim to the usual partisan wrangling which occurs all too often in Washington.

Veterans should not be used as tools for political bargaining and gamesmanship. Both the House and Senate passed the FY08 MilCon-Veterans appropriations with overwhelming majorities because our commitment to veterans rises above partisan squabbling. Tragedies such as the recent revelations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center must never be repeated. The findings of insufficient care at Walter Reed and other facilities should be seen by Congress as a mandate to finish the work and live up to the promises we have made to our veterans.

After decades of flat funding, total VA budget rose from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$70 billion in FY 2006, a 46 percent increase. This year, the House voted to increase funding by \$6 billion dollars over FY07, one of the largest in the 77 year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Both the Senate and House versions received overwhelming majority support passing by a vote of 409-2 in the House and 92-1 in the Senate.

Earlier in the year, the new Majority agreed they would continue the trend of significant increases in veterans funding begun by the Republican Congress. We ask you to honor that agreement and see that the commitment we made to our veterans is honored.

We must never forget the sacrifice of our veterans. As members of Congress, we have a

solemn obligation to fulfill our promises to them. We ask for you to look past the heightened partisanship of our times and unite us on this issue by making it a first priority to quickly bring a stand alone Veterans appropriations bill through conference so the Congress may present the President with a bill by October 1, 2007.

We stand ready to assist you in reaching this goal.

Sincerely,

Steve Pearce, Gus Bilirakis, Thelma Drake, Pete Sessions, Louie Gohmert, Jean Schmidt, Jim Saxton, Dana Rohrabacher, Mario Diaz-Balart, Sue Myrick, Tom Feeney.

Jon Porter, Rick Renzi, Marilyn Musgrave, Michael Burgess, Michael Conaway, Mark Souder, Tim Walberg, Steve King, Ron Lewis, Jeff Miller, Tom Tancredo.

Steve Buyer, Peter Roskam, John Mica, John Kline, Paul Ryan, Greg Walden, Tom Price, Mary Fallin, Randy Forbes, Mary Bono, Spencer Bachus.

Dean Heller, Barbara Cubin, John Shimkus, Jim Gerlach, Jeb Hensarling, Geoff Davis, Scott Garrett, Adrian Smith, Mike Ferguson, Don Young, Ginny Brown-Waite.

SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution is a unique and irreplaceable cultural, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has become an extraordinary array of world class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers including 19 museums and galleries, 9 research facilities, the National Zoo, and a National Museum of African American History and Culture, approved by Congress, now seeking funding from the private sector for construction. The Smithsonian has grown with trust funds, donations from American culture and life, and other financial contributions. However, most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its support from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious and mounting unmet infrastructure and other financial needs. Infrastructure needs have increased to \$2.5 billion, and continuing deterioration threatens exhibits and restricts access. Congress must help the Smithsonian Institution strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step that Congress could take today is to finally rescue the Smithsonian from the 19th century governance structure that keeps it from accessing needed available private resources and limits close and critical internal oversight similar to what public and private facilities receive today. This bill provides a structure befitting an agency of the unique complexity of the Smithsonian's, without which these goals cannot be reached.

In no small part, the difficulty the Smithsonian has faced results from limitations inherent to its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian 160 years ago, but today, the structure has proven to be a relic that has disserved the Institution. The present governance places im-

mense responsibility on dedicated but over-extended members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, fully half of the board, who must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important Federal officials.

The need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure has been clear for years but can no longer be avoided following unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks taken by Smithsonian management. The Smithsonian's first full-blown scandal in its 160 year history, replete with embarrassing coverage, has damaged the Smithsonian's reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel require new and concentrated oversight by citizens from whom the Smithsonian can command priority attention. The Regents, of course, have taken some important action on their own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Regents responded to the controversies by creating a Governance Committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent who is chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the Institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by Charles A. Bowsher, former Comptroller General of the United States, to review the issues arising from the Inspector General's reports, the Regents' response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The Independent Review was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly in its report that the root cause of the current problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure that led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board of Regents for the Smithsonian must recognize a fiduciary responsibility that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further found that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over \$1 billion a year, must have a Board of Regents who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight. Time is a major factor." The IRC cited lack of clarity of the roles of the Vice President and Chief Justice on the Board, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same might be said of members of the House and Senate who serve. The IRC recommends expanding the level of expertise and number of board members and ensuring that Regents who are appointed have sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own Governance Committee identified several board weaknesses and concluded that the Regents did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision making, that staff whom the Regents depended upon for oversight inquiries, did not have direct access or the relationships necessary to bring forward important

issues, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flag issues “crippled” internal compliance and oversight mechanisms.

**STOP TUBERCULOSIS (TB) NOW
ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. There is a great need, at home and abroad, for increased resources against the fight of Tuberculosis. Worldwide, nearly 2 million people died from TB in 2006. Adding to the problem, the TB germ is changing and new, drug-resistant strains have been found in 28 countries on 6 continents, including the U.S. The Stop Tuberculosis Now Act of 2007 requires the President to make TB prevention, treatment and elimination a priority. This act authorizes the President to increase aid to the World Health Organization through USAID specifically for TB strategies against these drug-resistant strains and to support affected countries, also increasing appropriations for CDCP and TB programs.

This legislation addresses the need abroad, but we also still need more interest here in the states. That is why I introduced The Comprehensive TB Elimination Act (H.R. 1532) earlier this year to confront that exact problem. In 2005, more than 14,000 people had TB in the U.S., including over 1500 cases in Texas. There also is an estimated 10 to 15 million people in the U.S. with latent TB, approximately 10 percent of which will go on to develop active TB. In the face of this problem, the standard method for diagnosis is more than 100 years and isn't adequately effective in testing children or those also infected with HIV/AIDS. The newest class of anti-TB drugs is 40 years old. The current drug-resistant strains that we know of are nearly untreatable with the drugs available today.

These facts highlight the obvious need for TB research and development of active attempts not only to control the problem, but decrease the threat and hopefully eradicate it completely. The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act (H.R. 1532) will do that at home and The Stop Tuberculosis Now Act of 2007 (H.R. 1567) will do that abroad. I urge my colleagues' to join me in supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 5, 2007, I was absent from the House due to a family illness and therefore missed rollcall votes 1034 through 1036.

Had I been present for rollcall 1034, H.R. 3222, on closing portions of the conference for a measure making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for rollcall 1035, H.R. 513, on a motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for rollcall 1036, H. Res. 744, on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to a measure recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans, I would have voted “yea.”

**HONORING NANCY KEEFER, RECIPIENT OF BONITA SPRINGS 2007
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Keefer, Bonita Springs 2007 Citizen of the Year, for her years of dedicated service to southwest Florida. Nancy exemplifies the ideals that we in southwest Florida hold dear.

Over the last decade, Nancy's energy and dedication for Bonita Springs has led to great service and leadership in our community. In addition to serving as the president of the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce since 1997, she is a member of the Bonita Springs Rotary Club, on the Bonita Springs YMCA board of directors and is a member of the International College President's Council. Nancy is also a member of the Southwest Florida Transportation Initiative.

We all owe a tremendous amount of appreciation to Nancy for showing our community what leadership and service truly means.

I'm honored to represent such a remarkable individual, and I would like to thank citizens like her for making southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

**HONORING FORMER OHIO STATE
MARCHING BAND ARRANGER
RICHARD W. HEINE**

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Richard W. Heine, arranger for The Ohio State University Marching Band, and to express my appreciation for the lifetime he spent creating the unmistakable sound of The Ohio State University Marching Band. For more than 60 years, Mr. Heine contributed his talents to the students of Ohio State, and for this, I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks for his efforts.

After graduating from Greenville High School in 1934, Mr. Heine began his association with The Ohio State University as a student and member of the marching band. More than any other person, he was responsible for the unique sound of this brass marching band. In addition to many original compositions, Mr. Heine arranged most of the Ohio State school songs including Buckeye Battle Cry, I Want To Go Back To Ohio State, Chimes & Carmen

Ohio and Beautiful Ohio. There are very few non band members who have had the rare honor of dotting the “i” during the famous Script Ohio formation; however, Mr. Heine is one of the select few to be so honored by the Ohio State Marching Band.

Madam Speaker, I've seen the Ohio State Marching Band and Script Ohio formation many times and there is little doubt that the band referred to as “The Best Damn Band in the Land” is exactly that, and Mr. Heine played no small part in that legacy.

It was with sadness that I learned that Mr. Heine passed away October 11, 2007 at the age of 91. Richard's memory will live on in the lives of those he touched, and every Saturday in the fall as the sounds he created echo in the hearts of football fans across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1034, 1035, and 1036 I was not present because I was delayed returning from Iraq on official travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on each of these rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted:

1. “Yes” on Rollcall 1034, H.R. 3222, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

2. “Yes” on Rollcall 1035, H.R. 513, National Heroes Credit Protection Act.

3. “Yes” on Rollcall 1036, H. Res. 744, Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans.

RECOGNIZING ZACH KINNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zach Kinne of Eagleville, Missouri. Zach is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership by being elected to serve as 2007–2008 National Future Farmers of America President.

Zach was among six individuals selected from a field of 40 to hold a national office. He was later chosen and presented as President at the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. As president, this position will

require Zach to travel more than 100,000 miles, visit approximately 40 states, and participate in an international experience tour to Japan. Zach will also be responsible for providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization, and promoting agricultural literacy.

Currently, Zach attends school at the University of Missouri in Columbia. There, he is involved in many student organizations including College of Agriculture Student Development board, MU Alumni Association Student Board, Agriculture Economics Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, College of Agriculture Learning Improvement Committee, and the Missouri Department of Education Preparatory Taskforce.

Zach has been very active as a member of FFA. Over the years, Zach has been involved he has participated in a Supervised Agricultural Experience, which required producing and selling registered Angus seed stock bulls. Zach was also selected as a state winner and national semi-finalist in prepared speaking, and was named State Star in Agricultural Placement.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zach Kinne for his accomplishments with the Future Farmers of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of President for the 2007–2008 calendar year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will significantly enhance the ability of the American people to protect their homes and property from dangerous wildfires. This crucial legislation will augment our fire emergency preparedness by eliminating burdensome government rules and regulations rather than creating new ones. More and bigger government is not the solution to the challenges we face and my legislation gives the American people the opportunity to take the initiative in protecting themselves and their property.

We have all witnessed the destruction and devastation wrought by the recent fires in southern California. According to the latest reports, 518,021 acres have burned and over 3,500 structures have been damaged or destroyed. Thousands of families are now left homeless and hundreds of thousands more were forced to evacuate their homes as the fires threatened. While our brave first responders performed as outstandingly in this crisis as we have come to expect, these events have made it increasingly clear that our government has not been providing citizens with the tools necessary to protect themselves and has relied excessively on a large and unresponsive bureaucracy.

I am sad to report that current laws and regulations make it difficult, if not altogether impossible, for private property owners to clear brush and create fire breaks that might save their homes in the event of a wildfire. Intrusive federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, discourage, and in some cases

prohibit, property owners from modifying their property to better prepare for wildfires. Our misguided policies have placed special interests above the all-important right and obligation of homeowners and property owners to prepare themselves for natural disasters. We know intrusive and bloated government is always a problem, but in a fire emergency, it can be deadly and destructive.

My legislation, the Wildfire Prevention Act, works by empowering citizens rather than bureaucrats. The Wildfire Prevention Act makes it clear that no Federal law will prevent private property owners, or local communities that manage public land, from clearing brush or making other modifications to their property for the purpose of creating fire breaks in order to protect their lives and their property.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a step in the right direction in providing property owners with the resources they need to protect themselves. I am proud to introduce the Wildfire Prevention Act and request my colleagues give this important legislation their utmost consideration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NON QUINCY ADAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to memory of Mr. Non Quincy Adams.

A native and resident of Mobile, Mr. Adams graduated from Murphy High School and attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater of operation aboard the USS George Clymer and attained the rank of lieutenant junior grade.

After the war, he received degrees in business and law from the University of Alabama. Starting his career as a teenager with First National Bank in 1940, he returned to Mobile after college to practice law. Over the years, he held positions in the trust and commercial areas. During the 1970s, Mr. Adams rose through the ranks to become a member of the board of directors. Later, he became president and in just 4 years, chief executive in 1982. After the bank merged with AmSouth Bank, he was named chairman of AmSouth's Southern region.

In 1974, he was elected to the board of directors of Loyal American Life Insurance Co., and he later became the chairman and chief executive officer of the Modern Banking Association of Alabama. In 1988, Mr. Adams ran for a seat on the Mobile County school board and served a term as the District 2 commissioner. He also served as a director of both the Industrial Development Board of the city of Mobile and the Business Council of Alabama.

Along with his business associations, Mr. Adams served as director of the Mobile Area Council of Boy Scouts and was a trustee of the YMCA. He also served as the director of the Exploreum and was chairman of the Keep Mobile Beautiful Commission. During the 1980s, he was significantly involved with the tree preservation, beautification and revitaliza-

tion of Bienville Square. Mr. Adams was a deacon and lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Mobile. In 1990, he was bestowed the honor of Mobilian of the Year.

There is no doubt—Mr. N. Q. Adams' contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 54 years, Eran Jobe Adams; his sister, Dora Lee Davidson; his son, Samuel Russell Adams; his daughter, Laura Aline Adams; his granddaughter; and his great-grandson; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers go with them all in this difficult time.

HONORING LARRY MCCARTHY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Californian. Larry McCarthy has served as president of the California Taxpayers' Association since 1989, building the association into a powerful force for the taxpayers of the Golden State, and conducting detailed policy research that has helped shaped the laws of my great State.

Larry McCarthy has advocated on behalf of taxpaying residents and entrepreneurs as president of the California Tax Foundation and as chairman of the National Taxpayers Conference, a nationwide organization of state taxpayer associations. Larry also was the lead advocate and strategist for two \$300 million unemployment insurance tax reductions in the early 1980s and a complete refinance of the California unemployment insurance system in 1985. Larry also played a major role in strengthening the economy, helping businesses prosper and creating new employment opportunities for Californians.

As research director of Cal-Tax, he supervised extensive research projects on local government finance in California, winning a national award for research on the use of benefit assessments in California after passage of Proposition 13. Early in his career in California and in Washington State, Larry McCarthy authored publications called Citizens Guide to Local Government Budgeting to help individuals become involved in the complicated budget processes of cities, counties and school districts.

Larry's success as the leader of Cal-Tax is reflected by the dedication and devotion of his staff, the majority of whom have served with him for more than 20 years. He has also distinguished himself as a strong family man, dedicated to his wife, Sandy, and their three children, Steven, Michelle and Christine.

Madam Speaker, Larry McCarthy is fighting valiantly against cancer, maintaining his sense of humor and drawing upon his strong faith in God to battle the disease. The people of California have been blessed to have Larry McCarthy on their side; we salute him for his dedication to improving California and our Nation, and for his achievements on behalf of the hard-working taxpayers of California.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending heartfelt thanks to Larry McCarthy for his tremendous contributions to our State and wish him strength during this difficult time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend, Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, for organizing this special order on the very important subject addressing the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, The Second Chance Act, a bill of which I am an original co-sponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of The Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help state and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services. The Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on issues relating to re-entry of prisoners and this legislation dating back to the 108th Congress. Our most recent hearing, on March 20, 2007, focused on re-entry best practices and the continuing need for Federal support of re-entry program development.

Nearly two-thirds of released state prisoners are expected to be re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of their release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars, which can be averted through improved prisoner reentry efforts.

The "Second Chance Act of 2007" allocates \$360 million towards a variety of reentry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

Another reason why I strongly support this legislation is because it includes a provision contained in an amendment I offered during the Judiciary Committee markup of this bill in the 109th Congress. That amendment, incorporated in H.R. 1593 as Section 243 of the bill, requires that the:

Attorney General shall collect data and develop best practices of State corrections departments and child protection agencies relating to the communication and coordination between such State departments and

agencies to ensure the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents (including those in foster care and kinship care), and the support of parent-child relationships between incarcerated (and formerly incarcerated) parents and their children, as appropriate to the health and well-being of the children.

I also sponsored H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007 which I introduced earlier this year. H.R. 261 directs the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to a good time policy, to release a prisoner who has served one half or more of his or her term of imprisonment if that prisoner: (1) Has attained age 45; (2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) has not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

H.R. 261, would address the problem of warehousing in the Nation's Federal correction facilities non-violent offenders over the age of 45 who have served more than half of their sentences and pose no future danger to society. As I stated during the markup of H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, I strongly believe that in affording older offenders a second chance to turn around their lives and contribute to society, that ex-offenders not be too old to take full advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves in the eyes of their families, friends, and communities. I believe setting an eligibility age of 45 rather than 60 will better achieve the goal we all share.

I am also concerned about the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders in my home state of Texas as it appears that the administrators of TYC have neglected their duties. The April 10, 2007 "Dallas Morning News", reported that "two former Texas Youth Commission administrators were indicted on charges that they sexually abused teenage inmates at the state juvenile prison in Pyote". The same article also cited the 2005 investigative report by Texas Rangers' Sgt. Burzynski which found that the two indicted TYC administrators, Brookins and Hernandez, had repeatedly molested inmates in the Pyote prison. The report is cited as saying that Mr. Brookins, who during some periods was the top official, had shown sex toys and pornography in his office, while Mr. Hernandez molested inmates in classrooms and closets.

I hope that all of my colleagues would join me in supporting the Second Chance Act as well as my bill H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007. It is time to make a change.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036 on November 5, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 1034: "yes"; rollcall No. 1035: "yes"; rollcall No. 1036: "yes."

RECOGNIZING CAROL GORDY ON THE COMPLETION OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS 2007 BCA CHAIRMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Gordy as she completes a highly successful term as the 2007 chairman of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA).

Carol has been a distinguished member of the Brewton, Alabama, business community for almost three decades. In 1990, she purchased Natural Decorations Inc., known as NDI, from its original founders. Since that time, Carol and her husband, Joe, have grown the company from 10 to 100 employees and increased sales from less than \$1 million to more than \$16 million a year.

NDI is located in a small town in Alabama; nevertheless, it is a world-class leading manufacturer of high-end floral and botanical reproductions. Counted among its customers are Neiman-Marcus, Horchow, and interior designers worldwide, with ads appearing regularly in magazines such as Architectural Digest, Veranda, and Traditional Home. NDI also has exclusive licensing agreements with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Versailles Foundation for Monet's Giverney Gardens.

Under Carol Gordy's leadership as both chairman and chief executive officer, NDI has been nominated for 10 ARTS Awards, the premier awards program for the home decorative accessories industry, and received six. In 2001, NDI was inducted into the ARTS Hall of Fame. Additionally, NDI has been recognized for outstanding achievements in workplace safety.

It is this commitment to excellence in her own business that has made Carol such a valuable asset to BCA. In 2005, BCA leaders recognized her dedication to the association and asked her to join other volunteer leaders to serve as the group's first vice-chairman, a position that put Carol in line to be the first woman in BCA's history to serve as chairman.

A native of Dublin, Texas, Carol was raised in New Mexico. She started her first of three retail flower shops in Albuquerque and was the first person from New Mexico ever to be inducted into the American Institute of Floral Design in Washington, DC in 1980.

Carol's commitment to her community is second to none. She currently serves on the boards of A+ Education Foundation, BankTrust, Alabama Technology Network, Rotary International, the Quality of Life Chair for Alabama Communities of Excellence, and the Accessory Division of International Home Furnishings Center, High Point, NC.

Carol is a member of the Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching and has served on the Governor's Commission on Efficiency, Consolidation and Funding. She was a member of Leadership Alabama Class XXIII and served as a judge for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. She is also a member of Voices for Alabama's Children.

Madam Speaker, there are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to helping their communities than Carol Gordy, and I

would like to offer my congratulations for her service as the first woman chairman of BCA and for her many personal and professional achievements.

I know her husband, Joe, her family and many friends join me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Brewton and the state of Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, due to a flight delay on my return trip from Iowa to Washington on November 5, 2007, I unavoidably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036.

Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 1034, I would have voted "yea."

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 1035. I am pleased that this important bill, which would protect the credit ratings of military servicemembers and alleviate financial stress for troops serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, passed the House unanimously.

On rollcall vote No. 1036, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON SEA LEVEL RISE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, over 160 National Wildlife Refuges exist along the 95,000 miles of United States coastline and are in danger of being seriously affected by global warming. Scientists all around the world expect sea levels to rise as polar ice and glaciers melt, and oceans physically expand.

As we proactively begin to engage to protect our natural resources most susceptible to global warming, it is crucial to consider our coastal national wildlife refuges under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though uncertainty exists regarding the projected increases in sea level rise and global warming, we know for certain that global warming is occurring and coastal communities and refuges are already being affected.

Studies currently show that the continuation of historical trends of greenhouse gas emissions will result in additional global warming with current projections that the earth will warm between 2.5°F to 10.4°F by the year 2100. Sea level rise induced by global warming will inundate coastal areas, change precipitation patterns, increase the risk of droughts and floods, threaten biodiversity and offer a host of potential challenges and setbacks to public health. Additionally, sea level rise will force recreational beaches inland, exacerbate coastal flooding, and quite possibly even contribute to the severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Refuges in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii face massive coral bleaching as sea tempera-

tures continue to rise. Scientists predict a rise in sea level over the next century significant enough to drown refuges such as Chincoteague on the Virginia coast, Alligator River in North Carolina, Merritt Island in Florida and the Texas home of the whooping crane, Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge. Anticipated changes in climate and rainfall could alter forest makeup and alpine habitats in Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in the Northeast; interrupt seabird-nesting success in the Oregon Islands refuge; and dry the prairie pot-holes in Devils Lake Wetland Management District, a crucial migratory stopover and nesting ground for waterfowl.

A conservation concept unparalleled, the National Wildlife Refuge System started by President Theodore Roosevelt offers a network of places where the needs of wildlife must come first. Without them, many species simply would not survive. Yet, these important areas are increasingly threatened by forces outside refuge boundaries—global warming and sea level rise being among the most threatening.

It is vitally important that we proactively address the effects of global warming and sea-level rise as they continue to confront our Nation's coastal refuges. In this regard, the resolution I introduce today, expresses the sense of the Congress that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plan for each coastal national wildlife refuge as required by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997.

By requiring Fish and Wildlife refuge managers to incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise, we will not only broaden our overall understanding of how our coastal and marine resources may be affected but also draw more conclusive data which may point to a specific timeframe in which these events are expected to occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, due to airline delays, on November 5, 2007, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 1034 (the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference—H.R. 3222); rollcall No. 1035 (H.R. 513, to enhance the protection of credit ratings of active duty military personnel); and rollcall No. 1036 (H.R. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans). Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3920, The Trade and

Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. H.R. 3920 would expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which assists workers who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, was first established in 1962, in recognition of the fact that some workers would lose their jobs as a direct result of our national trade policies. The program is designed to assist these trade-dislocated workers by providing them with the opportunity to train for new careers. Although the program currently includes about 80,000 certified workers enrolled in training, there are thousands of other trade-displaced workers who deserve but have been unable to obtain training through the TAA program.

H.R. 3920 makes many long-sought improvements to TAA. The bill allows for industry-wide certification in certain instances, a change that will eliminate the delays and inconsistent results in the current firm-by-firm process. The bill also includes a number of changes that will simplify and improve the process by which eligible workers obtain training.

We must continue to provide our strong support to workers who are faced with the unfortunate event of losing their employment. H.R. 3920 is an excellent bill that will provide much needed and overdue help to displaced and unemployed workers. These programs are essential to the viability and livelihood of thousands of hard-working Americans. As a proud supporter of America's workers, I understand the vital importance of ensuring the social welfare of our labor force. I will continue to work with my colleagues to preserve their social and economic care. America's workers deserve America's support.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS P. FRIERY AND HIS 29 YEARS OF SERVICE AS SACRAMENTO CITY TREASURER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Thomas P. Friery and his 29 years of service as the city of Sacramento's treasurer. Under Mr. Friery's nearly three decades of leadership and dedication, Sacramento has experienced great growth and prosperity. As his friends, family and coworkers gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Since becoming treasurer in 1978, Mr. Friery has worked under 10 mayors, and 72 councilmembers. Upon taking over as treasurer, Mr. Friery inherited the responsibility of managing the Sacramento City Employee's Retirement System and its unfunded liability of \$60 million. The pension fund was expected to grow to a \$170 million deficit, but under Treasurer Friery's superior financial management the deficit was eliminated in 1991, and the system now has \$450 million invested in it. In doing so, Thomas Friery helped re-establish Sacramento's AA credit rating, allowing the city to borrow money at a lower cost.

Mr. Friery's innovative financial strategies have been vital to the prosperity of the city of Sacramento. City leaders and I have always

been confident of Mr. Friery's financial management skills. In 29 years of service, Thomas has always been able to provide a capable solution to the most pressing problems. Under his guidance, Sacramento became the first city pension fund in the State to invest in gold and silver. Those funds delivered 120 percent returns on the investment over a 2-year period. Additionally, over the past 29 years, the city has issued 250 bond offerings, raising more than \$4 billion for the city. In the 18 years prior to Mr. Friery, the city had made only 10 bond issues worth a total of \$70 million.

Mr. Friery also played a key role in the successful transition of the former Sacramento Army Depot into a business and industrial center after the depot was closed. In 1996, Treasurer Friery along with Mayor Joe Serna, assembled a financing package that included a loan of \$17 million to Packard Bell Electronics for improvements to the former Army depot, which included \$9 million for moving and other expenses. In the end, the company moved to Sacramento and at its peak employed 5,000 employees. The plant has since closed, but the company repaid the loan back and over \$400 million in salaries were paid to local reserves. That deal spurred future development at the depot which has now grown to house over 60 companies and is far more diversified.

In another bold move, Mr. Friery was vital in ensuring that Sacramento still remains the home for the Sacramento Kings. In 1997, when the Kings were exploring alternative cities and venues, he crafted a loan that enabled the team to continue building upon its legacy. It was also Mr. Friery who helped develop the financing that was crucial in ensuring light rail was developed in the region. This significant upgrade to Sacramento's transit system has allowed for further city development and an increase in property values throughout the region.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Sacramento City treasurer Thomas Friery during his 29 years on the job. His devotion and love to our city of Sacramento is held in the highest regards. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Friery for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF
TOMBALL, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most extraordinary towns in our country, Tomball, Texas and join them in celebrating their 100 year anniversary. This community began in the early 1800's as a farming community and has grown to be a town encompassing economic growth and core American values which makes our nation a great place to live.

Tomball is known for many things; it began as an agricultural community and has continued to grow expeditiously from day one. Originally this town was known as Peck, but at the

turn of the century in 1907, the town was officially named Tomball in honor of Mr. Thomas Henry Ball; a Congressman, a lawyer, a proud father, and an honorable man.

Tomball saw their first boom in 1906 when the railroad came to town. The first freight train and the first passenger rail rolled through town in 1907. Today visitors can step back in time and enjoy the newly refurbished train depot, in the heart of downtown Tomball, as trains move through town as they did a century ago.

Tomball was also known as "Oil Town U.S.A." in the early 1930's when oil was discovered in a big Texas way with a "gusher." The city was quick to realize the extraordinary asset before them and negotiated a deal with Humble Oil and Gas allowing the company drilling rights within the city in exchange for free oil and gas to Tomball residents for the next 50 years.

Tomball has seen growth in all aspects of the community. Since the turn of the century, there has been the boom of the railroad, the great success of oil and gas, real estate growth, and road improvements all contributing to the strong economic base for this town. Tomball has always been a place with extraordinary schools, both public and private. The city possesses citizens with an eagerness to learn extending to higher education within the college system. Faith is important to this community and is the foundation that enables numerous churches to congregate within the area.

Tomball is an amazing town within Harris County, Texas. It is the residents continued dedication to this town which makes it one of the friendliest places to live not only in Texas but in the United States. Although Tomball has endured many changes over the last century one thing remains the same, the people. The people of this community have always been the most thoughtful and caring individuals a town could ever ask for. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Tomball it is with great joy I say thank you for being a wonderful and compassionate community. I wish this city all the best in the next 100 years, as I know only good things will come from such an amazing place. Happy Birthday Tomball and congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H. Res. 744, I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge its passage. I want to thank Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN who is an original cosponsor of this resolution and who is a strong advocate for our veterans. I also want to thank Chairman BOB FILNER, who cosponsored the resolution and Ranking Member STEVE BUYER for his commitment to all veterans.

Earlier this year I met with some Native American veterans in my State. They expressed many concerns to me and were worried that all Native American Veterans had not

been recognized for their service to their country.

On October 15, 2007, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN and I introduced H. Res. 744, a resolution that recognizes the contributions of Native American veterans and calls upon the President of the United States to issue a proclamation urging the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans.

Native Americans were participants in the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. During World War I, 12,000 Native Americans served in the United States military and in World War II, more than 44,000 Native Americans served their country in both the European and Pacific fronts of the war. Native Americans also fought in the Korean conflict and the Vietnam war. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Native Americans have made significant contributions.

Native American veterans should be recognized for their service in uniform. This resolution gives all Native American veterans the formal recognition they deserve for their sacrifices and contributions.

I have also introduced H.R. 4012, the Native American Language Assistance Act of 2007, a bill to assist VA hospitals and clinics that treat a large number of Native American patients. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that will ensure that Native American veterans have access, delivery and follow-up of services at the VA.

The bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to make competitive grants to any VA medical facility that treats a high number of Native American veterans. The grants, up to \$100,000 each, would provide interpreters or other language resources to improve access to, delivery of, and follow-up for medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am concerned that Indian veterans are not receiving adequate assistance and support for their care at our VA hospitals. This bill will provide help to those hospitals that treat high numbers of Indians. By providing our VA hospitals with funding for language programs and outreach, we can better communicate to these veterans about what services and benefits are available to them and make sure they are getting the care and support they need.

Nationally, there are 195,871 Native American veterans. There are 11,929 Native American Veterans in New Mexico—3.1 percent of the entire American Indian veteran population.

I am grateful to all who serve their Nation and we as a Congress have a responsibility to ensure they receive the best possible care. In this war on terrorism, the greatest burdens have fallen on the shoulders of a relatively small number of Americans who have volunteered to take great risks on our behalf. Events over the last few years have made a new generation of Americans realize just how precious our freedoms really are. We owe our freedom fighters—past, present, and future—a debt of gratitude for their selflessness and sacrifice. I will continue to fight to ensure that our veterans get the benefits they were promised, the health care they deserve, and the recognition that our Nation owes them.

I support passage of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LEADER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Leader, a dedicated Foreign Service Officer who has done so much to promote and strengthen relations between the United States and the Republic of Sri Lanka. He has been an example of the best of our Foreign Service—passionate, knowledgeable, and effective.

Jim served at the American Embassy in Colombo from 1970–72 and as a Desk Officer for Sri Lanka in the Department of State from 1973–77. He maintained contact with many Sri Lankans and Americans interested in Sri Lankan affairs and recognized the need to form an organization to nurture and build on those relationships. To meet that need, in 1994, Jim teamed up with Gil Shinbaum to launch the auspiciously-named Serendipity Group.

The Serendipity Group is an organization of former American Ambassadors and officials who lived in Sri Lanka and retain a strong interest in Sri Lankan affairs. My father, who served as an Ambassador to Sri Lanka between 1973–76, and my mother were part of this group, and I witnessed the commitment, shared by all its members, to building stronger ties between the United States and Sri Lanka.

Jim and his wife, Carillon, invited Group members to their home for informal discussions and activities. He recruited speakers to Serendipity Group forums and fostered conversation between Sri Lankan Ambassadors to the United States, U.S. Ambassadors to Colombo, scholars, writers, and others who shared his passion for Sri Lankan-American interests.

In addition to his diplomatic efforts, Jim deserves recognition for his philanthropic work. In 2004, when Sri Lanka was devastated by the tsunami, he mobilized resources for a significant relief donation.

In all, James Leader's initiative in founding the Serendipity Group, and his inspired leadership, have made an important contribution to the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Sri Lanka. As he steps down as leader of the Group, I congratulate him on his years of service, both in public and private life, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
MONTH**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, domestic violence is a widespread tragedy that indiscriminately affects families of all races and classes. It is a serious crime that has no social barriers.

Thanks to the leadership of the women in Congress, this body has made great strides in addressing many issues surrounding domestic violence.

For example, The Violence Against Women Act of 1994, helped dispel the myth that living

with domestic violence was a lifestyle choice of the victim. This landmark legislation directly impacted federal and state laws which today recognize domestic violence as a crime for which the abuser, not the victim, is responsible.

Unfortunately, much more still needs to be done to help victims become survivors.

For example, studies estimate that in the United States close to one-third of women will be physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend in their lifetime.

Credible research has also found that the inability to financially support themselves and their children is a critical factor contributing to one staying in an abusive relationship.

Without the ability to be self-sufficient, many survivors are left with the terrifying choice of staying with their abuser or being unable to provide for themselves and their children.

While many states, including my home state of California, have taken action to help survivors retain their financial independence, the job protections offered by state laws vary dramatically.

For example, in 21 states when a survivor is forced to quit a job due to the abuse, she or he is not eligible for unemployment benefits.

And only nine states protect a survivor's job if they are attacked by a partner or spouse and need time off to find a safe place to live.

These discrepancies in state laws often determine whether a person will continue to be a victim of abuse or a survivor.

On October 31, I, together with Representative POE from Texas, introduced three bills to help victims of domestic violence become survivors regardless of where in the country they live.

Our bills address three key economic factors that prevent many survivors from leaving an abusive relationship by providing victims of abuse with the employment protections and the increased economic stability they need to leave an abuser.

The three bills are: The Job Protection for Survivors Act, the Insurance Non-Discrimination for Survivors Act, and the Unemployment Insurance for Survivors Act.

The Job Protection for Survivors Act will allow survivors of domestic violence, without the fear of losing their jobs, to take limited leave from work to make necessary court appearances, and get help with safety planning. Employees will also have job protection if they ask for reasonable safety modifications in the workplace.

The Insurance Non-Discrimination Act for Survivors will prohibit employers or insurance providers from basing hiring or coverage decisions on an individual's history of abuse. This will help address the fear many have of seeking help because they know companies may use documents such as police records to drop or reject their insurance coverage.

The third bill, the Unemployment Insurance for Survivors Act, guarantees that survivors are eligible for unemployment benefits. Current Federal law remains inadequate in ensuring survivors have the resources they need while seeking new employment and a safe place to live.

Madam Speaker, for many this package of bills can literally make the difference between life and death.

I want to thank the many dedicated advocates who labor every day to end domestic vi-

olence for their support of these bills. I have worked closely with them for many years, and their input and expertise has been invaluable in crafting these measures.

I also thank Representative POE for his co-sponsorship and I look forward to working with him to pass these bills.

Madam Speaker, violence in America's families has a devastating effect not only on the target of the abuse but on the family unit. It is especially damaging to the children who suffer emotionally or are themselves the target of physical abuse.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Congressman POE and co-sponsor the Job Protection for Survivors Act, the Insurance Non-Discrimination for Survivors Act, and the Unemployment Insurance for Survivors Act to empower survivors against the violence in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on November 5, I was detained in my district due to travel delays, and missed the votes on passage of the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference to H.R. 3222, the FY08 Department of Defense Appropriations Conference; H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act; and H. Res. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on passage of all three bills.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAULA
FRANCIS**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula Francis who has served Las Vegas as a Senior Television Anchor for over 25 years.

Ms. Paula Francis graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and in 1985 moved to Las Vegas as the evening news anchor at KTNV-TV. In 1990 she joined KLAS-TV as the evening news anchor alongside friend and colleague Gary Waddell.

In addition to her professional career, Ms. Francis has continually given back to the community. She serves on the board of the Shade Tree Shelter for Homeless Women and Children, the Community Advisory Board for the Assistance League, and the Southern Nevada Chapter of International Women's Forum. She also contributes her time by reading to students during Nevada Reading Week. She also speaks to individuals and organizations about health issues including her campaign to educate women about breast cancer awareness called "Buddy Check 8".

Ms. Francis has received numerous awards for her time spent in Southern Nevada. She

was chosen as "Best TV Anchor in Las Vegas" by the readers of the Las Vegas Review-Journal six different times, and along with Gary Waddell, received the Best Anchor Team Award in the Women in Communications Electronic Media Awards. She also was inducted into the KLAS-TV Hall of Fame in July 2000.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Paula Francis. Her contributions to KLAS-TV and to Southern Nevada are admirable. I applaud her commitment to Southern Nevada and I thank her for her time and support to our community.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY 2007

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the veterans who have served so bravely in defense of our freedoms to say thank you for your service. November 11, 1918 marked the day major hostilities during World War I ended, and was subsequently adopted as Veterans Day in the United States. This day now gives us an opportunity to reflect on the many sacrifices made by the Armed Forces throughout our history. As members of Congress continue to address the needs of today's soldiers and veterans, I share these thoughts in honor of those who have fought and died for our country.

Earlier this year, I made my third trip to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where I met with our brave service members who were injured while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Repeatedly, I see the severity of these injuries and I know that properly caring for our returning soldiers demands far more funding than what has been allocated by previous Congresses. Since the beginning of our military engagements in the Middle East, health care for returning service members and veterans has been wholly unsatisfactory.

Under the strong leadership of Democrats, we have begun the process of providing the necessary funding to adequately address the needs of our soldiers and veterans. In May, Congress provided \$5 billion for the health care needs of soldiers returning from the Middle East, including \$1.8 billion for veterans enrolled in VA health care programs. This funding will ensure the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration both have the resources to provide timely and efficient case management services, especially for the young men and women who served in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In March, I supported legislation limiting the number of cases assigned to a physical evaluation officer, in order to ensure the utmost attention to soldiers' needs. This proposal would also encourage accountability by establishing a toll-free number for families to report deficiencies in military medical facilities.

As nearly one in three soldiers admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center presents with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), we will continue to target investments to respond to these most debilitating injuries. I am pleased Congress provided \$900 million specifically for TBI treatment and services to soldiers. Additionally, this year the Senate has proposed \$10 million for the TBI Program, to improve serv-

ices for soldiers' families. I also supported legislation that would establish four VA facilities solely dedicated to rehabilitating and tracking the progress of soldiers with TBI. In honor of the brave men and women who suffer these injuries, I will continue to advocate for increased funding throughout the appropriations process for fiscal year 2008.

Congress must also continue to take a hard look at the current rating systems for disabled veterans, which many have described as disparate, unfair and outdated. Earlier this year, Lt. General James Terry Scott, chair of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC), expressed concern that the status quo is not meeting the needs of veterans and returning soldiers. The VDBC, and the Dole-Shalala Commission formed by President Bush this year in response to the deplorable conditions at the Walter Reed Annex, both agree that the dual-disability rating system through the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense needs a permanent fix. With the commissions' detailed recommendations in mind, I will work diligently to ensure a system that equitably compensates soldiers with service-connected disabilities, while reducing the red tape that so often compromises the ability for veterans to receive care.

As a representative to the United States Congress for nearly six years now, I have worked tirelessly to represent the interests of the active duty and retired military who call the 13th District home. On this Veterans Day, let us remember our family, friends and neighbors who have proudly worn the uniform. We are forever grateful for their service and we will continue to work persistently to ensure our nation's veterans will want for nothing.

TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SERGEANT
ANGEL BARCENAS, U.S. MARINE
CORPS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, the poem below was written by poet and Capitol guide Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Angel Barcenas from Paramount, California. Gunnery Sgt. Barcenas admirably served our great nation on Marine One during the Clinton and Bush Administrations. In July 2006, he was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq and had both of his legs amputated below the knee. He started walking again 3 months after his attack, crediting the professionals at Walter Reed for his quick recovery. In May 2007, fighting all odds, he led a two-mile motivational run through lower Manhattan with the Marine Corps, and New York firefighters and police. Gunnery Sgt. Barcenas is an American hero whose unwavering sense of duty and dedication should be an example for all Americans. I proudly submit the following into the RECORD.

MARINE ONE

Marine One,
America's Son, . . . A Most Heroic One!
Who so bravely marched off to war, . . . to
do what had to be done!
Terminating Evil . . . as have all of our fine
heroes, long as time begun!

Lock and Load,
A True American Hero, Who So Lives By A
Code . . .
A Marine's, Marine . . . a presence, a force
upon the scene . . . who'll make hearts
explode . . .
So Very Bold!

From That Great Golden State,
As A Hero's Hero . . . our Lord God, would so
create!

Strength In Honor, In awe at what we saw
. . . as we so watch you rebuild, with
but your new gait!

I've got a life to live, for this Angel . . .
Heaven can wait!

Serving, Two Presidents . . .
Aboard Marine One, as has been your most
honored residence . . .

Bringing home a Hero, who gave his fine legs
. . . as you too would live that same
page . . .

And still your courage weights, and has been
getting greater by the day!

Building, from where none lies left . . .
Rising up from the ashes, for no one will
take your dreams . . . for you are,
America's Best!

As into a future, this our world . . . as an
Earth Angel, you shall bless . . .

On the ready, my fine son . . . you never
rest!

As An Angel, here on earth . . . until, on the
scene as an Angel in The Angel of Our
Lord you burst!

Teaching us all, about your fine character
and courage first . . . and of a human
being's true fine worth!

Our True Fine Sum, Thy Kingdom Will Come
. . . Someday, when you leave this
earth.

Someday, you shall shine . . . in our Lord's
Sun!

Until then! Standing Guard, Standing
Strong, Standing Hard . . . for That's
Who You Are!

That's What You Do . . . So Tried And True
. . . As Angel, Your Heart Takes Your
Far!

Walking like Travolta, no walks like you!
Running fast and far . . . A Force, A
Shining Star

On the road of life, where it all begins and
ends . . .

Is the Greatest of all forces, which so burns
bright until times end . . . is but, The
Heart Which sends . . .

As Angel, yours so emanates . . . from deep
down within, your soul is one of great-
ness . . . my fine friend!

For you are my Son, A Marine's Marine . . .
You Are . . . Marine One!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY-ELLEN
MCMULLEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary-Ellen McMullen who has been bestowed the honor of Nevada Alumni Association Alumna of the Year from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mrs. McMullen has a history as a longtime Nevadan, moving to Reno at the age of 13 with her family. She was immediately exposed to the University of Nevada as her father began his tenure as the dean of the College of Education.

Mary-Ellen was a student in the College of Education majoring in English with a minor in

Journalism. Mrs. McMullen became a model student of student life and involved herself in many activities in order to improve the campus. During her time at UNR, she was active in Student Government and was elected to the Student Senate and then the Activities Board. She met her husband, Sam McMullen during her time on the Senate and Activities Board, while he was serving as Student Body Vice President. Upon graduation the young couple decided to head to our nation's capitol, where Mary-Ellen worked for Senator Howard Cannon and Senator Alan Bible. She worked with the Senators while attending George Washington University to earn a Master's Degree in Women's Studies.

Mary-Ellen was ecstatic to return to the University of Nevada, Reno upon her graduation from Georgetown, to teach alongside Dr. Ann Howard. She has served the university in many diverse facets including acting Assistant Dean of Students, Special School Recruitment Coordinator, and Director of Annual Giving for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and Publications/Public Relations Coordinator for the Nevada System of Higher Education. As a volunteer for the university, her activities have included the Alumni Council, where she held the position of first vice president, as well as chairperson of several committees. Today, she continues to serve in her second six-year term as a Trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Mary-Ellen McMullen and acknowledge her award as the Nevada Alumni Association Alumna of the Year. Her self-dedication to the university and commitment in bringing quality education to the people of Nevada should be applauded by all. I would like to congratulate her for her award and look forward in seeing her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN OAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Oas, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Ben has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 26 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Quartermaster. Ben is also a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Ben constructed a permanent cabinet to be used for storing valuables for the Community Clothes Closet in Warrensburg, MO. Ben has also earned the Ad Altare Dei special award.

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

HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS PATTON AND RAMIREZ RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, being a police officer means dedicating your life to defending and protecting the local community. Great deeds are regularly performed by these brave individuals, who mean the difference between the law and lawlessness. Despite this fact, our lawmen and women rarely ask for any commendation in return for their valor. At the annual Greenspoint-North Houston Chamber of Commerce Law Enforcement Awards, however, some of only the many police officers were applauded.

Recipients of the Distinguished Service award, Officers Genarrow Patton, and Rogelio Ramirez represent the true compassion of those who choose to "protect and serve". Perhaps the most significant evidence towards these lawmen's empathy is not found in highly publicized "old western" circumstances, but in situations where, without hesitation, an innocent life is saved.

When confronted at the Greenspoint Storefront by a frantic couple with an unconscious baby, on the night of February 12, 2007, the officers coordinated response is an example of true heroism. A real life nightmare for the distressed parents; their baby's complexion was purple resulting from its inability to breathe.

Without hesitation, Officer Ramirez immediately began administering CPR to the tiny innocent infant, while Officer Patton called for an ambulance. Because of these selfless individuals, the baby soon began breathing again. Although actions performed in the Greenspoint store front may not have involved detective work, stake outs, or the use of force, to this young child's parents Officers Ramirez and Patton represent true heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FAGAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Scott Fagan, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Scott has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Scott has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 24 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Quartermaster, Librarian, Patrol Leader, and Historian. Scott is also a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Scott renovated the back area of an office building at Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, MO that can be used for meetings and socials for the Elmwood Cemetery Society. Scott has also earned the Mile Swim special award.

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

2007: DEADLIEST YEAR FOR U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 852 men and women of the Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives in Iraq this year. Tragically, this brings the total number of American troops killed in Iraq to 3,855.

The sobering news that 2007 has been the deadliest for U.S. soldiers in Iraq so far is another reminder of the grave human costs of the President's misguided war strategy. The President's promises that his surge would reduce violence ring hollow, despite the increase in number of troops and the hard work of our men and women on the ground who are fighting in the midst of a civil war. Every month in 2007 has seen more U.S. casualties than the same month in 2006. And with two months left before the New Year, U.S. casualties may far exceed previous years.

This grim milestone shared the headlines with another important headline this morning: According to an ABC News poll, fifty-nine percent of Americans do not think the United States is making significant progress restoring civil order in Iraq. A record six in ten want the level of U.S. forces in Iraq reduced.

Congress must listen to the American people, who want the war in Iraq brought to an end. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote against any additional funding for this war until it is tied to a firm date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

As we continue to debate the best way out of the war in Iraq, I hope that we remember the sacrifices Americans have made in blood and treasure. We must not let this war, and the tragic loss of life, continue.

TRIBUTE TO MLADEN KOJIC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mladen Kojic, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mladen has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Mladen has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 34 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide and Quartermaster. Mladen is also a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Mladen poured a concrete slab sidewalk and landing area in

front of the Methodist church's new elevator entrance in North Kansas City, MO. Mladen has also earned several special awards, including the 50 Mile Award and World Conservation Badge.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 5, 2007, I was unable to return to Washington in time to vote because of unexpected flight delays at Chicago O'Hare

International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 1034, dealing with closing portions of the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Department appropriations conference, "yea" on rollcall No. 1035, dealing with the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, and "yea" on rollcall No. 1036, dealing with recognizing and honoring the contributions of Native American veterans.

SIMPLIFY VEHICLE DONATIONS
FOR CHARITIES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation intended to simplify the charitable giving rules for automobile donations, H.R. 4090.

As you know, in 2004, Congress enacted legislation that imposed new reporting requirements on individuals and charities for automobile donations. This legislation has had the unintended consequence of reducing the number of automobiles donated to charities in my district. The corresponding loss in revenue and reduction in services offered by these charities has hurt the San Diego region.

To correct this situation, my bill will exempt certain charities from the reporting requirements of the 2004 law. My bill is targeted only to those charities that operate "in-house" vehicle donation programs and that retain at least 80 percent of the proceeds from their vehicle donation programs.

I invite my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation to simplify the vehicle donation process for charitable organizations across the United States.