Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the work of Mollie and Jackie Singer and their family to raise awareness of diabetes and to work toward a cure, and I wish them continued success in their efforts.

CONGRATULATING KAZAKHSTAN ON ITS ELECTION AS CHAIR OF OSCE

HON. EDOLOPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I welcome the unanimous decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to elect Kazakhstan its Chair-in-Office for 2010, reached on November 30, 2007 in Madrid.

This is undoubtedly a monumental event not only in the history of modern Kazakhstan, but also of the OSCE of which the United States is a member. For the first time, a country which in recent past was part of the Soviet Empire will lead this international institution. This vividly shows that Kazakhstan has managed to make a breakthrough from its communist past to a democratic future in a short time. This is also testimony to the evolutionary development of the OSCE itself. The Madrid decision, helps the OSCE strengthen its unity and become an organization of equal partners who sincerely believe in and are committed to ideals of democracy and freedom. This is a stellar moment for the people of Kazakhstan, and a recognition of the long-standing efforts of their leader, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, on building a truly democratic and free society. President Nazarbayev has managed to achieve things leaders of many other countries can only dream of. To pull the country from the chaos of Soviet era and lead it towards the ranks of economically strong and democratically developed nations of the world in a little more than a decade takes incredible efforts, strategic vision and endless care for one’s people.

Today, Kazakhstan is a recognized leader in Central Asia, and I believe that, as Chair-in-Office, Kazakhstan will not only strengthen its leadership in that key region but will also help strengthen the OSCE’s authority internationally, as well as improve mutual understanding and cooperation between East and West.

Madam Speaker, next week the people of Kazakhstan will celebrate the 16th anniversary of their independence and mark the establishment of Kazakhstan-U.S. diplomatic relations. We are proud that in these 16 years our relations have developed into a true strategic partnership. Kazakhstan has always been true to its commitments and has never wavered in its support for our nation.

I join my colleagues in congratulating our strategic ally and friend with its Chairmanship of OSCE in 2010 and with the 16th anniversary of independence. I strongly believe the opportunities Kazakhstan and our strategic partnership have to offer have not been fully explored and I wish the wise people of Kazakhstan and their leader Nursultan Nazarbayev happiness, well-being, and further prosperity.

CONGRATULATING THE L.D. BELL HIGH SCHOOL BLUE RAIDER MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the L.D. Bell High School Blue Raider Marching Band of Hurst, Texas, on being named the 2007 Bands of America Grand National Champion on November 17, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The L.D. Bell Blue Raider Marching Band has participated in the Bands of America Grand Nationals five times since 2001, placing 4th, 5th, 3rd, 2nd, and now 1st. They also received the highest achievement awards in the areas of Outstanding Music Performance and Outstanding General Effect. In the semi-finals round, the band received the highest score given in Bands of America history: an astounding 97.8.

The Band is capably led by Director of Bands Jeremy Earnhart, Assistant Director of Bands Jolette Wine, and Associate Band Directors Nick Thomas and Brandon Holt.

I sincerely commend the L.D. Bell High School Blue Raider Marching Band, their directors, and Drum Majors, for winning 1st place at the University Interscholastic League Bands of America Grand Nationals. Their hard work, dedication, desire to excel, and success in promoting and performing music deserves the highest recognition and congratulations. I’m very proud to represent these students and teachers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONING MRS. HELENA SNYDER ON THE CELEBRATION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helena Snyder, an outstanding resident of Riverside, Illinois, for over fifty years, Helena celebrated 100 years on November 7th of this year.

Born in Pekin, Illinois, to Sicilian parents, Helena grew up dreaming of a career in Chicago. After graduating high school, Helena left Pekin to pursue her dream and was hired by the offices of the U.S. District Attorney in Chicago. She remained employed there until 1939, when she married her husband Bernard Snyder.

Shortly after their first child was born, World War II began and Bernard enlisted in the Navy. Helena and their son Brad moved to California with him until he was sent overseas. Upon Bernard’s return, Helena became a full-time homemaker and spent much of her valuable time volunteering for a number of different groups in her community. Notably, Helena has held many offices as a member of the Riverside Women’s Club and served as president of the organization for two years.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Helena Snyder, an exceptional woman and pillar in the community, on the celebration of her 100th birthday. I am honored to have such an outstanding individual in my district and wish Helena and her family a joyous celebration.

TRIBUTE TO EFRAIN GUERRERO, AKA: “HAPPY”

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American patriot, a South Texan whose pleasure is derived from making other people happy: Efrain Guerrero, also known as “Happy.”

If you ever have the pleasure of talking to Happy, you will laugh too loud, and walk away wiping tears of laughter. If laughing is indeed good for our health, Happy is an extraordinary doctor.

Like every great American comedian, Happy delves deeply into the human condition—our habits, our reactions, our relationships, and all the things that make us laugh about ourselves, our families, and our lives.

Happy has a tremendous connection to people, using humor—and his exceptional personal charm—to inspire them and motivate them. He is an international award-winning entertainer and public speaker throughout Texas and the United States. As a motivational consultant, Happy has made countless presentations to schools, health organizations, and parent groups.

His humor is disarming. Happy recently brought down the room as a headliner at Harrah’s Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas Nevada. He has written and co-produced comedy