CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks December 5, 2007

ECONOMIC GROWTH
CULTIVATING THE AMPLIFICATIONS OF SPECIAL OLYMPIC JESSICA CROOK OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONELLY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. DONELLY. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to rise before you today to offer a word of congratulations to Special Olympian Jessica Crook of Logansport, Indiana, for her accomplishments at this year’s World Games in Shanghai, China and for being selected as a member of the 2007–2009 class of Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers. Not only is Jessica the first Global Messenger to be selected from the State of Indiana, but she is an accomplished athlete as well. She became involved with the Special Olympics in 1999, with the Cass County Aquatics program. In June 2005, Jessica won a Gold Medal in the Summer Games, and followed up with two more in 2006. Also in 2006, Jessica won top honors in three events at the National Games. This year, Jessica was one of seven Hoosiers representing Team USA at the World Games in Shanghai, China. She competed in three events at the World Games, held in November, placing 6th in the 50-meter Freestyle, winning a Silver Medal as part of the 4x50-meter Medley Relay team, and winning a Gold Medal in the 50-meter Butterfly.

As an International Global Messenger, Jessica will serve for two years as a voice of the Special Olympics. Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers (IGM) are a group of twelve Special Olympians from around the world that speak on behalf of the Special Olympics, appearing in various national and international media outlets. The new class, consisting of athletes from across the globe, is committed to the vision and benefits gained from participation in athletics. Jessica is the first Special Olympian athlete from Indiana to receive this distinguished appointment, and she is eager to relay the powerful declarations of hope, acceptance, dignity and courage of Special Olympics Athletes around the world.

Again, it is my honor to join with the constituents of Indiana’s Second Congressional District and around the country in congratulating Jessica Crook of Logansport, Indiana, for her accomplishments at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games and for being selected as a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger.

CONGRATULATING RILEY BELL

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Bell, of Trinity Christian Academy, on qualifying for induction into the Spring 2007 National Honor Roll. Riley resides in The Colony, TX and is in her third year of high school at Trinity Christian. The National Honor Roll offers several benefits that can contribute to the success of its student members. The National Honor Roll chooses students based upon their academic performance. Each student that qualifies for induction must have a B average or better, and show ambition in areas such as grade point average, interests, activities, and future goals.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Riley Bell for her remarkable dedication to education and exemplary learning. Her commitment to her studies, her school, and her future should serve as an inspiration to all. I am honored to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH SIMONE

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Elizabeth Simone of Gladstone, Missouri. Elizabeth will be celebrating her 76th birthday on November 22nd and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards.

Elizabeth raised three children and has eight grandchildren, including my legislative attorney Dominic Lackey. Elizabeth is a talented pianist and now spends her days retired after serving as an accomplished secretary for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Elizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably out of town on October 23, 2007, when a vote was taken on H.R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted against this misguided and dangerous piece of legislation. This legislation focuses the weight of the U.S. government inward toward its own citizens under the guise of protecting us against “violent radicalization.”

I would like to note that this legislation was brought to the floor for a vote under suspension of regular order. These so-called “suspension” bills are meant to be non-controversial, thereby negating the need for the more complete and open debate allowed under regular order. It is difficult for me to believe that none of my colleagues in Congress view H.R. 1955, with its troubling civil liberties implications, as “non-controversial.”

There are many causes for concern in H.R. 1955. The legislation specifically singles out the Internet for “facilitating violent radicalization, ideologically related violence, and the homegrown terrorism process” in the United States. Such language may well be the first step toward U.S. government regulation of CD’s, and has been dubbed: a “Texas legend in entertainment.”

Happy is one of the top twenty-five Latino comedians in the United States. Happy’s performances have delighted thousands of diverse audiences who attend his comedy concerts, conventions, and private events throughout the United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Happy is a member of the Texas Magician’s Association and uses a level of magic in his shows and presentations, for which he has also won numerous awards.

He has written and produced five comedy CD’s: Happy Live Disconnected, El Pachuco Dude, Dalé Gas, Happy Live! Chisquilito . . . and his most recent CD, Barely Reality. Happy also released two comedy DVD’s, Happy Live! I and Happy Live! II.

On screen, Happy was featured in Harvest of Redemption (April 2005), an independent film about the journey of an angry young man in the Rio Grande Valley, circa 1920. Happy was the original host and co-producer of the comedy show Que Locoo on Galavision’s network.

Happy’s recent comedy show, La Migra Gone Wild! is a Tejano comedian’s hysterical perspective of the chaos immigration is causing on both sides of the border . . . his latest installment of illustrating and illuminating through humor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending my friend, Efrain Guerrero “Happy,” for his intense and hysterical comedy that gives us all a hard look at ourselves and the world around us.

RECOGNIZING LAWSON CARDINALS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Lawson Cardinals high school football team on defeating Blair Oaks, by a score of 38–17, to win the Class 2 State Championship.

The Cardinals finished their incredible season by posting an unblemished record of 14–0 this season while scoring 501 points and only allowing 145 points. In the Championship game, the defense forced seven turnovers, resulting in 24 points from turnovers, third most in Show-Me Bowl history.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team, including Head Coach Todd Dunn and the work of his assistance coaches. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Craig Barker, Principal Don Edwards and Assistant Principal Clint Ross, and Athletic Director Scott Harrold, as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of Lawson Cardinal High School football team on their perfect season and state championship. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.