PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legisla-
tive day of Tuesday, December 4, 2007, I was un-
avoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rocall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rolcall 1123—"nay"; rolcall 1124—"yes"; rolcall 1125—"yes"; rolcall 1126—"yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF FLINT ODYSSEY HOUSE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to
recognize the achievements of Flint Odys-
sey House. On December 6th Flint Odyssey
House will be holding an open house to cele-
brate the 35th anniversary of the Odyssey Insti-
tute.

Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber began her ca-
reer in substance abuse treatment in 1966
working with 17 heroin addicts. She quickly
alized that for successful rehabilitation, the
root causes of addiction had to be addressed.
She developed a model of treatment that tuck-
ed the traumatic experiences in an addict’s
life and its impact on a person’s well-being
and self-image. The treatment methodology
consists of five stages: Orientation, Cocoon
Phase, Incubator Phase, Self-Awareness
and Reformation Phase, and Butterfly Post-Treat-
ment. From her treatment model, the Odyssey
Institute was born and now operates in commu-
unities around the world.

Started in 1979 by Ronald Sahara Brown, Flint Odyssey House was a satellite program of the Detroit Rubicon Odyssey House. When the Detroit program was forced to close its doors, Ronald Brown kept the Flint Odyssey House open. He had $300 in food stamps and the determination to make the program a suc-
cess. As a former addict and a graduate of the
program, Ronald knew firsthand how benefi-
cial the Odyssey House concept of treatment
could be to a recovering substance abuser.
He invited clients of the closed Detroit Rubi-
con Odyssey House to join him in the Flint
program. With a skeleton crew, he operated the
program on a shoestring. His persever-
ance paid off, and the Michigan Department of
Social Services and the Genesee County
Commission on Substance Abuse started to
provide financial assistance. From that first
adult treatment center, the program has grown
to provide a wide range of services.

Ronald Brown has expanded Flint Odyssey
House to meet the needs of the community.
The treatment facility was located in a drug-
and crime-infested neighborhood, and Ronald
took to the streets, reclaiming and renovating
the crack houses in the area. Starting the
Treat the Streets Program, Flint Odyssey
House reclaimed the area and earned Ronald
Sahara Brown the title of Chief of Odyssey Vil-
lage. Flint Odyssey House has moved from
being a substance abuse treatment agency to
a human development agency and is a model
for programs throughout the United States.
It operates many programs, and treats hundreds
of persons, including pregnant addicts and
mothers with children. Accredited through the
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation
Facilities, Flint Odyssey House has expanded
and now operates a program in Saginaw
Michigan.

In 1993, Flint Odyssey House received the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Michi-
gan Department of Public Health and the
Clayton R. Stroup Award. In 1996 Ronald Sa-
hara Brown was the recipient of the Robert
Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership
Award. Ronald used the $100,000 stipend that
came with this award to purchase and operate
an old-age home in the neighborhood that was
about to close. This kept the residents from
being evicted and provided one more service
to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Rep-
resentatives to rise with and applaud the work
of Ronald Sahara Brown, the staff, volunteers
and the clients of Flint Odyssey House. Their
courage and determination to bring out the po-
tential in every human being is a brilliant ex-
ample of the power in each and every one of
us to effect change in our world. May they
continue to provide service and compassion
for many, many more years.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SANFORD
HELLER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is
with great pleasure that I congratulate my con-
istituent, Mr. Sanford Heller of Rockville, Mary-
land, as he prepares to celebrate his 100th
birthday. Mr. Heller was born on December 27,
1907 in The Bronx, New York and lived in
New York City until he has 95. He owned his
own home, mortgage free, for more than 50
years.

Mr. Heller has dedicated his life to public
service and took part in events that shaped
our nation. During the 1930s, he processed the
arrival of new immigrants at Ellis Island.
He served in the U.S. Navy during World War
II. After his military service, he held positions
in Federal, State, and city government.

To this day, Mr. Heller keeps himself busy.
He reads the New York Times cover to cover,
has traveled to over 35 countries, and can still
fit into the same tuxedo he bought during the
Great Depression. He is in excellent health,
takes no medication, and walks every day.

Mr. Heller, a mandolin player, also enjoys
entertaining for friends, family, and fellow resi-
dents of the Ring House, where he now re-
ides. He was married to Ethel Heller for over
64 years until her death at age 92 in 2005. He
has two children, five grandchildren, and ten
great grandchildren. I join with Mr. Heller’s
family and friends in wishing him a most joy-
ous birthday. He has my warmest congratula-
tions and best wishes.

RECOGNIZING NANCY CHANDLER
AS AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE
FOR CHILDREN

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, It has been said
that “child abuse casts a shadow the length of
a lifetime.” Nancy Chandler has dedicated her
life to changing this. For over 25 years, Nancy
has advocated for children and improved their
futures.

After receiving her Masters in Social Work
from the University of Georgia, Nancy was the
foundating Executive Director of the Memphis
Child Advocacy Center. This Center helps
“victims become children again.”

Since April 1994, Nancy Chandler has
served as the Executive Director of the Na-
tional Children’s Alliance (NCA), a not-for-prof-
it membership organization that represents
more than 700 Children’s Advocacy Centers.
For 13 years, Nancy has led and managed
NCA’s finances, and developed resources,
training, programs, communications, and
membership services. Nancy also led and in-
spired a staff of dedicated advocates. As Ex-
ecutive Director of NCA, Nancy educated and
motivated advocates at over 400 conferences
and workshops across the United States.

Throughout her remarkable career in chil-
dren’s advocacy, Nancy was a member of
Leadership Memphis and a founding board
member of the National Network of Children’s
Advocacy Centers. She also served on the
National Advisory Committee for Darkness to
Light, a primary prevention program aimed at
reducing the incidence and consequence of
child sexual abuse, and as Senior Warden of
The Church of the Epiphany in Washington,
DC. Nancy has proven herself as an experi-
cenced leader and a compassionate advocate
for children.

And that’s just the way it is.