

She served with distinction as the mayor of Zion and as an immigrant from Greece, she was an inspiring example of the American Dream.

Madam Speaker, Senator Geo-Karis has served her district, State, and country with exemplary dedication and commitment. Her 34 years of outstanding public service ensure that her legacy will be remembered.

HONORING WARWICK TOWNSHIP
ON ITS 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 275th anniversary of Warwick Township, Pennsylvania. Warwick has a long and notable history, serving as the location for several crucial events in the birth of our Nation.

Warwick Township was formed by petition on February 13, 1733. Located in central Bucks County, the township served as an important fixture in colonial life in the 18th century. York Road, one of the major roads running throughout the township, served as the major connection between New York and Philadelphia. During the American Revolution, York Road was used as a passage for the American Army during northern campaigns.

Warwick Township was also home to General Washington's headquarters. The township welcomed Marquis de Lafayette and Count Pulaski to join the American Army, where they later became critical to the American victory over the British. The nearby Neshaminy Church was transformed into both a hospital and a location for court-martials throughout the American Revolution.

Today, Warwick Township continues its historic tradition of hospitality and community. The township offers its residents and visitors a variety of public parks, sports fields, pavilions, playgrounds and ponds. Community Park proves the township's residents with a children's summer day camp program, as well as public Sunday evening concerts throughout July and August. Warwick Township also features a public golf course, the Neshaminy Valley Golf Club.

Warwick Township serves both as an outstanding reminder of our Nation's history, as well as an exceptional example of a modern American town. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Warwick Township and grateful for the opportunity to recognize their momentous 275th anniversary.

IN CELEBRATION OF SHEILA
MURPHY CRAWFORD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Sheila Murphy Crawford. Thirty years ago, Sheila Murphy Crawford founded the Murphy Irish Arts center, which she established as a non-profit to support Irish cultural activities. She began in

1978 with 35 students. Under her guidance as director of the center, she currently has more than 200 students, ranging in age from 5 to 30.

In 2006, Crawford's spectacular choreography took third place at the 2006 World Championships of Irish Dancing in Belfast. Her dancers have earned very high rankings in many other national and international competitions. Among many of her other honors, she earned the highly desirable position of adjudicator of the world governing organization for Irish Dance, An coimistun le Rinici Gaeltica.

As a teenager, Crawford maintained the Irish Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park. She later went on to become the director of the organization that oversees the verdant spot in 1995. For the past 8 years, she has also served as vice president of the Cultural Garden Federation of Cleveland. Currently, Crawford is heading a project to refurbish the Irish Garden.

Crawford's outstanding commitment to sharing Ireland's rich cultural traditions and values goes far beyond Irish dancing. She has been a five time president of a religious and cultural organization that raises funds for charity, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1993, she was named Hibernian of the Year.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sheila Murphy Crawford's significant contributions to preserving and sharing Irish culture with the community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. IMOGENE
COTTER

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the oldest registered Republican residing in Phillips County, Montana, Mrs. Imogene Cotter. On February 10, Mrs. Cotter celebrated her 100th birthday. Arriving in Montana on an immigrant train from Missouri when she was a young child, Imogene homesteaded with her family and her husband William until the ranch sold in 1970. Whether it was serving as an election clerk for Phillips County for over 30 years, working as a State officer for several different years in the Cattle Women's organization "Cow Belles", or being heavily involved in her husband's career as a county commissioner and school board president, Imogene's contributions to the Republican Party, Phillips County, and the State of Montana are endless.

Reaching this significant milestone is something that should not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Please accept my wishes for a very happy birthday—and my sincere congratulations for the good life you are living.

It is the compassion, dedication, courage, and commitment of people such as you that is truly the Spirit of America. Your experiences of the past 100 years qualify you to educate and pass your wisdom on to those of younger generations. I hope you will tell your stories—and I hope they will listen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to inclement winter weather, I missed recorded votes on February 6, 2008, and February 7, 2008.

Had I been present on those days, I would have voted in support of H. Res. 867, H. Res. 942, H. Res. 943, H. Res. 956, H. Con. Res. 283, and H.R. 4848.

IN CELEBRATION OF REGINA
BRETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Regina Brett. Regina Brett reaches over half a million readers a week as a thrice-weekly metro columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which she joined in 2000 after 7 years as a reporter and columnist for the Akron Beacon Journal. Brett also hosts a weekly radio program on Cleveland's National Public Radio Station, WCPN, 90.3 FM. With the capacity to reach out to so many people through her column and radio show, she has been able to highlight issues and generate debate concerning topics that are of great importance to the Greater Cleveland community.

Regina Brett earned her B.A. from Kent State University and her M.A. from John Carroll University. She later went on to serve as president of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Among many of her honors and awards, in 1999, she was the recipient of the yearly awarded Batten Medal; established in memory of the late CEO and chairman of the Knight Ridder newspaper chain, which recognizes one journalist nationwide whose writing displays "compassion, fairness, courage, and a deep concern for the underdog."

Through her body of work, she has continued, fearlessly and relentlessly, to illuminate the challenges, victories, people and communities that make up and affect the Greater Cleveland area.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Regina Brett's outstanding contributions to journalism and to the Greater Cleveland Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on January 22, 2008, I failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 19 and 20 because my flight was unexpectedly delayed. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 19 and "aye" on rollcall No. 20.

Madam Speaker, on December 13, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1156. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on December 5, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1130. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on November 14, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1103. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 31, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1023. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 983–985. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 983; "aye" on rollcall No. 984; and "aye" on rollcall No. 985.

Madam Speaker, on June 13, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 465. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 133. Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 93–94. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 93; and "aye" on rollcall No. 94.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on Thursday, February 7, 2008, attending a funeral in Las Vegas. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

On rollcall vote #42, H.R. 5140, the Economic Stimulus bill. "yea."

On rollcall vote #41. H. Res. 947, Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election, "yea."

On rollcall vote #40, H.R. 4137 the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, "yea."

On rollcall vote #39, H.R. 4137 On Motion to Recommit, "yea."

On rollcall vote #38, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Davis of Illinois Amendment, "nay."

On rollcall vote #37, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #5, "yea."

On rollcall vote #36, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #4, "yea."

On rollcall vote #35, H.R. 4848 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended P To extend for one year parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits, and for other purposes, "yea."

On rollcall vote #34, H. Con. Res. 283 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended P Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya, "yea."

On rollcall vote #33, H. Res. 956 On Agreeing to the Resolution P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

On rollcall vote #32. H. Res. 956 On Ordering the Previous Question P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

H.R. 5264 EXTENDS SUCCESSFUL PREFERENCE PROGRAMS WITH ANDEAN, CARIBBEAN, AND GSP NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a few words on H.R. 5264, a bill that I introduced to provide a long-term extension of three trade preference programs scheduled to expire this year. This bill would extend until September 30, 2010 the Andean trade preferences (ATPA) that are due to expire on February 29, preferences for the Caribbean Basin (CBI) countries—which expire on September 30—and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which expires on December 31. H.R. 5264 also addresses a number of problems with the textile provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the competitive need limitation (CNL) waiver provisions of GSP.

These preference programs have been a centerpiece of U.S. efforts to spread the benefits of globalization to the world's poor and developing countries. They have created tens of thousands of jobs—jobs that are likely to be lost to countries like China if the programs are not renewed—and have created critical economic opportunities for workers and businesses in the United States. These programs have also fostered key U.S. foreign policy goals, including U.S. counternarcotic efforts, and empowered the agents of democracy and reform abroad.

Extension beyond 2010 would have been ideal to provide the necessary predictability and stability for the Andean, Caribbean, and GSP programs. However, I have included the shorter extension in this bill to accommodate the range of opinions on the issue of renewal. In the coming days, I will work with my colleagues to harness the strong bipartisan support that I believe exists to extend and improve these critical trade preference programs.

Finally, a 2-year renewal of these programs at this time should send a clear signal to negotiators in the World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations that the U.S. commitment to trade and development remains unwavering and substantial. This element of the Round is fundamental, even as the United States presses for key goals in agriculture, far reaching commitments on tariff and non-tariff barriers with respect to manufactured goods, services and strong outcomes in other areas, including the so-called Rules negotiations.

IN HONOR OF DAN COLEGROVE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cleveland police Sergeant Dan Colegrove for more than 28 years of exemplary service in the Cleveland Police Department.

Dan served in a number of capacities during his time with the police. He began his career on October 29, 1979, in the fourth district, and

then spent time on the Strike Force and the Detective Bureau from 1984 to 1989. He was then assigned to the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit until 1999, when he moved to the Fugitive Unit. In June 2000, he was promoted to sergeant and served his remaining time with a stint in the fifth district and the Detective Bureau until his retirement on December 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dan Colegrove for his dedication to his community of West Cleveland.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act's programs.

I thank Chairman MILLER, Representative MCKEON and their staff for their hard work on this reauthorization bill. I am very pleased that the Education and Labor Committee voted unanimously to favorably refer this bill to the full House for consideration. It is a testament to the fact that bipartisan work, though difficult, pays off with a better final product. This bill makes substantive changes that help future college students and our Nation's economy.

Several provisions that I authored were included in the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. For example, the bill includes provisions of the Higher Education Sustainability Act, a bill that I introduced with Rep. BLUMENAUER to establish a competitive grant program to encourage colleges and universities to develop, implement and evaluate their sustainability practices and academic programs. I appreciate the efforts of Representatives INSLEE and BLUMENAUER to improve upon the bill's provisions by requiring that the Secretary of Education consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency when awarding sustainability grants. This provision was included in the Manager's Amendment.

In addition, the bill includes the Robert C. Byrd American Competitiveness program, which has provisions that Representatives WOLF, HOLT and I developed in the 109th Congress. For example, it awards scholarships to students who are enrolled in studies in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering. Also, through the Math and Science Incentive program, the Secretary may waive the interest on Federal student loans for students pursuing STEM teaching or professional careers. In conference, I certainly hope Senator BYRD is amenable to making these important updates to the Byrd Scholarship program.

Finally, the bill includes my Independent Study of Distance Education Act, which requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of distance education, as compared to traditional, campus-based education.