

positions, later rising to president of Quadrex Corp., an engineering firm.

In 1994 he was recruited to become chief executive of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Over the next seven years he raised the profile of the Sacramento chamber, leading it to take a prominent role in local issues, such as the effort to save McClellan Air Force Base, and starting a public policy seminar that attracted world figures, including Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher.

When he arrived in Los Angeles in 2001, Hammer worked in a similar fashion, finding ways to make the Los Angeles chamber more relevant to members. He reached out to other local business groups, small companies and entrepreneurs and organized events that offered a regional perspective, such as a 2002 conference on transportation that drew 500 participants from business and government.

In 2003 he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and spent 303 days in a hospital undergoing intensive treatment. While battling his illness, he helped organize a Silicon Valley branch of the Wellness Community, a support group for cancer patients.

He also wrote a book, "When Cancer Calls . . . Say Yes to Life," which he published on his own last year. The book discusses how his battle against cancer forced major adjustments in his life and changed his values.

He told the San Jose Mercury News last year that he was inspired to write the book by his children, twins Gerald and Jennifer, who told him he could not die until he had taught them everything he could about how to approach life. He is also survived by his wife, Pamela.

#### NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1834. I want to commend my colleagues from the Committee on Science and Technology, Chairman BART GORDON, and the Ranking Republican Member, Congressman RALPH HALL, for their leadership in bringing this important bill to enhance our understanding of the marine environment to the House floor.

When I became Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans at the beginning of the 110th Congress, one of my top priorities was to take action on legislation to address the thoughtful recommendations offered by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to improve our Nation's ocean environment. This legislation, H.R. 1834, would implement a key recommendation of the Commission by authorizing two important ocean research programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program.

This legislation, which refines the bill that was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on August 4, 2007, would further strengthen NOAA's standing as the pre-eminent civilian federal ocean agency by granting the agency explicit authority to conduct scientific research that directly contributes to increasing scientific knowledge of the world's oceans.

The legislation would address the glaring national need identified by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to develop and advance new innovations in oceanographic research, communication and navigation technologies to support ocean exploration and science, and expand extramural ocean research.

Additionally, this legislation would emphasize the importance of outreach and public education to ensure that future scientific discoveries and benefits are disseminated to decision-makers in both the public and private sectors and conveyed to the general public. This will increase both public awareness and appreciation of how the world's oceans affect our economic and environmental well-being.

Again, I commend my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for their cooperation. The support of the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Chairman NICK RAHALL, and the ranking Republican member, Congressman DON YOUNG, was also indispensable. Finally, I also acknowledge the leadership of Congressman JIM SAXTON, the sponsor of the bill. I encourage members to vote for this non-controversial legislation.

#### CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian Community Action for celebrating its 35th anniversary. Christian Community Action, an organization devoted to helping those in need, has made a tremendous impact on area citizens during its tenure in the north Texas community.

Founded on February 22, 1973, Christian Community Action began by serving local congregations. The group soon began distributing fliers in needy areas offering assistance to those local families who needed it most. CCA provided gifts of food, clothing, housewares, and repair work, but soon realized that for the group to have the effect they wanted, they needed to find a way to expand their reach and obtain financial resources.

It was this decision that caused the organization to connect with area families on a much more personal level. CCA caseworkers learned all about each family's income, budgeting, and spending habits, which presented them with both the information they needed to provide assistance and the coveted opportunity to bond with those they served.

Beginning in 1975, Christian Community Action began focusing on larger scale initiatives, such as resale shops. Now the CCA has evolved from a small bible study group to a thriving organization serving Lewisville and the surrounding area with three CCA resale stores, an adult health center, food services, and education and vocational training.

I would also like to commend Christian Community Action on the importance of the role they play in helping meet the health assistance needs in Denton County, where there is no county hospital to assist. As an OB/GYN

in Denton County for almost 30 years, I'm acutely aware of the needs of the mothers and young children and I especially thank Christian Community Action for their mission in meeting these health needs.

It was also through my work with Christian Community Action that the idea for a program within the Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase awareness for second-hand retailers regarding recalled products was initiated. This project was successfully adopted in the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act, and I commend CCA for their dedication to improving awareness about dangerous recalled products for similar organizations all across the United States.

With more than 2,500 volunteers, CCA touches the lives of approximately 12,000 people every year. However, they are far more than a charity group. To the 1,500 patients treated in the health center each year; to the parents of the children provided with lunches, school supplies, Christmas presents, and clothes; to the 1,660 people who have been given educational and vocational training; to these people, Christian Community Action offers hope. The building blocks provided by the CCA create a foundation for those in our community to create better lives for themselves.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Christian Community Action on their anniversary. Thirty-five years of service is a milestone to be celebrated.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT, JR., SENIOR PASTOR OF THE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (TUCC) OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., who delivered his final sermon on Sunday, February 10, 2008, as the Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago, IL.

Dr. Wright was born on September 22, 1941, in Philadelphia, PA to the union of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Sr. and Dr. Mary Henderson Wright. His parents were his earliest influences, instilling in him the possibility of balancing the intellectual with the spiritual. Upon completion of his elementary and secondary education in Philadelphia, Dr. Wright matriculated at Virginia Union University. After 3½ years at Virginia Union, Dr. Wright left school and entered the U.S. Marine Corps. He transferred from the USMC into the U.S. Navy where he served as a cardiopulmonary technician.

After 6 years with distinction in the military, Dr. Wright transferred to Howard University where he completed his undergraduate studies and received his first master's degree. His second master's degree was from the University of Chicago Divinity School and he furthered his academic pursuits with a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary. In addition to Dr. Wright's four earned degrees, he has been the recipient of eight honorary doctorates. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including three presidential commendations.