

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. SCOTT STOREY

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Scott Storey, District Attorney for the First Judicial District of Colorado, including Jefferson and Gilpin counties, for his recent distinction as Elected Official of the Year by the West Chamber. A native son of Colorado, Mr. Storey's recognition is just a small display of appreciation for his commitment towards upholding justice and integrity in the legal realm.

Mr. Storey is a veteran prosecutor who has spent the last 20 years in public service.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. Storey for his dedicated work and promise for Coloradans.

HONORING JOHN PETE MICHAEL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of John P. "Pete" Michael of Kansas City, Missouri. Pete has been awarded the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious recognition requires more than four thousand hours of volunteer service over a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, Pete Michael has worked tirelessly on behalf of the children of the great state of Missouri for nearly all 74 years of his life. Pete has served as a police officer and Squadron Commander of the Civil Air Patrol. As a pilot, he has devoted countless hours to flying sick children to Shriners Hospitals to receive emergency care.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Pete Michael's selfless acts of generosity through volunteerism and his example which inspires all walks of life throughout our great Nation to help one another.

MS. GRACE DO DISTINGUISHED FINALIST PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Grace Do, who has been selected as a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The Prudential program was created in 1995 to emphasize the impor-

ance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities.

A junior at Corona del Sol High School, Grace leads two tutoring programs in her community that help immigrants learn English. Grace, who used to struggle with English because she spoke Mandarin Chinese at home, is now co-director of the Chinese Immigrant Tutoring Center at her church, where she has volunteered for five years. In addition, she co-founded a similar tutoring program at a local library three years ago.

Grace should be proud of her accomplishments. Again, I congratulate Grace on her award and thank her for a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA SUNRISE

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise upon the occasion of its seventieth anniversary. The Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise is a group whose members are active contributors to the community, both locally and nationally.

Over the past seventy years, the Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise has exemplified the Rotary motto: "Service Above Self." The club's nonprofit foundation has raised several hundred thousand dollars to benefit the community.

For over a decade, the Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise has "adopted" Field Elementary School in Pasadena and has donated to the school's library and landscaping. Annually, the club also recognizes outstanding Field Elementary School students. Minigrants are awarded annually to Pasadena Unified School District school teachers to meet needs that are not funded by the district.

Internationally, the club has done much volunteer service in Mexico, including building houses for the homeless, donating a fire truck and emergency vans to small towns, and sending medical supplies to villages. The club also provides funding for overseas projects in nations such as Uganda, Nigeria, and Liberia. In addition, the club is sponsoring a project in India, where a child care center and a computer/vocational center will be created in the village of Chahalka, India.

For their extraordinary commitment to making both the local and the international community a better place, I ask all members of Congress to join me in congratulating the members of the Rotary Club of Pasadena rise upon their seventieth anniversary.

HONORING THELMA TRAYLOR SEALE

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Thelma Traylor Seale of Oakland, California. A caring friend, mentor, mother, and grandmother, Thelma was an extraordinary presence in our community. Mrs. Seale passed on January 25, 2008.

She was the loving mother of Mr. Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, Ms. Bettye Seale-Williams, and Mr. John Henry Seale. With eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren, Thelma understood the value of family and the importance of togetherness. With Thelma's passing, we look to her family to remind us of her extraordinary life and her unwavering strength of character.

Mrs. Seale was 37 days shy of her 100th birthday at the time of her passing. The sheer breadth and substance of such a long life attests to Thelma's vitality and energy. She experienced first-hand the most important and dynamic moments in the struggles of African-Americans in our country throughout the last century. More than a witness, Thelma Traylor Seale was on the frontlines of history through the African-American community's resilient pursuit of equality and justice.

Mrs. Seale was born in Jasper, Texas on March 3, 1908. She was the fifteenth of sixteen children born to her family, and she lived to be the oldest. During World War II, Mrs. Seale was an employee of Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She arrived in Berkeley, California in 1943, where she resided in the Codornices Village housing projects. In the 1950's Mrs. Seale moved to Oakland, where she remained as an involved and dedicated member of the community for the remainder of her life.

In spite of the many challenges Mrs. Seale faced in her life, the injustices she witnessed, and the hardships she overcame, she was known first and foremost for her sweet and caring personality. Mrs. Seale's love for others and the joy she spread through laughter and good humor are what her family remembers most about her.

A survivor, a loving matriarch, and a pillar in our community, Thelma will be sorely missed. However, we are thankful for the opportunities she gave us to come together and celebrate the hope and love in our lives. As we say goodbye to her, we have been given yet another opportunity to reflect on the rich past of our community and the century Thelma lived to see.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, our beloved Thelma Traylor Seale. We extend our deepest condolences to Thelma's family and to her children. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with us. May her soul rest in peace.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GUAM  
TERRITORIAL BAND

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, for more than 30 years now, the Guam Territorial Band has served the community of Guam by providing music for official events and activities, and more importantly, by helping young musicians in my district to hone and refine their musical talent.

With fond memories of the Navy Band's Sunday concerts in our Plaza de Espana prior to World War II, Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, my late husband, established the Governor's Youth Band in 1976 to encourage young musicians to perform for the public outside the school setting. Interest and participation was immediate, and under the direction of Mr. Peter Leon Guerrero, the first Governor's Youth Band performed for the inauguration of Saipan's Governor Carlos S. Camacho. With funds raised entirely by community donations, the Governor's Youth Band traveled to Washington, DC and represented Guam in the parade for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter in January 1977. With that auspicious start, the band evolved to fulfill Governor Bordallo's expectations, with one exception: the musicians remained unpaid volunteers.

Governor Bordallo's successor, Governor Paul Calvo, changed the band's name to the Guam Youth Band. The name was later changed again to the Guam Territorial Band and membership was opened to all ages. Today, supported entirely by private donations, the Guam Territorial Band continues its service to the people of Guam by performing at village fiestas, graduations, military change of command ceremonies, our annual Veteran's Day and Memorial Day commemorations, and other various public and private ceremonies.

Although severe cold weather in 1985 forced the cancellation of President Ronald Reagan's inaugural parade and precluded the band's performance at another presidential inaugural, the Guam Territorial Band continues to share its talent beyond Guam's shores. The band performed at the Republic of Palau's 5th Constitutional Anniversary in 1997; in Australia and New Zealand in 1993 and 2005; in South Korea in 1995; in the United Kingdom in 1998; in Japan in 1999 and 2003; in Hawaii's 19th Pacific Basin Music Festival in 2004; for President Bill Clinton's historic visit to Guam in 1998 and for Philippines President Fidel Ramos in 2002; and most recently, at the New York's Carnegie Hall as part of the New York Band and Orchestra Festival on April 21, 2007. The Guam Territorial Band is also expected to perform at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The Guam Territorial Band is a recipient of the Australian International Music Festival's Gold Award (2005) and Bronze Award (1993). It is also the second place winner of the International Lions Parade (Marching Unit) Competition (1998).

These accolades over the years are the result of the devotion of the volunteer musicians and from inspired and enthusiastic leadership. The band's first official director, Mr. George Toal, also was a founding member of the

Guam Territorial Band Society, non-profit organization that supports the band. Mr. Toal's successors are Mr. Dave Poblete, Ms. Cheryl Bay, Mr. Charles Hardy, Mr. Brad McNeal, Dr. Milton Crotts, and Mr. Delfin Damian. The band's current director, Mr. Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., founded the Tumon Bay Music Festival in 2005. Organized with the help of Dr. Robert Halseth, professor of music at California State University, Sacramento, the festival has become the band's signature event and will be in its fourth year in March 2008.

We are proud of our territorial band and encourage its continued growth and success. We also commend Mr. Ronquillo, his predecessors, and all the members of the band, both past and present. Thank you all for the wonderful music you bring into our lives.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP MOSES

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Phillip Moses, a good friend and a great constituent of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio.

Phillip Moses is characterized by many as an "affable and altruistic man." Phillip Moses joined the staff of the Case Western Reserve University law school on October 4, 1971, as building superintendent when the law school was located on Adelbert Road in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then he has worked tirelessly providing support for over one hundred faculty and staff, over six hundred students, and to keep the facilities of the building running smoothly.

Phillip's calm demeanor and great sense of humor have become an invaluable presence at the law school as well as his ability to prepare the building for classes and special events. Phillip has also been described by some as, "The ultimate handyman". When Phillip is not working in the law school, he can be found working on carpentry and construction projects at his home.

In 2004, Phillip Moses was chosen as one of three recipients of the President's Award for Distinguished Service at Case Western Reserve University. This is the highest award that the University confers on its staff personnel. The award recognizes an individual's dedication to provide outstanding service to the Case Western Reserve University community.

Phillip Moses retired from his work on February 1, 2008. Phillip and his wife will enjoy retirement in their newly purchased home in the suburbs of Nashville, Tennessee.

On behalf of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my friend, Phillip Moses, for his service to Case Western Reserve University, and the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio.

MARKING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Peace Corps, one of the most important and worthy institutions our country has ever established. More than 190,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers since its inception in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, who inspired Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. I am proud that 34 of my constituents are currently serving as Volunteers in a number of countries around the world, and I wish them well in their worthwhile endeavors.

The Peace Corps brings out the best of the American character. It demonstrates to the rest of the world, where misconceptions of the United States are too often prevalent, that we are a caring people, interested in the well-being of mankind. The Volunteers live in the communities in which they serve by working as teachers and development experts, and they assist in post-conflict relief and reconstruction efforts and health care crises, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

With the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of many new states around the world, Peace Corps Volunteers are serving in more countries than ever before. Volunteers learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive extensive cross-cultural training that enables them to work effectively. In many remote places, they are often the only contact that villagers have with Americans. Our country owes the Peace Corps Volunteers, who often work under very difficult circumstances, a debt of gratitude for their service that has improved the image of our country overseas and improved the lives of millions of people around the globe.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH  
CHRISTOPHER GENTILE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joseph Christopher Gentile on his retirement from the Metropolitan Police Department. With devotion, professionalism, and expertise, from October 9, 1967, until October 21, 2007, Sergeant Gentile, or the "godfather" as his friends and colleagues call him, fulfilled the mission of the Metropolitan Police Department to safeguard the District of Columbia and protect its residents and visitors by providing the highest quality of police service with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to innovation that integrates people, technology, and progressive business systems.

Upon completion of recruit training, Sergeant Gentile was assigned to the First District as a patrol officer. In September of 1969, he was assigned to the Community Relations Division, Public Information Branch. In 1977, then-Public Information Officer Gentile, emerged as a national television presence

when a Hanafi Muslim group stormed three DC buildings. This act resulted in the killing of a radio reporter, and a security guard and then-DC Councilman, Marion Barry, were both shot and wounded. This was the first of many local, national, and international incidents that would thrust Public Information Officer Gentile into the limelight. These incidents include, but are not limited to, the 1982 shooting of President Ronald Reagan, the 1994 fatal shootings of a Metropolitan Police Department, MPD, sergeant and two FBI agents inside police headquarters, and hundreds of homicides during the 1990s when the District of Columbia was the Nation's murder capital.

Public Information Officer Gentile was promoted to the rank of sergeant on November 15, 1982, and remained assigned as the Public Information Officer because of his invaluable knowledge and years of experience. Sergeant Gentile proudly served as the MPD spokesman for 34 years, during the tenure of eleven chiefs of police. He also participated in ten Presidential inaugurations and served during the 1968 riots, the 1972 May Day demonstrations, the 1982 Air Florida crash and subsequent fatal Metrorail crash, the 1991 Mount Pleasant Riots, and the 2000 IMF demonstrations.

In December of 2006, then-Chief Charles H. Ramsey awarded Sergeant Gentile with a medal and dedicated the public information office in his name. In October of 2007, Chief Cathy L. Lanier presented Sergeant Gentile with a Distinguished Service Award for 40 years of dedicated and loyal service.

A tireless performer and distinguished law enforcement professional, Sergeant Gentile deserves the admiration of all who come into contact with him. Thank you, Sergeant Gentile, for your exceptional service to the Metropolitan Police Department, the Congress, the District of Columbia, and the American people, and congratulations on achieving this important milestone.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to a misunderstanding on the floor I missed one vote in a series of votes on Thursday, February 14, 2008. As a co-sponsor of the bill, I would have voted "yes" for the following vote: H. Res. 963—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and for other purposes.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ABE AND DONNA LEE GOLDSTEIN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Abe and Donna Lee Goldstein for their contributions to the Cub Scout program. Growing up in Wilmington, DE, Abe belonged to the Civil Air Patrol. He attended the University of Delaware

and earned a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's degree in geophysics. After marrying Donna Lee, the two moved to Maryland to raise their new family.

When their oldest son Greg joined the Cub Scouts as a Tiger, the Goldsteins became active members in Maryland's Pack 880. Donna Lee served as the Pack's Den Leader and Song Mistress, while Abe took on the responsibility of being the Committee Chair. Even after their oldest son, Greg, had bridged out from the Cub Scouts and 3 years before their youngest son, Max, could become a Tiger in the Pack, Abe and Donna Lee continued their involvement, opening their personal workshop for the scouts' Pinewood Derby clinics and assisting with the building of the new race track. For his years of consistent dedication to the program, Abe was recently named Cub Master of Pack 880.

The Cub Scout program gives adults the opportunity to have a positive influence on children's lives. People like the Goldsteins have helped sustain the Cub Scout program throughout its history, encouraging more families to become involved. By donating their time, resources, and talent to this worthwhile program, the Goldsteins have enriched the lives of countless children in the Cockeysville community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Abe and Donna Lee Goldstein. Their commitment and dedication to the scouting program through the years is truly commendable. The impact of the Goldsteins' contributions will affect the youth of their community for years to come. It is with great pride that I congratulate Abe and Donna Lee Goldstein on their exemplary involvement in the Cub Scout program.

#### H.R. 1528: NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT

### HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, we heard a lot of debate recently that focused on the threat of passing the New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act. The other side of the aisle attacked the bill with the proclamation that private property owners would have their land seized by the Federal government. This clearly wasn't the case. As stated before, the bill only allowed the National Park Service to purchase land from willing sellers. But in the spirit of that debate, I'd like to take a moment and discuss eminent domain.

I know that myself, the constituents of the Second District of Kansas, nearly every American has the same feelings towards eminent domain. No one wants a federal official knocking on their door asking for their keys and telling them to "pack up and move." Our founding fathers created this country to throw off such tyrannical uses of power by the Government, and we must continue that legacy today.

State, local and Federal Government has a duty to its citizens to preserve their right to private property and use eminent domain only in the rarest of circumstances when it is absolutely necessary. Those occasions should be few and far in between. And in every cir-

cumstance, the Government must look at all options and alternatives to seizing someone's home, business and livelihood. We must ensure proper compensation to private property owners, and not force our citizens into untenable situations.

What was truly upsetting about our debate was the other side of the aisle throwing out this term, getting the American people in an uproar, with no factual basis that eminent domain would be used. It would seem that the Minority's only goal is to further divide this country and make the passage of legislation impossible. We have seen this time and time again. The Minority would rather sit in their corner making baseless attacks against good legislation when they should be fulfilling their constitutional role as Representatives, as leaders, and work with my colleagues to do what is best for the country.

I was pleased to see both sides coming together to quickly pass an important economic stimulus package, but more cooperation is needed for children's health insurance, the Farm Bill and this year's upcoming appropriation process. I hope in this new session we see more of what we saw during the passage of the economic stimulus bill, and not a return to the same old politics that plagued our Chamber last year.

#### MS. KAITLYN MULHOLLAN TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF ARIZONA PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kaitlyn Mulhollan, who has been selected to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award as Arizona's Top Youth Volunteer. The Prudential Spirit of Community Award, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism, was created in 1995 to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities.

A senior at Corona del Sol High School, Kaitlyn has helped build 10 houses for needy families over the past five years as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, and now serves as a team leader for the local Habitat chapter. After working on her first house when she was only 13 years old, Kaitlyn has shown up early every Saturday morning when projects are under way. As a team leader, Kaitlyn has the responsibility of guiding and assisting many small groups of volunteers on the construction site. In addition, Kaitlyn has worked tirelessly to educate others about Habitat for Humanity's mission, even recruiting friends and classmates to join the effort. She has also persuaded her employer, California Pizza Kitchen, to provide meals for construction volunteers.

As a state honoree, Kaitlyn will join youth from across the country here in Washington DC in May. Kaitlyn should be proud of her accomplishments. Again, I congratulate Kaitlyn on her award and thank her for a job well done.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my friend and colleague TOM LANTOS. Chairman LANTOS' passing is a devastating loss both for the United States Congress and for the Nation.

Chairman LANTOS was a man of unwavering principle and commitment who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people here at home and around the world. He combined an intense knowledge of the world with an equally intense passion for the rights and security of individuals. TOM LANTOS' elegance and eloquence were examples to all of us of how to conduct ourselves as Members of Congress. In my years serving in House, I often looked to him as an example of how to treat our colleagues with courtesy. His respect for this institution was profound.

As the only Holocaust survivor ever to have served in Congress, he had an unflinching commitment to the promotion of human rights. Having survived one of the darkest chapters in the history of the world, he became a champion for oppressed people everywhere, in every corner of the globe. And as a fellow Jewish Member of Congress, I have been proud to work with Chairman LANTOS to defend Israel's right to exist and to join him in his lifelong fight against anti-Semitism.

One of my fondest memories of TOM was working with him to help Congregation Hakafa in Glencoe, Illinois transport their Torah to its original home in the Czech Republic in 2005. The citizens of Lostice, the small town that was the home of the Torah, gathered to celebrate the Torah's return when it was placed in the Ark for the first time since the late 1930s. It was a beautiful moment that connected Jews and non-Jews across continents and it would not have been possible without Chairman LANTOS' devoted work.

Chairman LANTOS was a proud public servant who selflessly served his constituents in California's 12th District for over 30 years, and I know his loss will be felt deeply in his district, in California, and throughout the world.

I would like to offer my deep condolences to TOM's wife of 58 years, Annette; to his two daughters, Annette and Katrina; and to his 18 grandchildren and his great-grandchildren, who were by his bedside when he passed. The Lantos family, I know, was to TOM his greatest accomplishment. While I know no words can take away the pain of his loss, I hope that the tributes that are pouring in from around the world provide some consolation in this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE EARL MCNEELY

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of George Earl McNeely of McGehee, Arkansas, who passed away February 8, 2008, at the age of 80.

I will forever remember George McNeely as a good friend, a devoted family man and someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in his community. As a natural born leader, he was an inspiration to all who knew him. After attending high school in McGehee and Tillar, he continued his education at the University of Arkansas. Mr. McNeely then honorably served his country in the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

After the war, George McNeely returned home to southeast Arkansas to pursue his true passion of agriculture. As one of the original founders of catfish farming in Arkansas, he was a true business pioneer and his contributions to aquaculture helped revolutionize the industry. In his spare time, he dearly loved the outdoors and the opportunity to share all of the recreational opportunities it offered with his friends and family. In addition to catfish farming, he devoted his time and energy to numerous other passions that included land clearing, demolition and ag-aviation.

Along with his tremendous leadership in the field of agriculture, George McNeely was active in numerous other worthwhile endeavors throughout his community. He was a long-standing member of the Freemasonry and the Shriner's of North America. Perhaps none of his work or involvement as a Shriner was more important than all the time he contributed helping disabled and burned children at the Shriner's Hospital for Children.

George McNeely will always be known for his outstanding service to our country and his community. Above all, he will sorely be missed as a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Mary Ann McNeely; his sons, David Earl McNeely of McGehee, Arkansas and James Allen McNeely of Magnolia, Arkansas; and to his numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. George McNeely will be greatly missed in McGehee, Desha County, and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

HONORING THE LOWER SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 77TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Southampton Fire Department on the occasion of its 77th anniversary. The Lower Southampton Fire Department has a long and commendable history of public service.

Since receiving its charter on July 31, 1931, the Lower Southampton Fire Department has supported and protected the residents of our

community dutifully and honorably. When called upon, the firefighters of the Lower Southampton Fire Department have not been daunted by even the most dangerous of challenges. Their daily efforts to ensure the safety of the people of Lower Southampton are inspiring, and that is why I am proud to recognize them on this important anniversary.

Just recently, several of these firefighters once again displayed the courage and heroism that has been so characteristic of their department. While preparing for an Advanced Swift Water Class, the firefighters observed a man, alone and without a lifejacket, who had flipped his kayak and appeared to be in distress. Despite the rapid speed and low temperature of the water, the firefighters acted quickly, with little concern for their own safety, and performed a successful rescue.

The courageous members of the Lower Southampton Fire Department who were involved in this rescue included: Acting Chief Steven Krippel, Assistant Chief Stephen Brookes, Dive Team and Swift Water Manager Lt. James W. McGuire III, Lt. Christopher Hawraney, Firefighter/Rescue Diver Marc Kaman, Firefighter/Swift Water Operator Nick Owarzani, and Firefighter/Swift Water Operator Adam Noel. In addition, Firefighter/Swift Water Operator William Martin, of the Southampton Fire Company, participated in the rescue. Were it not for the efforts of each of these brave men, the victim would likely not have survived.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Lower Southampton Fire Department and all of its members for their consistently outstanding service and their heroic acts in the face of danger. These fine public servants are worthy of our commendation, and I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF KHOJALY

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, while there has been considerable congressional attention to tragic events which took place in Somalia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, Darfur, and elsewhere, very little light has shined on what happened in 1992, less than 20 years ago in the Caucasus.

Everything changed for the small, little known Azerbaijani town of Khojaly between February 25–26, 1992. Sixteen years later, for the people of Azerbaijan and the region, the word "Khojaly" stirs up memories of pain and sorrow.

In the middle of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Armenian troops supported by a Russian infantry regiment razed Khojaly, brutally murdering 613 people, annihilating families, disabling some 1,000 civilians, capturing 1,275 persons and leaving 150 people unaccounted for.

This year, as in previous years, those residents of Khojaly, who survived the massacre, are appealing to hold Armenia responsible for this crime. "We appeal to the international community with pain and hope," says a statement by survivors of Khojaly.

Many human rights groups and media outlets at the time sought to draw attention to the events and solicit international condemnation.

Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict." The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable.

Memorial, a Russian human rights group, reported that "scores of the corpses bore traces of profanation. Doctors on a hospital train in Agdam noted no less than four corpses that had been scalped and one that had been beheaded . . . and one case of live scalping."

According to the British newspaper *The Independent* (February 29, 1992), "Elif Kaban, a Reuters correspondent in Aghdam, reported that after a massacre, Azeris were burying scores of people who died when Armenians overran the town of Khojaly, the second-biggest Azeri settlement in the area. 'The world is turning its back on what's happening here. We are dying and you are just watching,' one mourner shouted at a group of journalists."

Nearly one month later, *TIME* magazine (March 16, 1992) wrote "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown."

On November 29, 1993, *Newsweek* quoted a senior U.S. Government official describing the aftermath of Armenia's occupation, "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their way. It's vandalism."

Even in far-away Australia, *The Age* (March 6, 1992) wrote "The exact number of victims is still unclear, but there can be little doubt that Azeri civilians were massacred by the Armenian Army in the snowy mountains of Nagorno Karabakh last week."

Every year religious leaders of Azerbaijan's Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities issue appeals on the eve of the commemoration of the massacre of Khojaly. They urge the international community to condemn the February 26, 1992 bloodshed, facilitate liberation of the occupied territories and repatriation of the displaced communities.

Despite the efforts by many, regrettably, the international community's response has not been adequate. That is why I urge Congress to join all Azerbaijanis in commemorating the tragedy. The world should know about and remember Khojaly.

RECOGNIZING JAMES DRUMMOND  
OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who served with honor and distinction in World War II. Following his enlistment in the Army in 1940, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was honored with the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal and the Air Medal for his actions in battle. Serving in both the Army and

the Navy until 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond is truly one of America's heroes.

At the end of 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond entered the U.S. Navy, took basic training and was sent to Treasure Island, California. From there he went to Okinawa and Japan where he loaded a Marine expeditionary force of 1,800 Marines and left for China. Their mission was to evacuate Americans and Allied Nationals to areas where they could be transported to Guam and Hong Kong.

In 1949, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond re-joined the U.S. Army and took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion of basic training he was awarded the grade of Corporal and assigned to the 41st Field Artillery. He and his fellow troops then received orders for assignment as part of the first American Division to arrive in support of South Korea.

During his service in Korea, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was wounded three times by the enemy. Following his third injury, he returned to the U.S. and joined the U.S. Army Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During the rest of his long and distinguished career, Lieutenant Colonel Drummond took command of Headquarters Battery 18th Airborne Corps Artillery, was assigned to the intelligence school staff in Ft. Holabird, Maryland, served as director of the Advanced Intelligence Department U.S. Army Intelligence Staff Officers Course, and had assignments with the Directorate of Staff Intelligence in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U.S. Army, at the Pentagon.

In September 1972 James was medically retired with a total of 27 years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. He is currently rated as 100% combat-related disabled and upon discharge moved to Federal, North Carolina. During his retirement Lieutenant Colonel Drummond was a charter member of the Lafayette Kiwanis Club and was elected president in 1978.

Lieutenant Colonel Drummond and his wife of 51 years currently live in the Villages in Lady Lake. They have one daughter, Brenda Gail, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Madam Speaker, veterans like James Drummond should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Drummond with his long overdue Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal and all the other medals he earned over his many years of service. All Floridians should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING THE LAKE HIGHLANDS  
EXCHANGE CLUB AND LAKE  
HIGHLANDS MILITARY MOMS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms for their dedication in honoring the men and women in uniform who defend our Nation.

Recently, the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and the Lake Highlands Military Moms

joined together to ensure that our service men and women are receiving the local recognition they deserve for their heroic efforts. The members of the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms created posters, similar to the posters for athletes, cheerleaders, and band members in area high schools, featuring photographs of 54 military men and women from Lake Highlands' community in training or serving our Nation in uniform. With already 250 posters on display in Lake Highlands area schools, churches, libraries, and businesses, the Exchange Club is trying to fulfill the high demand by printing additional copies.

I would like to specifically recognize two individuals that had a key role in this project: Bill Duhman, for designing the posters, and Rhonda Russell, the Exchange Club's publicity director and founder of Lake Highlands Military Moms. In 2005, Ms. Russell began collecting the names of military mothers and formed the support group known as Military Moms. Today, Military Moms meets once a month to exchange stories, updates and photographs of their children overseas. Ms. Russell's son, Lee Russell, returned from service in Iraq in 2005 and is currently working in military intelligence.

America owes our service men and women a huge debt of gratitude. It is through their sacrifice and patriotism that we have the security, prosperity and freedom that we enjoy today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lake Highlands Exchange Club and Lake Highlands Military Moms for their continued efforts in honoring the brave Americans that have gone into harm's way so that we could enjoy the blessings of liberty and prosperity. As President Calvin Coolidge once said, "the nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten," and these groups are working hard to ensure that America's service men and women receive the honor and recognition they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

February 14, 2008, Rollcall vote 61, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 966, Honoring African-American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness—I would have voted "aye".

HONORING NATIONAL TRIO DAY

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National TRIO Day, which was on February 23, 2008, and in support of this

important program and the positive influence it has on young people in our country.

Higher education is an important component of success in today's economy, as well as a valuable end in itself. A college education opens doors to exciting new job fields, new experiences, and a deeper understanding of the world. Yet many lower-income Americans face a multitude of obstacles when they consider furthering their education. Parental income is one of the top predictors of whether or not a child will succeed in college, and if he or she is the first in the family to pursue a college education, the challenges can seem insurmountable.

This is why I am a strong supporter of the TRIO programs, which were created to support Congress's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. TRIO programs help students exceed societal expectations and predictions by providing tutoring in college preparatory classes and help in navigating through the sometimes daunting maze of required forms and tests known as the college admission process.

Congress enacted the National TRIO Day in 1986 in order to increase awareness and support for the programs, as well as to recognize the achievements of the TRIO programs and their important role in advancing equal opportunity in post-secondary education. Congress declared National TRIO Day "a day on which the nation is asked to turn its attention to the needs of disadvantaged youth and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the investment necessary if they are to become contributing citizens of this country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made."

National TRIO Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate this investment in the lives of young people and in the future of our nation. It is also a National Day of Service, and on February 23<sup>rd</sup> the TRIO programs in my State commemorated the day by doing a wide range of service projects throughout their communities.

As co-chair of the TRIO Caucus, it is my goal to make people aware of this important program and the profound impact that it is having on the lives of students in my home State of Idaho and elsewhere. National TRIO Day gives us a valuable opportunity to recognize that impact and commit ourselves to ensuring that these programs can continue to change the lives of students for years to come.

HONORING REVEREND G.L.  
JOHNSON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. G.L. Johnson upon his 80th birthday and his 45th anniversary with Peoples Church, as well as his retirement from the church. Reverend Johnson will be honored on Sunday, February 24, at Peoples Church in Fresno, California.

Reverend Johnson was born in 1928 in Houston, Texas. He attended Navarro Junior College in Corsicana, Texas and South-

western Assembly of God College in Waxahachie, Texas. He has ministered in many different capacities since 1946, moving from Texas to various cities around the United States.

His ministry began in 1946 when he served as a youth speaker, traveling around the United States speaking at various functions and prayer services. Shortly after marrying Jacqueline Cockerell in 1950, he settled in Corsicana and took a position as a full-time Pastor. In 1951, Reverend Johnson became ordained. His ministries took him back on the road in 1953, as he traveled throughout Texas as an evangelist. In 1957, Reverend Johnson moved his family to Kentucky for a year and then to Florida to serve as a Pastor. In 1961 Reverend Johnson took on a different role. He became the associate director of the Latin American Orphanage. In 1963, he joined People's Church as the senior pastor and has been there ever since.

In Reverend Johnson's time with Peoples Church, he has seen the church build a new facility and has seen different staff members come and go. More importantly, he has seen the rise of the church's attendance and influence. Today the Sunday morning services' attendance averages 4,000 worshippers. This service is also broadcast over the radio every Sunday morning. Along with his position with Peoples Church, he is also involved in a number of religious and civic boards and finds time to teach.

Reverend Johnson has served as the chairman on many religious boards, including: Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Development Committee, Fresno Christian Schools, International Board of Asian Outreach based in Hong Kong, Asian Outreach USA, and Northern California National Association of Evangelicals. Various other board memberships include: Assemblies of God Theological Seminary board of directors; Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California; Church Growth International in Seoul, Korea; Presbyterian International Missionary Advance in Seoul, Korea; Asian Center for Theological Studies; and more. Outside of the church, Reverend Johnson serves on the Board of Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Fresno Leadership Foundation, Police Activities League, Clergy Advisory Council for Clovis Unified School District, North Fresno Rotary Club, and The International Fellowship of Christian Schools. He still finds the time to teach as an adjunct professor at California Theological Seminary and Institute for Clergy Enrichment.

Reverend Johnson has given himself to the church and the community. He has been invited to attend and speak at conferences around the world. He has had numerous books and articles published and has received many professional honors and awards. Reverend Johnson has had a positive impact and success on the many projects he has been involved in.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Rev. G.L. Johnson upon his 80th birthday, his 45th anniversary and his retirement from Peoples Church. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Reverend Johnson many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. ELVIS HESTER

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of God who has dedicated the past 28 years of his life to a church in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District.

Only those who have never darkened the door of a church hold the mistaken impression that preachers work 1 day a week. The writing and delivery of the Sunday morning sermon comprises just a small portion of what a minister does in the service of God each week. In addition to a teacher, a great minister also serves as a CEO of a nonprofit and as a shepherd of the flock, who tends to the sick, the lost and those in need.

Dr. Elvis Hester has fulfilled all of these roles, and his leadership in the service of the Lord has blessed his flock at Eagle's Landing Church of God in McDonough.

As CEO of a big church, a minister often is as deeply involved in management and logistics as he is in pastoral care. Dr. Hester started his career working in logistics for the Federal Government. He went on to serve a stint as an adviser to the nation of Bahrain. There in the Middle East, he helped establish a Church of God populated with 100 Christian converts. A colleague established a sister church in Pakistan.

Upon Dr. Hester's return to the United States he went into the ministry full time, first working at a church in Franklin, GA. In 1980, he took the helm of the church that would become Eagle's Landing Church of God. Under Hester's leadership, the church experienced tremendous growth, with membership topping 1,000.

But Dr. Hester's church members don't focus on how he has affected membership numbers. They reflect on how he has touched their lives.

"The pastor has led our congregation by example for 28 years, serving us all through thick and thin," said church member Janice Ross. "My family remembers when a life- and-death crisis kept us up all night and the next day. After going through a horrible operation, we were blessed by the sound of the pastor in prayer. We are thankful that our pastor has stayed faithful to the Lord and the Word of God."

One of his staff members, youth minister Brian Coody, said: "Our Pastor is the type who is open for everyone to talk to, often going out of his way when you need counsel. He is very much filled with the spirit and he touches the lives of all those he meets. I have personally seen him moved to tears when a troubled soul was touched by Christ. Pastor Hester is a great man of God."

Dr. Hester's ministry has extended far beyond Henry County. He spread the Word in many countries throughout South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

"While they say there are no absolutes in life, I truly believe that the one absolute that does exist is that long after Pastor Hester and his wife, Rita, are gone, the things that were done and said by our once-in-a-lifetime pastors will be treasured and used by generations to come to spread goodwill and bring the light

of Christ into people's hearts and minds," said a friend in the mission field, Charles Lambert.

Madam Speaker, I join Dr. Hester's church members and friends in honoring his 28 years of service at Eagle's Landing Church of God and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SERENTO GARDENS ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG SERVICES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTH-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Serento Gardens Alcoholism and Drug Services in Hazleton, PA, for more than three decades of counseling and drug prevention work throughout the greater Hazleton area.

Edward Pane, president and chief executive officer of Serento Gardens, has always maintained that it is their mission to provide education, prevention, treatment, and support to all those affected by addiction.

The gravity of the substance abuse addiction problem was recently underscored when a study committee, chaired by Mr. Pane, discovered that 93 percent of addicts began their use before the age of 17. Sixty-three percent began before the age of 14. And, alarmingly, 80 percent of those in prison in the United States are there for drug-related offenses.

Serento Gardens is the sole provider of drug and alcohol counseling and prevention services to children, teens, and adults in the greater Hazleton area. In 2006, the agency's programs reached more than 22,000 individuals in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. In its 30-year history, the agency has directly benefited hundreds of thousands of individuals in northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2007, Serento Gardens was named the Pennsylvania Counseling Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Certification Board in Harrisburg. The PCB is the body which certifies all substance abuse counselors and educators in the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Serento Gardens for the invaluable work that is done to prevent people from succumbing to the ravages of addiction and to rescue those already addicted so they can return to a productive life. The work being accomplished by Serento Gardens has improved the quality of life for thousands of people and has earned it the respect of a grateful community.

HONORING MARINA E. ORTEGA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of Marina E. Ortega, a long time resident of Mount Vernon, who died on February 7, 2008. She

was born January 18, 1938 to Felix and Maria Ortega in Jamaica, West Indies, where she was raised. She trained as a nurse in England, graduating as a state certified midwife.

In 1968, she arrived in the United States and worked as head nurse in the medical/surgical unit at United Hospital. She also obtained her certificate as a nurse practitioner, HIV counselor, and New York State certified nurses aids trainer and examiner.

She retired in 1992 and worked as a volunteer at the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center until June 2006. During this period she established a volunteer services program and placed over 300 volunteers at the center; she set up and coordinated a Reach-Out and Read literacy program for children, which became a model program for the State; and served on all fundraising committees.

In 2006, Ms. Ortega organized and served as president of the Caribbean Cultural Caucus where she fought vigorously for an amnesty bill for the English-speaking Caribbean nations. In 2000, in part because of her work, I introduced legislation to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act in regard to Caribbean-born immigrants.

Ms. Ortega was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon. She is survived by a sister, Helen Graham; three brothers, Francisco Ortega, Sisto Ortega, and St. George Walker; two aunts, Josepha, Castera and Daisy Hernandez; a sister-in-law, Sylvia Webb; with Carol Morris and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Marina and I worked together many times in helping the Caribbean community. She was ardent and steadfast in helping people as a nurse, as a volunteer, and as someone who cared deeply for her community. It is with great sorrow that I and the entire community say farewell to her.

HONORING TONI BEATTY

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Rio Rancho, NM, is known as the City of Vision. It exists today because of the vision of countless citizens and public servants who are transforming a desert into a metropolis.

Toni Beatty had a particular kind of vision. While others imagined homes and businesses and roads, she imagined a community of readers and thinkers and dreamers.

When Toni moved to Rio Rancho in 1986, the town had just begun to grow into a city. She was hired to build a library system that would keep pace with the area's dramatic growth. As Rio Rancho has grown over the last two decades, Toni's libraries have grown with it. They have hosted art shows and horse fairs. They have exposed residents to ancient cultures and current events. And they have always reflected Toni's remarkable combination of intellectual curiosity and public spirit.

Now, Toni is leaving Rio Rancho to return to Mexico City. She leaves behind a community more developed in every way than the one she moved to 22 years ago. She also leaves behind a library system that would be the envy of any city. During her time in Rio Rancho, she recruited and trained a professional staff

that will remember her ability and kindness long after she has left. Rio Rancho will miss her, but we wish her well as she begins the next chapter in her impressive career.

HONORING CARTER G. WOODSON FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, during the early years of the 20th century, a small number of intellectuals began to question whether the United States was simply a transplant of English civilization. W.E.B. Dubois, Theodore Herzl, and Randolph Bourne believed that modern America should embrace the cultural differences that newcomers brought with them to America. Democracy, they believed, required tolerance of difference and could sustain those differences in harmony.

Among those intellectuals of the Progressive era, Carter G. Woodson did most to forge an intellectual movement to educate Americans about cultural diversity and democracy. For the sake of African Americans and all Americans, Woodson heralded the contributions of African Americans and the Black tradition. In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and by the time of his death in 1950, he had laid the foundation for a rethinking of American identity.

The multiculturalism of our times is built on the intellectual and institutional labors of Woodson and the association he established. He should be known not simply as the Father of Black History, but as a pioneer of multiculturalism as well. In honor of its founder, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History devotes the 2008 Annual Black History Theme to both the labors of Woodson and the origins of multiculturalism.

I ask the House to join me in carrying out the work of Carter G. Woodson and to celebrate his many contributions to Black History.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 979, RECOMMENDING THAT HARRIET MIERS AND JOSHUA BOLTEN BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, AND ADOPTION OF H. RES. 980, AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INITIATE OR INTERVENE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO ENFORCE CERTAIN SUBPOENAS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 982, a resolution recommending that the House find White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten and former White House Counsel Harriet Miers in contempt of Congress for refusing to comply with subpoenas properly issued by the Judiciary Committee.

Recommending the House cite someone for contempt of Congress is a significant step, one that I support under only the most necessary circumstance. Regrettably, it is a step that must be taken. Since assuming office in 2001, the Bush Administration has repeatedly thumbed its nose at Congress, ignored our constitutional mandate as a check upon the executive branch.

This resolution comes after the Judiciary Committee attempted for months to gain access to information requested by the committee. The Congress has a responsibility to investigate this matter and therefore, the White House' refusal to cooperate with the Congress leaves us no choice.

Testifying before the House Rules Committee yesterday, my colleague JOHN CONYERS said that he had written nine letters over more than 8 months trying to resolve this matter. But despite properly issued subpoenas, the White House had "determined that it has the unilateral authority to prevent Mr. Bolten from providing us with a single piece of paper and to prevent Ms. Miers from even showing up at a committee hearing." Madam Speaker, the President is wrong and we have a responsibility to the American people to correct him.

If the executive branch can disregard congressional subpoenas in this way, we no longer have a system of checks and balances. That is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is our responsibility to protect it. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues today in support of the resolution.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN FRANK  
LAVALLIE FOR SERVICE DURING  
WORLD WAR II

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who served with honor and distinction in World War II, and who was taken from us in battle much too soon. Following his induction into the Army in 1942, Steven LaVallie served outside the continental United States in the cause of freedom and liberty against the Axis powers. While he fought bravely for the better part of 2 years, Mr. LaVallie was sadly killed in action fighting the Germans in France on October 28, 1944.

Originally hailing from Montville, Connecticut, Mr. LaVallie eventually earned his GED certificate. In addition to his marriage to his wife Elsie and the birth of his son Steven J. LaVallie, Mr. LaVallie was an active member of the Masonic Fraternal Organization. I was very honored to present his son, Mr. Steven J. LaVallie of Wesley Chapel, Florida with his father's posthumous Purple Heart in a ceremony earlier this month.

While Mr. LaVallie did not make it home from the front lines of World War II, his contributions to world freedom and liberty will never be forgotten. He may have been taken from his family too soon, but his son and dearly departed widow Elsie LaVallie should know

that he gave his life so that others might be free.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Steven Frank LaVallie should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. LaVallie's son with his long overdue Purple Heart earned on the battlefields of France so many years ago. All Floridians should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

### HONORING CARMEL REILLY

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Carmel Reilly has been a member of the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians for 8 years and in that relatively brief time has been involved in so many activities involving AOH causes that she has been named its 2008 Hibernian of the Year.

Carmel is the daughter of Matt and Moira Reilly from Blauvelt where she grew up along with her three sisters. The family's Irish heritage was incorporated into everyday life and Irish step-dancing lessons resulted in Carmel being a participant in Rockland County's first ever Feis in 1974.

Carmel has participated in all things Irish: St. Patrick's Day parades, Irish festivals, and Feiseanna, to mention just a few events.

She joined the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 3 in 2001 and quickly joined the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 2003, she was part of the newly formed Halfway to St. Patrick's Day committee. As chairperson of the committee's highly successful Night at the Races, over \$20,000 was raised for the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade over the next 2 years.

As a Ladies AOH member, Carmel was always ready to volunteer. She has been the chair of more than a dozen Christmas and St. Patrick's Day dinners. She has contributed to the Rockland AOH/LAOH Feis for several years and was a co-chairperson, along with Michael O'Sullivan, of the Feis journal for 2 years.

In 2004, Carmel began raising funds for the Rockland Gaelic Athletic Association, originating the highly successful Pub Quiz, which is in its fifth season.

Carmel also has the Irish love of horses and in 2006 she invested in two racehorses—one of which, Tater Tutt, recently won his fifth race from his last six starts.

Carmel, a Dominican College alumna, is employed as the Treasury/Budget Manager for Common Ground, an organization that helps the homeless find housing.

Working with the Rockland AOH in assisting hurricane victims or sending a notice of a fundraiser to hundreds of supporters, Carmel tirelessly gives her time and energy. Her energy and devotion have earned her this honor, and I join in congratulating her for this recognition.

HONORING JAMES RYAN JOE  
TURNER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Ryan Joe Turner, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. James started his journey with the Boy Scouts as a tiger cub. Over the years James has been involved in scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges, and also completed the achievements for his Bronze Palm. For his Eagle Scout project, James installed handrails at McMurry United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention the strong family foundation James has supporting him. His proud parents Rochelle Fee and James Kelly Turner, as well as his grandfather Robert Axtell who was the most influential person in James' scouting life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Ryan Joe Turner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MS. MEGAN YEE DISTINGUISHED  
FINALIST PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT  
OF COMMUNITY AWARD

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Megan Yee, who has been selected as a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The Prudential program was created in 1995 to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities.

A senior at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, Megan organized a series of computer classes to teach members of the Phoenix area's Chinese-American community how to use word-processing programs, spreadsheets, e-mail, and the Internet. Megan worked hard to design the curriculum, recruit volunteers to teach the classes, prepare all of the lesson plans, and teach classes herself.

Megan should be proud of her accomplishments. Again, I congratulate Megan on her award and thank her for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING LOYOLA SACRED HEART SPEECH AND DEBATE

**HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the continued excellence of a speech and debate program in Montana that has won 25 state championships in a row. With this quarter-century milestone, the Loyola Sacred Heart High School speech and debate team is building on the longest streak of such state championships in United States history.

Speech and debate is an activity that fosters valuable skills such as public speaking, bolstering confidence and poise, and critical thinking while showing an awareness of current events. Students compete in two debate events—team debate and Lincoln-Douglas debate—and seven individual public speaking events—extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, original oratory, memorized public address, expository speaking, serious oral interpretation of literature, and humorous oral interpretation of literature. Team scores are accumulated by individual performances in each of these events, so just like this championship streak is made up of many teams, each team is made up of many talented students.

This year's championship team included five individual state champions. Dan Evans won the state in Extemporaneous Speaking for an unprecedented third time. Nick Corn, Will Blair, Emily Mihalic and Emilie Loran also took home individual gold for Loyola. They are joined by the remainder of the team, Mike Tarbert, Kevin Conley, Katie Neher, Mary Callahan-Baumstark, Matt Eddy, Myles Dauterive, Dillon Linhart, Dan Cloninger, Nick Mihalic, Lyle Pocha, Laura Snook, Tricia Karsky, Erik Kappelman, Mike Evans, Mariah Rys-Sikora, Brooke Sauro, Kyle Doyle, Justin Dart, Dylan Hyland, Alex Hughes, Ashley Wegener, Ali Hege, Erich Dieziger, Erik Dale, Rachel Lee, Erik Loran, Shawnae Stanton, Griffin Woodall, Alex Ward and Matt Dollar. The team is coached by Head Coach Matt Stergios and Assistant Coaches Sarah Jennings, Stephanie Mansanti, Chuck Hansberry and Theresa Stergios.

I am proud to recognize the achievements of this year's team, building on the shoulders of 24 championship teams before them.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE SYKORA AS CHAIRWOMAN OF THE NADA

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Annette Sykora of Slaton, Texas, on becoming chairwoman of the National Automobile Dealers Association. Annette comes from a family of auto dealers and is the dealer principal of Smith South Plains Ford/Mercury in Slaton, Texas, and South Plains Ford/Lincoln Mercury/Dodge/Jeep/Chrysler in Levelland, Texas.

From an early age, Annette knew her heart was in the automobile business. At age 19,

she told her father of her dream that one day she would run his dealership. By age 26, she was general manager, and by 29 she had a controlling share of the store.

In addition to running a successful business, Annette is also an active leader in her community. She is the chair of the finance committee of the First United Methodist Church of Slaton and serves as board member of the Slaton Chamber of Commerce.

As chairwoman of the NADA, Annette wants to strive to help connect domestic dealerships with valuable resources that are available through the NADA. Car dealerships in Texas alone bring in \$55 billion of revenue and employ more than 85,000 people. She also brings years of hard work and experience, as well as a message of hope for the future of domestic dealerships in America.

I, along with all the citizens of Slaton, am proud to celebrate Annette Sykora as the first woman to become chair of the NADA. I wish her continued success.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleague, the Honorable AL GREEN of Texas, in honoring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 99th anniversary. As we celebrate Black History Month, it is only appropriate that we do so by recognizing our Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, by Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling.

Since its inception, the NAACP has united students, laborers, professionals, scholars, officials, and others of all races to advance its vision of "a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination."

Historically, the NAACP is probably best known for its role and that of Thurgood Marshall in the seminal case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which the Supreme Court held in 1954 that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Yet we must not forget that the NAACP has been at the forefront of all efforts to secure equality and justice for every American throughout the 20th century and now into the 21st century.

The NAACP spoke out against lynching, challenged racially biased Supreme Court Justice nominees as early as 1930, and pursued nondiscrimination policies in the military, war-related industries, and the Federal Government during the world wars.

At the height of the civil rights era, the NAACP fought battles on the ground, in the courtroom, and in Congress, where it lobbied for passage of civil rights legislation, like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Since then and during our current session, the NAACP has lobbied for hate crimes legis-

lation and other legislation that protects minorities, not necessarily based on race, but based on discrimination.

Today, on the shoulders of distinguished members and leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, Merlie Evers-Williams, Benjamin Hooks, Julian Bond, Jesse Turner, Sr., Maxine Vasco Smith, and Kweisi Mfume, the NAACP continues to fight the good fight.

Most recently, the NAACP is promoting African American graduation and college readiness, protecting and advancing voting rights, and identifying solutions to the subprime mortgage foreclosure crisis. I have the privilege of working with the association to further these important efforts.

So, in recognizing the NAACP's past and present, I again salute the organization on its near centennial anniversary. I am confident the NAACP will remain an integral part of our Nation's efforts to protect and promote civil rights in the future and move society forward in a progressive manner on a wide array of issues.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 289.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the engineers, past, present, and future, of the United States of America. Engineers have shaped our history, from aiding the colonists to win our independence to designing our advanced, modern technologies. They impact our daily lives from the first ring of our alarm clocks in the morning to our late-night, online shopping.

In my home State of Nebraska, engineers aid agriculture with new and more effective agricultural chemicals and better equipment and technologies. Nebraska engineers help secure our Nation's energy independence by supporting the ethanol industry. Nebraska engineers ensure our roads, bridges, waterworks, and other infrastructure are well designed, functional, and safe.

Engineers are key to a prosperous and productive future for all Nebraskans and Americans. There are nearly 150 engineering companies in Nebraska's Third District. Every day I hear about the need to attract talented, educated young people to fill technical, engineering, and science positions in small communities and rural areas in the Third District. I have been, and continue to be, an enthusiastic supporter of the America COMPETES act which encourages American competitiveness in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. I am optimistic this initiative will help Nebraska's engineering businesses attract and maintain native talent in engineering.

RECOGNIZING MR. GREG PRESTEMON OF ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI, AS NON-PROFIT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Greg Prestemon, of St. Charles, Missouri, as the 2008 Non-Profit Executive of the Year at the 3rd Annual Honors Program organized by the Saint Charles Business Magazine.

Since Greg's arrival at the Economic Development Center, EDC, in 1993, St. Charles County's population has grown from 232,360 to nearly 350,000 today. In fact, St. Charles County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Missouri.

As president and chief executive officer of the Economic Development Center of St. Charles County, Greg has served 15 successful years at the helm of the Economic Development Center, which is also celebrating its 15-year anniversary of their small business incubator facility in St. Peters, Missouri.

Mr. Prestemon's nomination highlights the way that St. Charles County has grown and prospered, particularly through his work at the Economic Development Center and Partners for Progress.

During Greg's tenure, the accomplishments of the Economic Development Center include more than \$100 million of business financing, the creation and retention of nearly 5,300 jobs, more than 150 business graduates and 500 jobs from the EDC incubation program. These accomplishments do not even include the thousands who have attended EDC business training events, and Greg's involvement in countless special projects such as workforce housing, health care and education initiatives and the road tax campaign.

I thank Greg for his service to the community. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his nomination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on February 14, 2008, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 68. Had I voted I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE FUNDING WARNING RESPONSE ACT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Medicare Funding Warning Response Act of 2008 at the request of the

President pursuant to section 803(a) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 which requires me to do so.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services submitted this proposed legislation to the House of Representatives on February 15, 2008.

The Medicare Modernization Act established a process requiring the President to propose and Congress to consider a legislative response to a Medicare funding warning. A Medicare funding warning is triggered if the Medicare Board of Trustees makes a determination in 2 consecutive years that general revenue Medicare funding is expected to exceed 45 percent of Medicare outlays for the current fiscal year or any of the next 6 fiscal years.

The trustees issued a Medicare funding warning in April 2007. Under the statute, the President is required to submit a legislative proposal to Congress that will lower the ratio to the 45 percent level. The statute further requires the Majority and Minority Leader or their designees to introduce the legislation submitted by the President. Thus today, I am fulfilling my statutory obligation by introducing this legislation.

Let me stress that introducing a bill "by request" should not be interpreted to imply endorsement of the legislation as submitted. As I mentioned, this introduction by me is required, it is not discretionary. Furthermore, let me be clear: While some of the items in the proposal deserve consideration, the proposal includes provisions that I oppose. For example, I have consistently voted against medical malpractice proposals similar to the proposal included in this package.

I have strong reservations about the basic approach of the trigger. The trigger establishes an arbitrary limit on general revenues that does not provide a meaningful measure of Medicare's fiscal health and would take some legitimate options for strengthening Medicare financing off the table. The focus on general revenue spending inherently favors some options over others.

Ironically, this process was included in the Medicare prescription drug legislation enacted by the then-Republican Majority and signed by President Bush—legislation that increased the liabilities of the Medicare program by \$8.5 trillion. In fact, we would not have exceeded the 45 percent threshold but for the prescription drug benefit financed by general revenues.

In sharp contrast, the Democratic Majority in this House is committed to ensuring that the Medicare program continues to function effectively for beneficiaries, providers and taxpayers well into the future. Remember, the House enacted reforms to strengthen Medicare as part of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007. The CHAMP Act would have extended Medicare solvency by 2 years. The savings from reforming spending on Medicare Advantage plans in the CHAMP Act would have met the requirements of the trigger.

Let me say that it is imperative that we get serious about our long-term fiscal challenges. Analysts of diverse ideological perspectives and nonpartisan officials at the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and the Government Accountability Office, GAO, have all warned that current fiscal policy is unsustainable over the long term even under the most optimistic pro-

jections. Medicare and Medicaid will grow by nearly five times as a share of the economy by 2050 under current projections if the growth of health care costs does not slow. And these programs will absorb as much of our Nation's economy by the late 2040s as the entire Federal budget does today.

Turning a blind eye to our long-term challenges would not only be irresponsible, it would be dangerous to our Nation's continued success. Those of us who believe that the American people want their government to invest in national security, health care, education, infrastructure, scientific research and other priorities have a critical stake in addressing the budgetary pressures that will be created by the growth of entitlement spending.

Finding a politically viable, equitable and financially sound solution to our fiscal challenges and meeting our responsibility to future generations will require bipartisan discussions in which all options must be on the table. Unfortunately, the Medicare trigger is ill-suited to such a process. Further, I am very skeptical that we can deal with the issue of entitlements in a bipartisan manner in the current environment, especially since the current administration has made it clear that it is not willing to discuss all options.

I believe it is critical that we begin to lay the foundation for bipartisan action on this issue in the next Congress. I am encouraged that efforts to establish a bipartisan task force with a broad mandate to address our fiscal challenges have been initiated. I believe this issue will be one of the most important that the next Congress and the administration must address.

We must have an open, honest debate about the best way to strengthen our entitlement programs that millions of Americans count upon.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AEROSPACE ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, sports fans across the country likely know the University of Kansas for its winning tradition in men's basketball and recently for the success of its football team that won the 2008 Orange Bowl. While these are accomplishments Kansans are proud of, I want to draw attention today to the impressive talents and accomplishments in the University's aerospace engineering program.

Earlier this year, at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 46th Annual Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit, two University of Kansas students and one professor were honored for excellence in aircraft design, aeronautics research and instruction.

Nobuya Nishio, an aerospace engineering student, won first place in the international aircraft design competition for designing an eye-catching two-seat airplane with a 300-mile range capable of traveling 143 miles per hour. Nobuya is the eighteenth student from the University of Kansas to place first in this competition since 1968.

Another Kansas student, Roelof Vos received the Abe M. Zarem Award for Aeronautics Research. Roelof's groundbreaking

work on actuators will enhance the ability of airplanes to fly through turbulent air while maintaining smooth flight. In addition to the improvements this will bring to passenger comfort, planes will benefit from the new actuator technology by experiencing less airframe fatigue, which leads to less stressed aircraft, safer flight and ultimately lower cost air travel.

Both of these students were under the instruction and mentorship of Dr. Ron Barrett-Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering. Professor Barrett received the Abe M. Zarem Educator Award in recognition of his outstanding instruction. His research focuses on flight control using adaptive aerostructures that have been integrated in high speed, high precision flight control systems and are ideal for countermunitions. Professor Barrett's lab is the only academic facility in the country that specializes in these countermunitions that protect our Armed Forces by intercepting mortars and other weapons.

American economic competitiveness is strengthened as more students study and excel in the academic areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I join Kansans in congratulating Nobuya, Roelof and Professor Barrett for their outstanding creativity, insight and hard work. Jayhawks not only excel in athletics but fly high in the classroom, as well.

**TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH**

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this House lost one of its finest Members with the passing of Tom Lantos. He was a dear friend, who taught me a great deal about human rights and a life dedicated to service, and I will miss him. One of my favorite memories of our service together is the day I was arrested alongside Tom in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, DC, protesting the continuing genocide in Darfur.

I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the February 22, 2008 edition of the Boston Herald that urges everyone to emulate Tom's legacy of service and devotion to human rights. Written by Anthony Barsamian with the Armenian Assembly of America and Michael Ross, the son of a Holocaust survivor, it expresses what we all feel about Tom's commitment to ending man's inhumanity to man.

[From the Boston Herald, February 22, 2008]

**TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH**

(By Anthony Barsamian and Michael Ross)

Humanity lost one of its greatest voices this month. No one lived up to the promise of the words "never again" better than Rep. Tom Lantos. As the only Holocaust survivor to have served in Congress, he dedicated his career to working on behalf of others.

Those who survive genocide live with complexities that few can understand—post-traumatic stress, feelings of guilt for having survived, a victim of man's most diabolical incarnation, a witness to history—to name a few. On the one hand, a survivor must rectify his tragic past while on another, he must make sense of a stunted future. With great

strength and determination, survivors and their families move forward and rebuild their lives, for a second time.

To start a life anew is difficult enough. To do so as a U.S. congressman is nothing short of miraculous. Only in America—as Lantos would say.

For Holocaust survivors and their families, Lantos was a source of pride. For those who searched for a voice of justice, in him they found their greatest friend.

Tom Lantos spoke out against genocide in Darfur, at one point being arrested for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy along with four other Democratic lawmakers, including Bay State Reps. Jim McGovern and John Olver.

One of his final acts was a resolution that would recognize the slaughter of innocent Armenians for what it was—genocide. As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Lantos refused to be part of a campaign of denial and looked beyond the politics of convenience by passing the resolution.

During a PBS interview last October, Lantos said, "This is one of those events which has to be settled once and for all: 1.5 million utterly innocent Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered. And the Turkish government, until now, has intimidated the Congress of the United States from taking this measure. I think it's important, at a time when genocides are going on in Darfur and elsewhere, not to be an accomplice in sweeping an important genocide under the rug."

The resolution has yet to be acted upon by the entire House—something, no doubt, Lantos, would want.

Lantos understood what it meant to stand up for his fellow man, much in the same way someone helped him when he needed it. An otherwise ordinary bureaucrat, Raoul Wallenberg, chose to become an extraordinary person when, over the course of his diplomatic career, he found a way to save 100,000 Hungarian Jews. Lantos was among them.

As people who have inherited a legacy from our families, we have an obligation to recognize man's inhumanity to man regardless of whether it is convenient to do so. We have an obligation to properly recognize an injustice by its name, regardless of the political discomfort or cost. And, like Lantos, we have an obligation to live by the words "never again" and to remind the world when those ominous words are back in play.

In Tom Lantos' passing we lost the sentinel on humanity's gate. We owe it to those he protected to speak the truth, no matter the cost.

**A TRIBUTE TO ROB COGORNO**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, in 1993, I was privileged to be appointed to the Appropriations Committee. I brought to the assignment my ideas and priorities and a determination to use the power of the purse to change lives for the better.

To be effective I needed much more. I needed Rob Cogorno.

Rob joined our staff bringing with him years of experience working on issues that had my strongest interest. It was a blessed partnership from the first day.

Rob came with remarkable qualities. He knew the issues thoroughly. He was tireless. He knew the answer or how to find it.

But to focus only on Rob's mastery of the process would be an injustice. He is effective because he is compassionate and sincere as well as smart.

He cares about people. Low income heating assistance was not just a program, it was thousands of cold seniors. National Cancer Institute funding was not just about scientists and research grants, it was millions of people suffering from diseases that he believed could be helped. The Ryan White AIDS funding legislation was about millions of Americans and about people he knew personally who needed a cure and needed hope.

His commitment earned him the respect of his colleagues and members. He is a warm person. He takes the time to make you laugh, share a piece of gossip, lift your spirits. Over the years he has held important positions working for the Democratic House Leadership and most recently for the Majority Leader.

I am grateful to Rob for his leadership, passion, and partnership over the years. I wish you well. I treasure our friendship.

Buona Fortuna!

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2008, due to obligations in the district, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 43, on H. Res. 954—Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 44, on H. Res. 909—Commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah," and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 45, on H. Con. Res. 281—Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**IN CELEBRATION OF BLACKS WHO HAVE CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the RECORD an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Blacks Who Helped Change the Course of History and Improved the Quality of People's Lives Everywhere."

This editorial makes mention of many Blacks who have contributed to American history, with deeds that have benefited the lives of all Americans. Some of these pioneers have familiar names—other names are not as familiar, however, their contributions are important all the same. They include: Oscar

DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and White House advisor; A. Philip Randolph, the trade union leader; and Dr. Charles Drew, the pioneer of blood plasma. This editorial highlights the many accomplishments of Black Americans in religion, the arts, education, and science. It would take years to complete a list of all the accomplishments Blacks have made in America, which have transformed our own lives, as well as those of people around the world.

[From the New York Carib News, Feb. 19, 2008]

**BLACKS WHO HELPED TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY AND IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERYWHERE**

“Ask historians about Oliver Cromwell and they would quickly point to the man who became Lord Protector of England, Ireland and Scotland between 1653–58.

But there was another Oliver Cromwell, who was born in Burlington County in New Jersey, exactly a century after the gentleman who essentially was a dictator turned down the English crown.

While the American is often ignored by the chroniclers of the nation's past, the fact of the matter is that he made his presence felt when George Washington crossed the Delaware River on the Windy night of December 25, 1776 to attempt to capture the British garrison at Trenton. Actually, the Black man was among 2,400 hand picked troops who caught the unsuspecting mercenaries of the British unawares. It was a much needed victory that did much to lift the spirits of colonists and boost people's morale. The rest, as they say, is history. George Washington and his forces eventually went on to victory in the battle for independence stretched over a number of years after the river Crossing.

This episode is important because what it demonstrates once again is the role which Blacks played in fighting for America's freedom. They were present at the creation of the nation and have been working assiduously ever since. In almost every major battle in America's history, whether military or civil, Blacks have shouldered their share of the burden and took up the challenge of defending or building the country.

They persisted against all odds.

Today, their names litter the pages of history, covering everything from religion, science, the arts, health, education make such a long list of Black pioneers that it would take years to complete.

Some like the Benjamin Banneker, a mathematical wizard; Prince Hall, the fraternal leader; Paul Cuffee, a late 18th century ship builder and owner; Elijah McCoy and Granville Wood, inventors; George Washington Carver, the savior of southern agriculture; Daniel Hale Williams, the first successful heart surgeon; and Charles Drew, the pioneer in blood plasma. In their different ways these Blacks helped to transform our lives, making them better for every one.

But the list doesn't end there. Harriet Tubman, the liberator of slaves; Sojourner Truth, a pilgrim of freedom; Madame C.J. Walker, the cosmetics manufacturer; Paul R. Williams the architect, and A.G. Gaston, the shining light for free enterprise who showed the way forward towards success in commerce are also among them.

How about the contributions of Oscar DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; A. Philip Randolph, the pre-eminent trade union leader; Edward W. Brooke, the U.S. Senator from Massachusetts who represented a new breed of politi-

cians in Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the great humanist and civil rights leader of the 20th and any century; Mary McLeod Bethune, the cotton-picker, educator and White House adviser; and Congressman Charles Rangel, the long serving Democrat from Harlem and Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee of the House of Representatives, an eloquent voice for reason and social justice? They are but a small sampling of the voices for the multitude.

Think of the persons who helped to widen the entrance to education and Carter Woodson, the father of Black History Month, Arthur Schomburg, the bibliophile and antiquarian, Alain Locke, the Rhodes Scholar and philosopher, and John Hope Franklin, the historian spring quickly to mind.

James Weldon Johnson, the gentleman of letters, Gwendolyn Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the people's poet are among the tellers of troubled or delightful tales.

These Black American contributors helped to ease our pain, bring smiles to our faces and opened human civilization to new vistas.

In the process they became worthy of the praise being showered on them and many more African-Americans during Black History month.

**RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL IN HEREFORD, TEXAS**

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate St. Anthony's School on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. The school's 90th anniversary was celebrated along with Catholic Schools Week from January 27–February 2, 2008.

St. Anthony's began providing Catholic education in 1914 with the purpose of supplying children with knowledge of the Catholic faith, as well as a strong foundation for future learning. In 1917–1918, continuous classes were introduced. St. Anthony's moved to its current location in 1955 where 14 classrooms, a library, a meeting room, a cafeteria and a gym now make up the school.

Throughout its history, several orders of religious nuns have staffed the school. Presently, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate make up the faculty. They have taught and maintained St. Anthony's since the 1987–1988 school year.

St. Anthony's provides classes from pre-school through sixth grade. The school remains focused on teaching the Catholic faith while also providing the opportunity for students to acquire the skills needed to achieve high honors upon entering the Hereford Independent School District upper grades. Students participate in acts of service, the Accelerated Reading Program and after-school activities such as sports or choir. The six-member board of education along with Principal Ann Lueb and Rev. John Valdez govern the school and determine policies.

During the 90th anniversary celebration, Dolores Loerwald Brorman was presented with the 2008 National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Graduate Award. The award

recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to American society and the Catholic Church and has been presented to a deserving graduate of St. Anthony's School every year since 1993.

I applaud St. Anthony's school for providing quality education and developing knowledgeable and honorable students for 90 years. Also, I congratulate Dolores Loerwald Brorman on receiving the 2008 Distinguished Graduate Award and making such a mark in her community.

IN HONOR OF MR. ELMER D. SAXTON, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Elmer D. Saxton, Sr. Mr. Saxton passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on Monday, February 18, 2008, surrounded by his family. Formerly, Mr. Saxton served as the State of Delaware Service Officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

Mr. Saxton was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Agnes, in 1993. A career soldier, Mr. Saxton proudly served our country as a member of the United States Army in both World War II and the Korean War. He was recognized for his service in various artillery and ordinance corps by several commendation medals. Following his retirement from active duty, Mr. Saxton worked for the University of Delaware and the United States Postal Service before taking his position at the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Upon his retirement from his position as Delaware's VFW Service Officer, Mr. Saxton continued to put forth tireless effort in assisting those in need. As a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus, as well as an ongoing member of the VFW, he devoted himself to ensuring that flags were placed on all veterans' graves and that members of the honor guard served for fallen comrades. In addition, Mr. Saxton was instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the Veterans Nursing Home in Milford, Delaware. As a founder and faithful member of Holy Family Church for many years, he enthusiastically participated in community outreach and service projects, including the collection and distribution of food with Val's Needy People fund and the delivery of emergency and holiday groceries. Mr. Saxton faced all challenges with one goal in mind: to help another.

Mr. Saxton, or “Pop”, as he was called by his family, will be lovingly remembered by his three children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. They will remember him as a man who loved to solve crossword puzzles, loved to root for his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies and Wilmington Blue Rocks, and loved to help others. His superlative example of heroism, dedication, and selflessness will serve as an inspiration to all those who knew him.

HONORING THREASA MILLER

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and tireless service of Threasa Miller. Threasa will be retiring from her position as Executive Director of the PACE Center for girls in Immokalee, Florida on March 7th of this year.

Threasa has served troubled girls in Collier County at the PACE Center for 10 years. The Practical Academic Cultural Education program initially served 20 at-risk girls and has grown to reach over 75 girls each year. More than 500 girls have completed the PACE program in Collier County and have become successful young women in our community.

All who know Threasa know she has a special place in her heart for children. Before joining PACE fulltime, Threasa had a career in social services with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Her life-long commitment to children has not gone unnoticed. I am very grateful for her contribution to our community and honored to call her my friend.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL P.W.  
WEATHERINGTON

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Carol P.W. Weatherington on the occasion of her retirement from the Miami-Dade County Public School System (MDCPS) after over 30 years of service and dedication.

Mrs. Weatherington's original ambition was to serve her community in the healthcare field as a nurse. Yet, after she interned as a teacher for the MDCPS she quickly realized that she had a gift in uplifting and building positive relationships with young people in an effort to prepare them for a bright future.

A native Miamian, she grew up in Coconut Grove and attended George Washington Carver Senior High School. After graduating from high school, she decided to break her family's tradition of attending Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and matriculated to Bethune-Cookman College. She then obtained her master's degree in education from Nova Southeastern University.

She complimented her educational achievements with her involvement in various organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Educational Excellence School Advisory Committee (EESAC), Language Arts Chairperson, Eighth Grade Team Leader/Eighth Grade Activities Advisor, and President of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Bethune-Cookman University Alumni Association.

She began her career as a Language Arts teacher at Brownsville Middle School. During her 15 years at Brownsville Middle, she witnessed her students' reading level scores soar

dramatically. Today, many of her students continue to thank her for teaching them their reading fundamental skills. Following her tenure at Brownsville Middle, she went on to continue teaching at Rockway Middle School where she received numerous accolades, including a nomination for "Teacher of the Year". Presently, she is teaching Language Arts and Reading at Charles R. Drew Middle School, and is successfully meeting the challenge of educating the needs of her community's young people.

This public servant has shared over 20 years of marriage bliss with Major Arnie Weatherington, and has one daughter, Argatonia. She has been a diligent and dedicated steward at Greater New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church where she devotes countless hours to the Youth Ministry, as a Sunday school teacher and assisting with other church activities and projects.

It is an honor to have the privilege of knowing this valued educator and leader of the Miami-Dade County community and beyond. I salute Mrs. Carol P.W. Weatherington on behalf of a grateful community that she truly loves and cares for. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

IN HONOR OF ONE OF AMERICA'S  
LONGEST MARRIED COUPLES

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to rise today and congratulate an amazing Minnesota couple from White Bear Lake.

Clarence and Mayme Vail, ages 101 and 99, just celebrated their 83rd anniversary, making them perhaps the longest married couple in the Nation.

Sixty years ago their marriage was almost cut tragically short when Clarence became severely ill.

But Mayme made a promise to God that if Clarence recovered she would go to Mass every single day. Sure enough, Clarence got well, and Mayme kept her promise.

Clarence and Mayme's marriage has brought much joy to the world and touched many lives—including six children, 39 grandchildren, 101 great-grandchildren, and 40 great-great grandchildren.

Their amazing relationship is a profound testament to love, faith, and the cherished institution of marriage. Madam Speaker, I ask that this body join me in honoring Clarence and Mayme for what is truly a moving and inspiring achievement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL ROGERS OF  
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to

recognize Paul Rogers. Paul is an outstanding asset to the entire community and has spent over 50 years sharing his passion for horticulture with the people of Massachusetts. This weekend, Paul is being honored by the Stockbridge Alumni Association with their prestigious "S" Award and this year's annual Central Massachusetts Flower Show Dinner has been named "A Tribute to Paul Rogers."

An alumnus of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMASS, Paul Rogers received an associates degree in horticulture. Mr. Rogers took time away from school to serve during the Korean War from 1951 to 1954, when he was stationed in East Africa. Upon returning to the United States, Paul Rogers continued his education and earned a bachelor's degree from Clark University in Worcester.

Following his education, he served as a landscape superintendent at Holy Cross College for 20 years. He began his own greenhouse, Stonehenge Gardens, and served as a horticultural consultant throughout the area. He was nominated as the president of the Worcester Horticultural Society, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Horticultural Club of Boston and was the only person ever to hold all three of these positions.

Currently, Mr. Rogers can be found in a number of places throughout the State, teaching horticulture and inviting others to share in his passion. For the past three decades he has served as the host of "Gardener's Calendar" on WTAG radio and as the garden writer for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. In addition, he is a lecturer at the Landscape Institute of Harvard at the world renowned Arnold Arboretum. And he is a member of many societies, including the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the American Horticultural Society, the Horticultural Club of Boston, Garden Writers Association of America, and a Trustee of Old Sturbridge.

Madam Speaker, I am truly appreciative of the work Paul Rogers has done for the residents of the 3rd Congressional district. For his outstanding service, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Paul Rogers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "ALIPIO  
COCO CABRERA" ON HIS 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY "ON THE AIR"

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Alipio "Coco" Cabrera in celebration of his 25th anniversary as a radio host and personality. He along with the Univision Radio family will be celebrating this very momentous and joyous occasion with a concert held on February 17th, 2008 at the United Palace Theatre in my district.

"Coco," as he is referred to by his fans, has a very rich history that has given him longevity in the radio industry for the past 25 years. His career began in the Dominican Republic as a journalist and writer, for the well known newspaper "El Nacional." Looking for better opportunities, in 1978 he decides to embark on a journey to New York City. As many immigrants

that come to our shores, Alipio had to earn a living by working tough jobs such as a cab driver, tailor, and factory worker.

In 1980, after he was able to enter New York City's rigid media field, his dreams finally became a reality. He was able to demonstrate his talent to popular radio stations such as: WBNX, WSKQ and WKDM where for the first time, he gained the highest ratings for an AM Radio Station during 1984 to 1988. Shortly after, the largest Hispanic radio group in the country, Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC) gains interest in Coco's talents and hires him to work in various projects and popular radio shows in prime time.

Coco is very well respected by those in the radio industry and also by the thousands of fans that listen to him on a weekly basis. He is a regular guest in Univision Spanish Language Television shows such as: "Despierta America," "Al Despertar," and "Don Francisco Presenta."

Alipio Cabrera has received various important awards and recognitions nationally and internationally. After conquering the radio and television industries, Mr. Cabrera decided to journal his triumphs in an autobiography titled "Abriendo el Coco" (Opening the Coconut) which narrates his struggles and desire to better himself as a professional and as a human being.

His greatest achievement has been his involvement with many charitable organizations. He was instrumental in the relief effort to assist those affected by hurricane George. Again faced with another tragedy, Coco again became involved in the relief efforts for the affected areas of Hurricane Noel and Olga in the Dominican Republic and the many victims of the earthquake in Peru. Alipio is a faithful supporter of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Alipio Coco Cabrera on his historic 25th Anniversary. His dedication, commitment, and joyous spirit is worthy of the highest commendation. As New York's favorite Latin radio personalities, just a mere mention of his name brings a smile to all.

CONGRATULATIONS ON SPECIALIST BYERS RECEIVING THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize one of my distinguished constituents, SPC Russell W. Byers, who has recently been honored with the Army Commendation Medal from the Department of the Army.

SPC Russell W. Byers is attached to the Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion of the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment. He was awarded this citation by the Secretary of the Army for "Meritorious service during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom." The award further commends Specialist Byers, stating "Your Tactical and technical proficiency, hard work and mission dedi-

cation have greatly contributed to the overall mission success of the task force. Your actions reflect great credit upon you, Task Force Panther and the United States Army."

This is Specialist Byers' first commendation, and was presented to him after a one year tour in Iraq. Duties he performed to receive this high honor include being an expert on the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) computer system, where he gathered, analyzed and developed vital intelligence for the Task Force. In addition, he gathered intelligence from HUMINT, prepared summarized reports and organized data, maintaining a complex database that captured all the significant enemy activity within the Task Force's combat zone.

In the recommendation letter for this medal, Specialist Byers' superior officer wrote, "SPC Byers' ability to multi-task and present information in a clear and consistent manner is of the highest military standards. He is extremely diligent and competent in accomplishing all assigned tasks with little or no supervision, while producing dynamic results. SPC Byers leads the way with a 'can do' attitude and an outstanding drive to go the distance, even when it requires him to go above and beyond his assigned scope of duties and responsibilities. He is well ahead of his peers in military bearing and fortitude."

I am well aware that there are thousands upon thousands of soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors that earn prestigious citations such as this, but I am excited that a proud son from West Texas is among them.

Congratulations SPC Russell W. Byers; you have served your country with distinction. I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of a grateful Nation, and especially your neighbors in the 19th Congressional District. We all sleep well every night, knowing dedicated people like you are defending all we hold dear.

DR. JAMES REDD

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition for Athletic Director, Dr. James C. Redd. On February 10, 2008, Dr. Redd was enshrined into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Jim excelled as a student athlete throughout high school and college, thereby earning First Team Defensive Lineman and Second Team Offensive Tackle awards at Northwest Missouri State University. After graduating with a double major in Physical Education and Social Science, Jim returned to the sidelines, this time as a graduate assistant at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Before returning to his alma mater as head coach of the Bearcats in 1976, Jim earned a master's degree in Physical Education and School Administration. Within three years he was selected as the MIAA Coach of the Year.

In 1986, Jim decided to take a sabbatical from a 17-year coaching career and return to school, this time completing his doctorate in education from Oklahoma State University-Stillwater.

Upon graduation, Dr. Redd returned to Northwest Missouri State to coordinate the graduate program in Health and Physical Education, and eventually to serve as Director of Athletics for Northwest. In 2001, Dr. Redd retired from Northwest State University. However, by May 2002 he was appointed Director of Athletics and Physical Education Chair at William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri, a position he still holds.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Jim Redd, as he will be forever remembered for his athletic and educational achievements as a member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

REMEMBERING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, when on February 25–26, 1992, the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabagh region of Azerbaijan was brutally attacked by Armenian forces. The town of Khojaly, which was home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed; a total of 613 people were killed, of which 106 were women and 83 were children, and 56 of whom are purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. Additionally, 1275 were taken hostage, 150 went missing; 487 people became disabled (76 of whom are teenagers); 8 families were wiped out; 25 children lost both of their parents, and 130 children lost one of their parents.

The Khojaly massacre was not an isolated incident. In fact, the level of brutality and the atrocities committed at Khojaly set a pattern of destruction that Armenian troops would adhere to for the remainder of the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

No one has been prosecuted for the crimes committed in Khojaly and, unfortunately, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict still remains.

On January 21, 2008, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov noted in the Wall Street Journal that it has been almost 14 years since the Armenia-Azerbaijan war ended in a Russian-mediated ceasefire, but Armenian troops remain on Azerbaijan's territory.

Minister Mammadyarov opined: "The so-called Minsk process, an OSCE-led effort to find a peaceful, negotiated settlement to this conflict, has been helpful in providing the framework for dialogue between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It also gives an international dimension to this conflict. But we need to urgently conclude this process. Maintaining the status quo is just too costly."

Foreign Minister Mammadyarov contends that diplomacy is Azerbaijan's preferred solution. The resolution of this issue would not only improve bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, it could also improve Armenia's relationship with Turkey.

The resolution of the conflict would ensure regional security and economic growth. As Azerbaijan looks forward, it is also important to look back. While not forgetting the past, Azerbaijan is ready to resolve the conflict and move into the future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I missed votes because my flight was delayed. Southwest Flight 1357, scheduled to depart BHM at 1:20 p.m. and arrive at BWI at 4:10 p.m., did not depart BHM until 3:15 p.m. and arrived at BWI at 6 p.m.

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 TRIBUTE TO MR. VERDERY  
ROBERSON
**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Mr. Verdery Roberson.

Mr. Roberson is a World War II Navy veteran and a graduate of Paine College. In 1988, he retired to Huntsville, Alabama, after thirty-eight years as a civilian Electronics Fire Control Specialist with the U.S. Army at the Augusta Arsenal in Augusta, Georgia, and the Anniston Army Depot.

Mr. Roberson is most well known for his lifelong membership and continuing commitment to the Boy Scouts of America. In 1944, four years after joining the Boy Scouts, he became the first African-American in the Georgia-Carolina Council of Boy Scouts to receive a Scout's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Mr. Roberson has passed on his extensive scouting knowledge and beliefs to countless young men as an adult leader, mentor, and member of the Eagle Board of Review. He is the founder and former Cub Master for the Cub Scout Pack 314 at the Center Grove United Methodist Church, as well as a founding member of the Urban Emphasis Scout Leaders Council. The Council is an urban and rural Scout outreach, or Scout Reach, organi-

zation for the Huntsville-Madison County community.

For his lifetime of inspirational service and outreach with the Boy Scouts, Mr. Roberson was one of the first recipients from North Alabama to receive the Whitney Young Service Award. This award is presented nationally to those nominated by their local councils who have provided Scouting opportunities for young men from rural and low-income urban backgrounds.

On Friday, February 22, 2008, Mr. Roberson's family and friends celebrated his life, his contributions to the Boy Scouts, and his selfless devotion to the positive development of numerous young men. I rise to join them in their tribute and to thank Mr. Roberson for his many years of service to our community.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## FEBRUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 following the open session.

SD-106

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2232, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a demonstration program to adapt the lessons of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to certain similarly situated individuals.

SR-485

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to review veterans' disability compensation, focusing on expert work on post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

SH-216

9:45 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), and J. Gregory Copeland, of Texas, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, S. 1810, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a posi-

tive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatal and postnatal diagnosed conditions, S. 999, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, S. 1760, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative, H.R. 20, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, and S. 1042, to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine U.S. reliance on private security firms in overseas operations.

SD-342

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 2041, to amend the False Claims Act, focusing on strengthening the government's most effective tool against fraud for the 21st century.

SD-226

## Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine protecting voters in the United States at the polls, focusing on limiting abusive robocalls and vote caging practices.

SR-301

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army, Department of Defense.

SD-192

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine issues relative to surgeons, focusing on conflicts and consultant payments in the medical device industry.

SD-628

2 p.m.

## Judiciary

## Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine supporting the front line in the fight against crime, focusing on restoring federal funding for state and local law enforcement.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2229, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range, S. 2379, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cancel certain grazing leases on land in Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that are voluntarily waived by the lessees, to provide for the exchange of certain Monument land in exchange for private land, to designate certain Monument land as wilderness, S. 832, to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value, S. 2508 and H.R. 903, bills to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space

characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, S. 2601 and H.R. 1285, bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to King and Kittitas Counties Fire District No. 51 a certain parcel of real property for use as a site for a new Snoqualmie Pass fire and rescue station, H.R. 523, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, and H.R. 838, to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah.

SD-366

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA).

SR-253

## Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

3 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Active component, Reserve component, civilian personnel programs, and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

## FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.

SH-216

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for Department of the Navy, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.

SH-216

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the impact of increased minimum wages on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SD-366

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the policy options of the United States in post-election Pakistan.

SD-419

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the total economic costs of the war beyond the federal budget.

SD-106

10 a.m.  
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress. SD-538

Environment and Public Works  
 Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee  
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, focusing on the security of the nuclear power plants in the United States. SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Transportation. SR-253

Finance  
 To hold hearings to examine the real estate market, focusing on building a strong economy. SD-215

Judiciary  
 Business meeting to consider S. 2304, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, S. 2449, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, S. 352, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, S. 2136, to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, S. 2133, to authorize bankruptcy courts to take certain actions with respect to mortgage loans in bankruptcy, S. 2041, to amend the False Claims Act, and the nominations of Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General, and Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia. SD-226

2 p.m.  
 Appropriations  
 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the recent Hallmark/Westland meat recall. SD-192

Energy and Natural Resources  
 Water and Power Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine S. 177 and H.R. 2085, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma, S. 1473 and H.R. 1855, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project, S. 1474 and H.R. 1139, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design and construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and other uses from the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, Santa Ana River, California, S. 1929, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility

study of water augmentation alternatives in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed, S. 2370, to clear title to certain real property in New Mexico associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project, and H.R. 2381, to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. SD-366

2:30 p.m.  
 Foreign Relations  
 International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine international deforestation and climate change adaptation. SD-419

Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine weaknesses in the visa waiver program, focusing on possible safeguards needed to protect the United States of America. SD-226

Intelligence  
 To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine government-wide intelligence community management reforms, focusing on ensuring effective Congressional oversight and the role of the Government Accountability Office. SD-342

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the United States Central Command and the United States Special Operations Command, and the future years defense program; with the possibility of a closed session in S-407 immediately following the open session. SD-106

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for Transportation Security Administration, Department of Transportation. SR-253

Appropriations  
 Homeland Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-192

2:30 p.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine protecting seashores from oil spills, focusing on operational procedures and ship designs. SR-253

MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the Department of the Air Force, and the future years defense program. SH-216

10 a.m.  
 Judiciary  
 To continue oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SD-226

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Southern and Northern Command, and the future years defense program. SH-216

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Coast Guard and conduct oversight. SR-253

MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces in Korea, and the future years defense program. SH-216

10 a.m.  
 Environment and Public Works  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 (Public Law 110-114). SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 to support U.S. basic research. SR-253

2:30 p.m.  
 Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Grace C. Becker, of New York, to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. SD-226

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee  
 To receive a briefing on the current readiness of the armed forces of the United States. SH-219

10 a.m.  
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of

Housing and Urban Development and  
conduct oversight.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services  
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Sub-  
committee

To hold hearings to examine tech-  
nologies to combat weapons of mass de-  
struction.

SD-106

Armed Services  
Readiness and Management Support Sub-  
committee

To hold hearings to examine the defense  
authorization request for fiscal year  
2009, the future years defense program,  
and military installation, environ-  
mental, and base closure programs.

SR-232A

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the defense  
authorization request for fiscal year  
2009 for the United States European  
Command and the United States Afri-  
can Command, and the future years de-  
fense program.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Armed Services  
Readiness and Management Support Sub-  
committee

To hold hearings to examine the defense  
authorization request for fiscal year  
2009 for the current readiness of the

armed forces, and the future years de-  
fense program.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services  
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Sub-  
committee

To hold hearings to examine the defense  
authorization request for fiscal year  
2009 for the Cooperative Threat Reduc-  
tion Program and the Proliferation Se-  
curity Initiative at the Department of  
Defense, and nuclear nonproliferation  
programs at the National Security Ad-  
ministration, and the future years de-  
fense program.

SR-222