

around, trying to make them disappear, I finally had forced one into my mouth, when Dad made the announcement. I almost choked. He's going to join the military. He'd deployed on April 30th. He said he's wanted to do this for a long time; he's always wanted to fight for our country, but I don't want him to leave. I hope I'm not being selfish, but I just don't think I can watch my daddy leave with no guarantee he'll be back.

April 29th

Tomorrow Dad leaves. Today was family day, I didn't find it fun. We just spent the day together, fretting about everything. Now I'm trying to sleep, but when I close my eyes, I see horrible images.

April 30th

Dad's Gone. I was kind of in a daze as we drove to the airport. Before he left I gave him my necklace; it has a little angel on it. He put it on and said he won't take it off until he comes home. I'm trying to write through tears, but it's hard because my vision's blurring. I don't know why it didn't hit me until right after Dad walked away, that I might not see him again.

August 4th

HE'S!! MISSING!! We got a phone call. They said he never came back. Mom promises he's fine, I try to believe her. It's okay, I tell myself, but tears keep coming.

September 13th

My birthday. A day to never forget. I opened the mailbox praying there would be something from Dad. And . . . there kinda was. It was a teeny-tiny envelope with my name on it. It looked like it was holding something, a secret waiting to be told, so big it was about to burst at the seams. I opened it and my necklace fell out. My mind turned to mush, he said he'd wear it until he was home, but why was it mailed, what if he was home . . . just in spirit. OH NO! Thoughts swirled around in my head like a blender, and I sat down on the curb and cried. Later, there was a knock on the door, I slowly opened it. On the other side was something unbelievable; Dad. There he was standing there, home. He had a cast on his leg and bandages everywhere, but he smiled as if he'd won the lottery. That's when he became my hero.

A patriot is a person that loves and defends their country. It means so much to me, these people, risking their lives for us. These people do things that I wouldn't have the courage to do, and I would like to say something to them; thank you.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DODGERS IN LOS ANGELES

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to congratulate the Dodgers for calling the City of Los Angeles its home for the last 50 years. I'm honored to be participating in the kick off event at the Los Angeles City Hall on March 28 for what will be a year-long "Golden Anniversary" celebration.

The Los Angeles Dodgers played their first home game on April 18, 1958, defeating the San Francisco Giants 6-5 before 78,672 fans at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Since arriving in Los Angeles 50 years ago, the

Dodgers have had its share of baseball firsts, major league moments, shattered records and invaluable players—making baseball history and achieving golden moments over and over again.

The Dodgers led the geographic expansion of baseball to the west and managed to preserve the New York City cross-town rivalry by convincing the Giants to move to California as well. The historic and heated competition between the Dodgers and the Giants is more than a century old, and is the longest rivalry in baseball history. In 1959 the Dodgers, then playing their second season in Los Angeles, played the defending World Champion New York Yankees in an exhibition game in Roy Campanella's honor at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The attendance was 93,103—still the largest crowd ever to attend a Major League Baseball game. The Dodgers are set to make history again when they play the defending World Champion Boston Red Sox in an exhibition game on March 29, 2008, at the Coliseum. The game is expected to draw the largest baseball crowd since the Dodgers played that historic 1959 game at the same venue.

The Los Angeles Dodgers earned its reputation for success with five World Championships, nine National League pennants, 15 playoff appearances, eight Cy Young Award winners, four MVPs, an incredible 12 Rookie of the Year recipients (five of which were handed out in five consecutive years—an unmatched feat), and numerous other Major League Baseball honors. And in addition to these impressive records and awards are other "golden moments" that stand out in the minds of Dodgers fans.

The 1981 Opening Day starting pitcher was a 20-year-old rookie from Mexico. Fernando Valenzuela pitched a shutout that day and proceeded to win his first eight decisions with five shutouts. Later that year Fernando helped the Dodgers win its first World Series title since 1965. "Fernandomania" swept through the baseball world, a culture-crossing phenomenon that took Los Angeles and the world by storm when Valenzuela won both the National League Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards, becoming the first player to win both in the same year.

And all true blue Dodgers fans can close their eyes and picture the footage of Kirk Gibson hobbling around the bases on both hurt legs, and pumping his fist as he rounds second base, during his pinch-hit home run in game one of the 1988 "Fall Classic." The Dodgers would go on to win a World Series upset that year, and Gibson's "golden moment," his single swing, is considered the ninth most memorable moment in Major League Baseball history.

In all likelihood only one or two fans even remember one of my personal favorite Dodgers "golden moments," and I must admit it was not the bottom of the ninth inning, with two outs, and the bases loaded. But once upon a time, a certain local congressman was invited to throw the first pitch of a ball game—and it was a perfect strike! Such are the heart pounding thrills that the Dodgers deliver time and again.

Madam Speaker, after 50 years of time honored tradition in Los Angeles, the Dodgers truly are a community institution. An institution I'm proud calls Dodger Stadium in my 31 st Congressional District of California home.

Whether you are "thinking blue," "bleeding Dodger blue" or "praying to the big Dodger in the sky," many Angelenos share an intense loyalty and kinship with their "Boys in Blue." I look forward to many more decades of the Los Angeles Dodgers' community involvement and history-making baseball accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL McDOWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael McDowell, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Ireland, as we welcome him to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2008.

For almost 30 years, Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party and Parade, a festive event that brings people together in the heart of Cleveland. On this exceptional day, Cleveland's streets are a sea of green, full with the lively sounds of traditional Irish music, laughter and the spirit of all those joining together to celebrate rich Irish culture.

Born in Dublin, Ireland in May 1951, Michael McDowell followed in the footsteps of his grandfather by dedicating his life to public service and leadership. Mr. McDowell has a decorated political history as a founding member of the Progressive Democrats Political Party, in which he served as President from 2002-2006. While leading the Progressive Democrats Party, he also held the distinguished post of Tanaiste. He was one of 14 Progressive Democrat Teachta Dála's elected to Dáil Éireann in the 1987 general election, the first election after the party was founded. In this position, he represented Dublin's South East constituency from 1987-1989, 1992-1997 and 2002-2007. In 2002, he began his 5-year tenure as Ireland's Minister of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and served as Attorney General from 1999 to 2002.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of former Irish politician, Michael McDowell, for joining us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for their efforts in organizing this marvelous St. Patrick's Day Party this year, as they have for almost 30-years.

HONORING CAROLINE WRIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caroline Wright of Blue Springs, Missouri. Caroline is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Caroline has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award,

Caroline has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caroline Wright her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING 21 YEARS OF SERVICE BY STEVE MATHIS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March of 2008, I rise to thank Mr. Steve Mathis for 21 years of outstanding service to the United States Government, working at the House recording studio here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native Californian, Steve graduated from San Diego State University in 1978. He then worked 5 years as a shift supervisor for KPBS-TV. Steve began his House career in the House recording studio's production department in 1980 when "live" House television coverage was only a year old. For the next 15 years, Steve was an indispensable member of the House's television floor coverage, recording studio, and radio production crew serving around the clock whenever House sessions required.

After a detour as a production operator at CNN for 6 years, Steve returned to the House in 2002, becoming a television director for both studio shows and House floor coverage. Highlights have included directing the 2008 State of the Union broadcast along with working on numerous other joint sessions with world leaders.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Mr. Mathis for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him and his wife Paula many wonderful years fulfilling his retirement dreams of visiting every Major League ballpark in the country and taking bicycle trips throughout the world.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Democrats proposed budget is tax and spend all over again.

Instead of preserving tax relief for Americans, the Democrat budget includes a \$683 billion tax increase. This is \$683 billion dollars the majority plans to take from everyday American, who are already feeling the pinch from rising gas prices, increasing food costs, and credit card debt. These horrendous tax increases are meant to pay for the tens of billions in wasteful, new Federal spending proposed in the Democrat budget.

And where is the entitlement reform that we so desperately need to ensure our children and grandchildren are not saddled with the price of our inaction? It is nowhere to be found in the Democrat budget.

For a majority leadership that sailed into power under the guise of change, it is terribly obvious that what this budget represents is merely more of the same—more of the same wasteful spending and tax increases to pay for it all. Washington does not have a revenue problem. It has a spending problem. The Democrat budget has got it backwards.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

THANK YOU TO THE KANSAS COYOTES

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the conclusion of a dramatic story that began in the early days of World War II. This testimony underscores the heart and commitment of our Kansas Airmen. In 1944, the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber was brought down by anti-aircraft fire in the Pacific near Palau. That crew was not found until March of this year. Sixty-four years after the crew of the U.S. Army Air Forces gave their lives for America—the Joint P-O-W/M-I-A Accounting Command recovered the men from their watery graves. Volunteer Kansas Air National Guardsmen from the 190th Air Refueling Wing returned them home to the United States. The fallen men will, finally, be able to rest in peace in the soil of the country they fought to protect. I'd like to give a profound "thank you" to the Kansas Coyotes for their role in helping to provide the long overdue closure for the families of the Babes in Arms crew. I commend you for your spirit and dedication to your fellow soldier.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. LOUIS E. McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to join my friend and colleague, BRIAN BAIRD, in introducing the Political Intelligence Disclosure Act. By requiring political intelligence firms to make their activities known in the same way lobbying is reported, this bill will help to bring transparency to the growing world of political intelligence.

Political intelligence firms were first established in the 1970s and have been operating

since then without regulation. This industry focuses not on influencing Congress, but on gathering information for forthcoming legislative action in order to give their clients an advantage over other investors. This information is then used to influence decisions on stocks, securities and commodities. Currently, firms conducting political intelligence are not required to disclose their clients or earnings. But the bill we are introducing today would change that and require the same disclosure from political intelligence firms as from lobbying firms.

With leading experts noting that political intelligence businesses have quadrupled in size since 2003, these businesses are now emerging as a key factor in the lobby industry, and should be regulated accordingly. Such an important and increasingly relevant business should certainly be required to make its activities known to the public.

Additionally, there have been reports that employees of political intelligence firms have been attending meetings related to legislation, essentially posing as lobbyists. By requiring disclosure of these firms, this bill will ensure that people attending meetings where legislation is discussed make their intentions known and their goals clear.

The Political Intelligence Disclosure Act will bring necessary accountability to this growing field, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor. We must make political intelligence firms accountable and transparent. This important bill will do just that. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill today.

HONORING STEPHEN FEINSTEIN

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Stephen Feinstein, the director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and adjunct professor of history at the University of Minnesota, who died unexpectedly on March 4, 2008. He was 64.

Born in Philadelphia and educated at Villanova and New York Universities, Prof. Feinstein taught for 30 years at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota. From its founding in 1997, he built the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies into an internationally renowned educational, research, and outreach institution that was engaged with a broad range of human rights issues, including the Armenian Genocide, the treatment of Native Americans, and the humanitarian crises in East Africa. To end genocide, he once said, "we must study it and understand how it works against what we call 'civilization,'" if possible to develop an "early warning system" to prevent future genocides.

Feinstein was known around the world as an advocate for Holocaust survivors and genocide education, and in particular, for his expertise on artistic expression and genocide. In addition to his CHGS responsibilities and activities, he served as an art consultant and guest curator for numerous museums, universities and art galleries in Minnesota, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C.

"Above all else," said his colleague Eric Weitz, "Stephen Feinstein was a great humanitarian, someone with a profound belief in the