

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KARLI MAST FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Karli Mast showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Karli Mast was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Karli Mast always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Karli Mast on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FISA Amendments Act, H.R. 3773. This bill updates the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, by providing the Intelligence Community the ability to conduct surveillance of foreign targets outside the U.S. while protecting the civil liberties of Americans, and restoring constitutional checks and balances.

As Americans, our Constitution provides us with freedoms and liberties that, as a Member of Congress, I swore an oath to uphold and defend. Since September 11, 2001, President Bush has sought to expand executive power with the claim of securing our Nation, but all too often this promise of security has been at the expense of constitutionally protected civil liberties. The American people and the world have witnessed a list of serious abuses sanctioned by the Bush administration. There have been detainees tortured, the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and wiretapping of phone calls and reading of the private emails of our citizens without a warrant. These of course are only the abuses we know of in large part because we live in a society with a free press that can expose these abuses.

To my dismay, Congress failed the American people last year when it passed the so-called Protect America Act, S. 1927, which updated FISA but allowed for the wiretapping of American citizens without a court issued warrant. The 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act required the Government to obtain a

warrant before eavesdropping on Americans. Judicial discretion was incorporated into this security procedure to ensure the rights of Americans were not violated. This system worked and, with minor adjustments, could be made to ensure national security and the protection of our civil liberties. Unfortunately, this White House and a majority in Congress sacrificed our civil liberties while adding no additional security benefits.

In order to facilitate its spying on American citizens, the Bush administration elicited the assistance of some of America's largest telecommunications companies. There is a call by the administration and some Members of Congress to allow retroactive immunity for companies that broke the law by acting as co-conspirators in domestic spying on our citizens. I am strongly opposed to any retroactive immunity for those corporate conspirators who participated in violating Americans' civil liberties.

Not all telecommunications companies complied with the administration's request to spy on Americans. Qwest, which serves Minnesota, refused to participate because the company felt uncomfortable with the legality of the request. I applaud Qwest's ethical and appropriate action on behalf of their customers and the rule of law.

Finally, I want to thank the leadership, Chairman CONYERS, and Chairman REYES for their work in bringing this piece of legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support the FISA Amendments Act because with it Congress can safeguard both the security of our nation and civil liberties.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. THORNTON PRICE-WILLIAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Thornton Price-Williams was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A native of Mobile, Thornton joined the Army Air Corps during World War II, and he served in five major engagements in the European Theater of Operations, including D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge.

Following his discharge from the Army Air Corps, Thornton graduated from the University of Alabama. He went on to work for the civil service at Brookley Air Force Base and retired after 25 years of service.

In 1968, Thornton was elected to the office of Mobile County License Commissioner, a seat he held until his retirement in 1988. Former Alabama Governor Guy Hunt named Thornton Supernumerary License Commissioner. He was also once awarded the title "Boss of the Year."

Thornton was a member of the Mobile Lyons Club and an active member of the Murphy High School Spike Shoe Booster's Club. He was also an avid fan of University of Alabama football, a devotion he passed down to his grandson, Christopher Hobden.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and long-time advocate for Mobile County, Alabama.

Mr. Price-Williams was preceded in death by his grandson, Aaron Price-Williams, and he will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth Price-Williams; his sons, Ronald Price-Williams and Timothy Price-Williams; his step-children, Deborah Turner and Alfred Miller; his first wife, Dolores Spiers; his eleven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, on March 22, 2008, Taiwan held its fourth presidential election. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, a Harvard-educated former Mayor of Taipei, won convincingly. Mr. Ma's victory was welcome news for friends of Taiwan, including the United States. Mr. Ma pledged that he would seek an immediate dialogue with the People's Republic of China on issues such as direct airline flights, an economic accord protecting investments, more tourist visits by mainlanders to Taiwan and a peace accord under which China would withdraw the thousands of missiles it aims at Taiwan. I hope Mr. Ma succeeds in doing business with Beijing. If the accords Mr. Ma seeks are reached, both countries will benefit and security in East Asia will be broadly enhanced.

In the meantime I am confident that Taiwan's relations with the United States will be further strengthened. Taiwan has been our friend and supportive of us throughout the years. Taiwan has supported the war against global terrorism spurred by 9/11. Taiwan has also given humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq. We need to treasure Taiwan's friendship and loyalty to the United States by lifting some of the outdated travel restrictions on senior Taiwanese officials and actively promoting an international role for Taiwan, including an observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating President-elect Ma Ying-jeou and we hope he will have a chance to visit the United States Congress before his inauguration on May 20.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE J.
HACKETT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a beloved husband, father, friend, and patriot—SGT Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. who passed away in 2006 at the age of 58.

Larry was born on December 12, 1947, in Syracuse, New York. After graduation from Thomas J. Corcoran High School in 1967, he was drafted into the United States Army and assigned to the First Air Cavalry Division in South Vietnam.

After being discharged from the Army, Larry received his associate of arts degree from Onondaga Community College and went on to serve as a manufacturer's representative for companies throughout central New York and the entire Northeast. Larry was chairman of the 11th Ward Democratic Committee and also served as a manager on numerous political campaigns.

In 1999, Larry was diagnosed with Myxoid Sarcoma of the Omentum, a cancer that most likely resulted from ingesting dioxins released from Agent Orange during his wartime service in Vietnam. He died 7 years later.

In addition to being a proud member of the United States Army, Larry was a loving husband to wife Alice and doting father to daughter Amanda.

On April 21, 2008, Larry's service to his country will be honored by the Vietnam Memorial Committee as part of their In Memory program. A ceremony will take place at the Vietnam Wall where Larry's name will be added to the In Memory Honor Roll Book and a certificate honoring him, as well as some of his personal items, will be placed in the National Park Service's permanent archive. These honors will serve as a lasting reminder of the sacrifices Larry made on behalf of his country.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate Lawrence Hackett, Jr., and his family for this well deserved honor and thank him posthumously for his dedicated service to his country and community.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE
HOME HEALTH FLEXIBILITY ACT
OF 2008

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act of 2008. This bill would allow home health agencies the flexibility to use the most appropriate skilled rehabilitation professionals to open cases and to conduct the initial assessment for Medicare home health beneficiaries who do not require skilled nursing care.

Currently, occupational therapists cannot conduct the initial assessments for Medicare home health cases even when occupational therapy is included in the physician's order along with one of the other qualifying services,

like speech therapy and physical therapy. Under current law, home health agencies are not able to fully utilize all of their professional staff for Medicare rehabilitation clients, which can cause delays in beginning medically necessary care.

The Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act is actively supported by the American Occupational Therapy Association and the National Association of Home Care and Hospice.

I am proud to introduce this important legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this legislation so that home health agencies can better manage their staff and better meet the needs of Medicare patients.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
KRISTI YODER FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kristi Yoder showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Kristi Yoder was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kristi Yoder always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kristi Yoder on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

KANDY ARELLANO-TRETO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kandy Arellano-Treto who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kandy Arellano-Treto is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kandy Arellano-Treto is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kandy Arellano-Treto for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO BAFFORD HOPE
HARRISON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Bafford Hope Harrison, recently elected and installed as Grand Master of the Masons in Maryland. Born in Talbot County, Maryland, he graduated from Hurlock High School in Dorchester County in 1942. It was there he met his wife, Willa Catherine Jaynes Harrison. They have two daughters and a son, Jerry Hope Harrison, who is following in his father's footsteps as a member of Granite Lodge #177.

During World War 11, B. Hope Harrison served in the United States Navy on a radar/sonar training ship until his honorable discharge in 1946. At age 24, after becoming an operative mason, he started his own masonry contracting business in St. Michaels, Maryland. Over the next few years, B. Hope Harrison expanded his business to general construction on residential and light industrial projects as well as development. He spent the next 40 years in construction and real estate.

The long hours and pressures of his ever-expanding business were such that he did not petition his masonry lodge until the age of 39. Since that time, he has dedicated himself to the fraternity, holding such respected titles as Worshipful Master of Granite Lodge #177, Worthy Patron of St. Michaels Chapter, W. Grand Standard Bearer, and Senior Grand Warden, and he has maintained active membership in both the York and Scottish Rite bodies while serving on the Board of Trustees since 1978.

In addition to his Masonic service he has served the Methodist Church in almost every capacity from Sunday School Superintendent to Church Lay Leader, a position he still occupies. Active in his community, he has served Talbot County and the town of St. Michaels through membership on several boards and commissions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Grand Master Harrison. His legacy as a committed and active member of his community, church, and the Masons in Maryland ensure that he will be remembered for the consistent, dedicated service he has provided. It is with great pride that I congratulate Grand Master B. Hope Harrison on his achievement and volunteer service to the State of Maryland.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SISTER MAURA BRANNICK OF
THE CONGREGATION OF THE
HOLY CROSS

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Sister Maura Brannick, a sister of the Congregation of the Holy Cross who has dedicated her life to the poor and disadvantaged members of the South Bend Community. After nearly 55

years with the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Sister Maura Brannick's legacy is marked by several distinguished awards and, most recently, a health clinic dedicated in her name.

Sister Maura Brannick was born in Joliet, Illinois, to Charles and Ellen Brannick. In 1948, Sister Maura graduated from Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, the same year she completed her final profession into the Sisters of the Holy Cross. For the next three decades, Sister Maura's ministry focused on providing nursing care to patients in hospitals in both Indiana and Illinois. Her life has become a living example of how one person can make a difference in many lives.

Recognizing the need for a medical facility for the poor living within South Bend, Indiana, Sister Maura founded the Chapin Street Health Center in 1986. The original clinic, located in a 400 square foot converted carriage house, has grown into a 10,000 foot facility that was renamed in 2006 to honor its founder. The Sister Maura Brannick Health Center, as it is currently known, has served over 70,000 patients since its opening and over 60,000 hours have been donated by local physicians and volunteers.

Over the past 20 years, Sister Maura has received several awards honoring her dedication to the community. In 1991, she received the Points of Light Award from President George H.W. Bush, which honors individuals who find innovative ways to meet community needs with long-term solutions. Sister Maura was named Woman of the Year in 1994 by the Executive Journal and by the YWCA in 1987. She was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame in 1998 and received the Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence in 2003 for her remarkable commitment to the working poor.

At the dedication ceremony for the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center in 2006, Sister Maura shared the following perspective: "We only have one life to live and I want to live it all. And I just thought if I can do something, I want to do it." As Nancy Hellyer, president and CEO of South Bend Regional Medical Center said during the center's dedication, "Sister Maura Brannick has touched the lives of thousands in hospitals from Indiana to Idaho and back. The last twenty years are symbolic of her remarkable career as she still spends much of her time at the Health Center, a true Godsend to residents of South Bend."

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Sister Maura for her countless efforts at improving the lives of the less fortunate within our midst. Her legacy will be forever remembered and her hard work cherished by all those whose lives she touched. May God grant Sister Brannick many more years of strength and courage so that her dedicated service to the people of Indiana may continue.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT 1ST CLASS JUSTIN S. MONSCHKE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in memory of one of our nation's bravest and finest men who gave his life pro-

tecting our nation and its citizens. Sgt. 1st Class Justin S. Monschke of Krum, Texas, who served our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom, was killed on Sunday, October 14, 2007 in Arab Jabour, Iraq by a roadside bomb.

Born October 20, 1978, Justin's lifelong dream was to be a United States soldier. He joined the United States Army after high school graduation and earned the distinguished rank of Green Beret in 2002. Sgt. Monschke was an instructor in the U.S. Army Rangers, Special Forces, and served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Among the numerous awards he earned during his courageous service are: the Green Beret, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and a Meritorious Service Medal. Sgt. Monschke was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Devoted to both his country and his comrades-in-arms, Sgt. Monschke was, above all else, a family man. Always a soldier at heart, Justin assumed a new role in life when he married Melissa Morro on February 23, 2002, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee: the role of husband and father. Sgt. Monschke served in the army for more than 10 years, committed to protecting his country, community, and the future of his family.

Sgt. Monschke is remembered by his family as a hero who died doing something he loved—serving his country—and that is how he should be remembered by all. The Krum community and Sgt. Monschke's numerous friends and family members have lost a son, brother, husband, father, and friend; the United States has lost a patriot and protector. It is my honor to have represented Sergeant 1st Class Justin S. Monschke in the 26th District of Texas, and I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and the nation will be forever grateful for his honorable service.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker. I rise today in honor and remembrance of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today is the eve of the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in 1968.

Dr. King is without question one of the greatest voices and most successful activists of our time. He spoke out against racial injustice, social inequality and economic prejudice on the domestic front. He promoted non-violence as the means with which to overcome the intolerance of society both at home and abroad.

His was a voice that radiated humility in the face of great adversity and true danger. Dr. King believed silence to be a supreme betrayal and lead his life accordingly. It is not surprising that a man so great would then have a message so powerful that it still rings true today.

His speeches and writings have held a timeless message over the forty years since his passing. They help to guide us as the complexities and struggles of modern society still infringe upon our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness the world over. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer the following quote of Dr. King's as an example:

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity. The 'tide in the affairs of men' does not remain at the flood; it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: 'Too late'. There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. 'The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on . . .' We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation."

Dr. King acknowledged the interconnectedness of peace, equality and justice. Dr. King understood the personal responsibility that each of us must live up to so that we overcome, once and for all, the ills that plague and seek to separate us.

The Reverend understood the urgency of time as we work to overcome our struggles. Dr. King left us his teachings so that all around the world we may one day engage in what he termed the "beloved community."

I urge my colleagues to join me as we walk these halls of Congress as protectors of the American dream, to think about Dr. King's words as they apply to the business of today. Let us work for peace, let us put an end to racism, let us stop all social injustice and let us realize that today is the day, for tomorrow may be too late.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JENNIFER RABER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jennifer Raber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jennifer Raber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jennifer Raber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jennifer Raber on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING DAVID ALEXANDER
PATERSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the historic governorship of David Alexander Paterson, who at the age of 53, has become the 55th Governor of the great State of New York. Mr. Paterson is New York State's first Black Governor. I would like to again wish New York's new Governor well, and support his efforts on behalf of the great State of New York. I would like to enter this March 25th editorial from the *CaribNews* entitled "A Breath of Fresh Air in Albany" into the RECORD.

BREATH OF FRESH AIR STIRS ALBANY—GOVERNOR PATERSON TAKES OFFICE AS NEW YORK'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

"I am David Paterson and I am the Governor of New York State."

With those words and many more, David Alexander Paterson, decisively assumed the mantle of office as the Chief Executive of America's most influential state at the age of 53 years.

With the State's Chief Judge, Judith S. Kaye, administering the oath office, the grandson of Caribbean immigrants was sworn in on Monday as the 55th Governor of New York and the third Black head of a state government in the more than 125 years after America's Reconstruction era.

It was truly a historic moment, filled with symbolism, pageantry and realism. Few, if anyone present in the legislature, who watched it on television or who listened to the ceremony on the radio would forget the class act that unfolded in Albany, the State capital.

Paterson's rise to the most powerful position in state government was swift as it was stunning and despite the unusual circumstances which led to his ascension—the forced resignation of Eliot Spitzer after he became embroiled in a lurid sex scandal involving high priced prostitutes—it was clear that the transition had occurred smoothly and that Paterson, a legally blind person, was and is in charge. His presence at the helm is a sharp reminder of the changing times in which we live. Who would have imagined a mere few years ago that in the first decade of the 21st century, the United States would be on the verge of electing a Black man, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, or a woman, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, a Democrat of New York, as the next President of the country or would have a Black person with Jamaican and Grenadian roots occupying the Governor's mansion in the Empire state or another Black as the chief executive of Massachusetts.

It was not only pride that filled the hearts of New Yorkers everywhere. It was also a sense that a decent human being who had fought against the odds caused by his disability and spawned by the ubiquitous nature of prejudice had prevailed.

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the House of Representatives' powerful Ways and Means Committee, and an icon on Capitol Hill and in Harlem summed up the situation well in a "Dear David" letter to the new Governor when he said: "You have defied expectations, compiling a record of accomplishment as a member and leader of the New York State Senate. Now, as holder of the state's highest office, I am confident that you will govern with the same wisdom and leadership to make a positive difference in the lives of all New Yorkers."

The noble Congressman spoke for all of us. In his short address after the official swearing in, Governor Paterson went straight to the issues that could define his administration: the need for jobs at a time of economic crisis; the necessity to improve education and reduce its costs to the taxpayers, students and their parents; the need for improved health care; and the importance of equity in society.

To get things done Paterson will need all of the goodwill he can get from his colleagues in government and from those whose taxes pay the bills. With the national economy in a tailspin and with the state facing a gaping hole in its budget of about \$124 billion, fiscal prudence without sacrificing quality of services and help for those who need it the most must be a number one priority. The Governor, Senate and Assembly must work closer together, something that didn't happen at all during Spitzer's 16 months in office.

Paterson recognized that hard bit of reality and it was an important message which he sent when he lamented, rather briefly, about the absence of the cooperation in recent times. And he did it without holding up Spitzer to ransom, so to speak. An important signal was sent to everyone when some former governors, George Pataki, a Republican, and Hugh Carey, a Democrat made a point of being present and Paterson went to great lengths to recognize them and others who can make a difference in the weeks, months and the two and a half years he has left to complete the four year term.

Standing alongside the Governor were his wife and children, his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Basil Paterson, people known for their grace and integrity. Their presence sent a message about the value of family, something to which the state's chief executive alluded when he sought to tell New Yorkers something about himself and the role Harlem has played in his life.

In his letter, Rangel, a long-time friend of the Paterson family, reminded the Governor that as he faces the "great challenges" which are ahead of him and the state, "you are not alone. Count me among the many New Yorkers who wish you well and stand ready to support your efforts on behalf of the great state of New York."

We wish to join the choir and sing the chorus, not simply with voices and lyrics but with sincere action.

Yes, there are difficult days ahead for most people in the country. But with determination, clarity of thought and his noted sense of humor, not to mention his decency we are confident that the Governor and indeed the state will succeed.

**SUPPORT FOR OVERRIDING THE
PRESIDENT'S VETO OF H.R. 2082**

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of overriding the President's veto of the Intelligence Authorization bill (H.R. 2082). President Bush vetoed this important bill because of a clause that holds the intelligence community to the same standard as military personnel by banning the use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques that are prohibited in the Army Field Manual. While announcing his veto, the President stated that "this is no time for Congress to abandon practices that have a

proven track record of keeping America safe." President Bush is misguided: the use of waterboarding and other tactics neither strengthens our national security nor improves our intelligence capabilities. The United States does not need to disregard human rights in order to keep our country safe.

There is no doubt in my mind and I want to make it clear, waterboarding is torture. Some call this practice "simulated drowning." In reality, waterboarding is drowning. The victim experiences the same struggle, panic, swallowing, vomiting, taking water into the lungs, and inability to breathe. This inhumane practice can cause severe psychological trauma for years. After World War II, the United States convicted Japanese soldiers of war crimes for waterboarding American and Allied prisoners of war. This method is also banned by the Geneva Convention, which was signed by the United States.

The CIA recently admitted to using waterboarding and the Bush Administration has refused to ban intelligence personnel from using this technique in the future. It is abhorrent that this White House would soil the reputation of this great Nation as a beacon of freedom and a champion of human rights by allowing the use of torture in the same manner as brutal dictatorships.

The Army Field Manual interrogation techniques produce dependable intelligence without resorting to torture. General David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, wrote: "Some may argue that we would be more effective if we sanctioned torture or other expedient methods to obtain information from the enemy. That would be wrong. Beyond the basic fact that such actions are illegal, history shows that they also are frequently neither useful nor necessary."

Torture is ineffective and inhumane and it is time that the intelligence community put an end to the use of barbaric practices. If the United States continues to condone torture, we put our men and women in uniform at risk of having the same interrogation practices inflicted upon them.

Torture is a crime against humanity and unacceptable under any circumstances. Any nation that tortures or tolerates torture is not truly free.

My State of Minnesota has a proud tradition of fighting for victims of torture both at home and abroad. Former Governor Rudy Perpich helped to found the Center for Victims of Torture—a world renowned center for the treatment and healing of torture victims. When the Center opened in 1985, it became the first of its kind in the United States and only the third treatment center in the entire world. Today, with centers in the Twin Cities, Sierra Leone and Liberia, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from 60 countries.

Madam Speaker, the reputation of the United States has been profoundly damaged in the eyes of the world as a result of the failed policies of the Bush Administration. First the world saw photographs of Abu Ghraib, then discovered that the U.S. practices extraordinary rendition, and now knows the President of the United States approves the use of torture. Torture will be a stain on President Bush's legacy and his presidency will be a dark shadow in our country's history. I strongly encourage my colleagues to overturn the President's veto and begin restoring the United States' moral standing in the world.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR ANNE HINES FARISH FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MONROEVILLE AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mayor Anne Hines Farish for her extraordinary contributions to both the city of Monroeville and the state of Alabama. Mayor Farish is the epitome of a "Steel Magnolia," a real southern lady, strong and persevering and someone who is truly an institution among the residents of Monroeville.

A native of Monroeville, Anne grew up the oldest of four daughters of the late Dr. Jack and Mrs. Irma Hines.

She graduated from Monroe County High School in the same class as Nelle Harper Lee, another beloved fixture of Monroeville and Pulitzer Prize winning author of "To Kill A Mockingbird." Upon graduation from high school, she attended Auburn University. Anne's father, Dr. Hines, a local veterinarian, also served as mayor of Monroeville. Her late husband, Dick, served as Monroeville's postmaster for many years.

During her tenure as mayor, Monroeville has built an industrial park, added to its parks and recreation, and built a new City Hall and police station. Situated deep in the piney woods of Alabama's First Congressional District, Monroeville is a hidden treasure, and there is no better salesperson for this wonderful city than Mayor Farish.

Prior to serving as mayor, Anne served on the Monroeville City Council for two four-year terms. Anne is also a real estate agent, who began the successful brokerage firm, The Farish Agency, which is now managed by her daughter-in-law, Christie.

Madam Speaker, Anne Hines Farish has dedicated her entire life to making Monroeville, Alabama, a better place to live and work, all the while being a devoted wife and mother. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Mayor Farish for her many years of devotion to her hometown and the people she has faithfully served.

I know Anne's colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of Monroeville and the First Congressional District.

COMMEMORATING THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, this year will mark the 120 year anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate in Washington, D.C. Built in 1888 by Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society, this 18-acre property was sold to the Republic of China in 1947 after having been rented to the government of Taiwan for the previous 10 years.

From 1937 through 1978, the Twin Oaks estate was the official residence of nine ROC ambassadors, who used it to host all types of functions in the interests of their government. Many agreements were discussed with the United States at this estate. However, during the winter of 1978, President Carter decided to switch diplomatic recognition from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China.

During this critical period, ROC senior diplomat Mr. H.Y. Yang stayed at Twin Oaks and negotiated with the administration and Congress to hammer out a foundation for the future of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Minister Yang's efforts gave birth to the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act on April 10, 1979. The Act became the legal basis governing all types of relations between Taiwan and the U.S. It has enabled Taiwan to develop and prosper during the last 29 years. It also enabled the ROC government to retain the ownership of the Twin Oaks estate, which has continued to be a place for social gatherings and functions benefiting many in our nation's capital.

Madam Speaker, the Twin Oaks estate on Woodley Road is not only a historic building in downtown Washington; it is also a symbol of the long standing friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

HONORING THE WEBSTER THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Webster Thomas High School boys varsity ice hockey team, 2008 Division II New York State Public School Ice Hockey Champions. The Webster Thomas Titans defeated the Thousand Islands' Vikings by a score of 5 to 2, earning Webster Thomas' first State ice hockey championship title.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise Head Coach David Evans, and Assistant Coaches Allan Mutrie and Sean O'Neill on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Titans take the ice to defend their title in 2009.

Joseph Amico, Brett Bannon, Matthew Casilio, James Chandler, John DiRose, Joseph DiRose, Mischa Dombovy-Johnson, Daniel Fetes, Kevin Glenwright, Mark Goodman, Alan Grabowski, Mason Hill, Michael Iuliano, Mikhail Jerzak, Zachary Lamb, Christopher Malec, Patrick Moore, Sean Moore, Matthew Prinzing, Justin Scharfe, Robert Sciarone, Tyler Smedley, Matthew Solimano, Mark Vaccarelli, Michael Winderl.

HONORING RAY LACKEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ray Lackey, a re-

markable soldier and public servant from my congressional district. Ray is retiring this month as Postmaster to Bowling Green, KY, ending a 38 year career in federal service.

A native of Middletown, OH, Ray first came to Bowling Green in 1979 following nine years of active duty in the U.S. Army. Beginning as a letter carrier, Ray quickly advanced through numerous managerial positions with the U.S. Postal Service prior to being named Bowling Green Postmaster in 2003.

During his tenure, Ray has overseen various infrastructure improvements at the facility. Colleagues and customers alike have long been impressed with his leadership abilities and rigid commitment to maintaining an efficient and consistent postal operation.

Throughout his career at the U.S. Postal Service, Ray remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving in various noncommissioned officer leadership positions, culminating in a three year tour at the Pentagon as Command Sergeant Major. Ray was at the Pentagon during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and spent the ensuing hours assisting survivors. He has received numerous awards and commendations for the valor he demonstrated under pressure and at great personal risk that day.

It is my great privilege to recognize Ray Lackey today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to our country, support of our soldiers, and lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our honor and respect.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from his years of dutiful service to our country and community, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Ray and wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the upcoming 95th anniversary of the Norristown Garden Club in Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The Norristown Garden Club was founded on April 13, 1913 by seven women who met at the home of Miss Bertha Slingluff Harry and established the Club to promote their common interest in the culture of flowers by exchanging ideas, seeds, plants and bulbs. At this first meeting, the group chose officers and laid the groundwork for what has been 95 years of fellowship and service to the beautification of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Throughout the 20th Century and today, the members of the Norristown Garden Club have dedicated endless energies and hours to volunteer activities in the area. Examples of this include 32 years of consecutive service to the Montgomery Geriatric Center and Rehabilitation—an achievement they reached in 1986. The organization has also donated thousands of dollars in flowers to places such as the Valley Forge Historical Society Museum and Ronald McDonald House. It is clear that the members not only gather around a common love

for botanicals, but seek to share this joy with fellow citizens and surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the history and service of the Norristown Garden Club as they celebrate their 95th anniversary.

KEVIN CALKINS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kevin Calkins who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kevin Calkins is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kevin Calkins is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kevin Calkins for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
LAYLA MILLER FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Layla Miller showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Layla Miller was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Layla Miller always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Layla Miller on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO WENDY CRAMER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Wendy Cramer, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Con-

gressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Wendy Cramer is a dedicated employee with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Supplies, Processing and Distribution (SPD) program. In her physically demanding role in the program, Wendy is responsible for the retrieval of supplies from the Baltimore VA Medical Center and the distribution of the supplies to various centers. When she has an idea for a way to improve a service, she devotes her free time to making the improvements a reality.

Aside from her numerous work-related responsibilities that benefit our Nation's veterans, she also volunteers several hours a month for the veterans. She has volunteered her time toward such activities as National Salute, Veterans Day, and welcome home events. Every Christmas, she brings her family to VA hospitals to deliver gifts to wounded or ill veterans.

Members of the Veterans Advisory Council as well as patients and staff she interacts with every day praise her attitude and energy with the veterans. She is supportive and encouraging, and patients say her genuine enthusiasm is so infectious she can put everyone around her in a positive mood. The veterans Wendy interacts with can feel her honest empathy for them, and their appreciation for her work is obvious with the awarding of this honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Wendy Cramer. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has helped hundreds of veterans receive the supplies they need and served as a positive influence in their lives. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have dedicated their lives to serve our great country.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA
BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE
CHAMPIONS OF TRITON HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to extend congratulations to the Triton High School Boys' Basketball Team. The Trojans succeeded in clinching the IHSAA 1–A State Championship on March 22, 2008, at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis with a thrilling 50–42 victory over Indianapolis Lutheran.

The Trojans' tireless efforts in practice resulted in a season of firsts: the team won their first-ever Semi-State Championship, made their first trip to the State Championship game and won their first State Championship title. For the team's seven seniors, it was the perfect ending for their high school basketball careers.

The Triton team is led by seniors Jake Everett, winner of the Class 1–A Trester Mental Attitude Award; Troy McIntyre; A.J. Harrison; Reggie Davis; Blake Schori; Patrick Smith, and Bart Christian. Other members of the team include juniors Colton Keel, Cody Carpenter, Joel Meister, Zac Moriarty, and Dustin Krefit; sophomores Ben Montalbano and

Camron Garey and freshmen Griffyn Carpenter, Austin Davis, and Jordan Everett.

Also, I should acknowledge the wonderful support the team had. Head Coach Jason Groves and Assistant Coaches Tommy Mascari, Dave Carpenter, and Matt Landis guided the Trojans to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Michael Chobanov, Athletic Director Mason McIntyre, and, above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Triton High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the surrounding community for their accomplishments this season on the road to the 1–A State Championship.

COMMENDING DON BUTTRESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud Don Buttress of Little Elm, TX, for his commitment to bettering the environment. Don applied for a rebate through the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) to replace an early-model dump truck with one that is cleaner and more efficient. Don's efforts demonstrate the effect a single person's actions can have on the planet.

Buttress' rebate will keep 11,1793 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting our skies throughout the next seven years. TERP is committed to replacing 4,500 older diesel engines with newer, less polluting models, and Don's participation moves them one engine closer to reaching that goal.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program presents businesses with the opportunity to go green by trading in their vehicles for cleaner, more economical diesel engines. TERP provides rebates and grants to help replace aging diesel engines that consume more fuel and generate more pollution than newer models.

North Texas businesses have saved over \$3.3 million and reduced nearly 353 tons of pollution to date. The Texas Emissions Reduction Program serves as a national model for replacing and retrofitting older diesel engines.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Joel Estrada of the 26th District of Texas. His efforts are something I encourage other small businesses to follow, and I gladly congratulate him for his contribution to the betterment of North Texas.

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND OBSERVATION OF A LEGAL
PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF
CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I fully support Representative BACA's legislation to encourage the establishment of a national holiday in honor of César Chávez and wish to thank him for introducing this important bill.

During the Great Depression, César's family lost their own farm. As such, César and his family joined the migrant farming community. César was only 10 years old when he began to work in the fields and vineyards of the southwest. He learned first hand about the injustices and indignities experienced by migrant farm workers.

Founder of the National Farm Workers Association and its successor the United Farm Workers of America, César led the Nation's first triumphant farm workers union.

César E. Chávez was a champion of workers' rights. He showed incredible dedication to social justice through his efforts on behalf of farm workers to garner improved wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, safer working conditions, humane living conditions and an end to child labor in the fields.

His remarkable achievements were realized through non-violent protest, through fasts, strikes and boycotts. This makes his accomplishments all the more meaningful and sets an example that is to be held in the highest regard.

César was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times by the American Friends Service Committee. He received the distinguished Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Because César Chávez embodies so completely both the spirit and values of our Nation I believe it is only right to establish a national holiday in his honor. "Si se puede."

Again, I wish to thank Congressman BACA for introducing this important legislation and calling attention to one of our Nation's greatest heroes.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In mourning the loss of Dr. King, we must also simultaneously celebrate the life and legacy of this courageous civil rights leader.

For the better part of his life, Dr. King stood in protest to inequality. He provided a voice to people once silenced by bigotry and intolerance. He preached nonviolence as a means of securing the fundamental principles of equality and justice, endowed to all people in the United States Constitution. Through his actions and life, Dr. King aided in creating the world we live in today. I am deeply humbled and inspired by his resolve to achieve change in America. Dr. King's work as a civil rights activist and leader has been studied in depth. But, often overlooked is his stance against the war in Vietnam. In the wake of Jeremiah White's comments, I believe that it is important to understand that Dr. King was more than the icon we have created in our efforts to sanctify him. Yes, he lifts the dreamer and man who worked for racial reconciliation, but he was as

well a leader with a strong moral vision who was willing to call our great Nation to task when it failed to live up to the standards he saw created by our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Many parallels exist between Dr. King's opposition to the war in Vietnam and my opposition of the war in Iraq. Dr. King believed, as I believe, that the United States Government will never invest the necessary funds and energy required to improve the situation of the poor in America, as long as the country's resources are being diverted to a war. Similarly, Dr. King and I both agree that war disproportionately affects the poor, as more of them are sent to fight and die on foreign soil. As Dr. King once stated, "A time comes when silence is betrayal," and today that time has come for us in relation to Iraq.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of steadfast conviction, determination, sheer grit, and uncompromising faith. That is why today, I stand here advocating the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who has impacted the lives each and every American.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH DAVID BORTER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach David Borter showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, David Borter was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Borter has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach David Borter for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

CONGRATULATING SARAH LONG DAMSON FOR BEING NAMED FIRST LADY OF MOBILE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Long Damson on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile for 2007. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's network with

over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on Sarah.

A native of Mobile, Sarah is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and South Alabama home.

Sarah and her husband Tom are co-owners of Long's Human Resource Center, a multi-million dollar business passed on to them by Sarah's father. She serves as chairman of the board of the 60-year-old company with locations in Mobile, Fairhope and Foley.

However, Sarah's commitment to South Alabama goes far beyond the walls of her business. She has been active with the United Way for decades, and she is an emeritus board member of the organization. She is the first woman to lead the United Way of Southwest Alabama's annual fundraising campaign and head its board of trustees. She has also served as chairman of The Alexis de Tocqueville Society, a national movement within the United Way that recognizes individuals who donate \$10,000 to \$1 million annually.

In addition to her involvement with the United Way, Sarah serves on various boards at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and was the first woman to serve on the local Regions Bank board. She is a past president of the Junior League of Mobile and is also on the Board of Trustees of Spring Hill College. Sarah is an active member of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and has served on its board of directors as well.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Sarah was the first woman to receive the prestigious Austin Cup, awarded to the most outstanding graduate of the University's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Long Damson for being named the First Lady of Mobile for 2007; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Sarah for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout South Alabama. I know Sarah's family; her husband, Tom; their two wonderful daughters, Mary Stewart Crane and Liz Freeman; her grandchildren and her many friends and other family join me in praising Sarah's accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make South Alabama a better place to live and call home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ALBERT HAROUTOUNIAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Albert Haroutounian of Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, who died in Iraq on March 10, 2008.

Albert was a linguist working on contract in Iraq for the Trinity Technology Group. Albert was on a mission when his vehicle was hit by

an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He was killed along with 5 soldiers in the blast.

Albert's grandparents fled Armenia during the Ottoman Empire's genocide of the Armenian people and settled in Kuwait, where he was born. While in Kuwait, he became fluent in three languages, Armenian, Arabic and English. After suffering the loss of his mother at the age of 14, Albert's father immigrated to the United States with Albert and his 3 brothers. Since immigrating, Albert grew to become an author and aspiring film maker. He had planned to make his most recent book, *The Clock Doc*, into his first movie.

In addition to his budding writing and film career, Albert loved to travel and spent time visiting places such as Armenia, Canada, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Mexico, Syria and Yugoslavia. His extensive travels and active lifestyle exposed him to many cultures and helped to formulate his outlook and dreams for the world.

Albert's goal in life was to establish an organization that would help educate, feed, and house people across the globe. He wished to make our world one of peace with a message to live a life of compassion, understanding, and happiness.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Mr. Albert Haroutounian for his exemplary service to our Nation. May his life be an inspiration to all fellow citizens and we extend our utmost respect and condolence to his family.

LUCAS CAMPBELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lucas Campbell who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Lucas Campbell is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lucas Campbell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Lucas Campbell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING PRO TOW WRECKER SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pro Tow Wrecker Service, of Lewisville, TX, for participating in the

Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP). Through its involvement in TERP, Pro Tow Wrecker Service recently received a rebate to upgrade one of its company trucks.

The rebate was awarded to Pro Tow Wrecker Service to replace an old haul truck with a new, more efficient model. By improving its fleet, not only is Pro Tow Wrecker Service becoming more competitive, it is also preventing a total of 10.6308 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting the air over the course of seven years.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program is offering an affordable means for businesses to replace older diesel equipment that they would not otherwise be able to upgrade. TERP provides rebates and grants to help replace aging diesel engines that consume more fuel and generate more pollution than newer models.

So far, North Texas businesses have saved over \$3.3 million and reduced nearly 353 tons of pollution. TERP serves as a national model for replacing and retrofitting older diesel engines.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent such an economically and environmentally-conscious company in the 26th district of Texas. I am confident that the positive example set by Pro Tow Wrecker Service will encourage more businesses to participate in TERP in the future.

DECLARING THE STATE OF
INJUSTICE AN EMERGENCY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare that we have an emergency on our hands—not altogether new but altogether urgent. African Americans are hurting, caught in a justice system that disproportionately targets them, facing aggressive and often violent law enforcement, and victimized by a steady rise in racial intolerance and intimidation. These are Americans in need, and Americans of all stripes must find ways to come together in the spirit of compassion and generosity when our own is in need. That same spirit is required of us now, to move with all deliberate swiftness in correcting injustices and finding solutions to the disparate treatment of Blacks in this society.

In a recently released report from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "State of Emergency: Stemming the Tide of Injustice against African Americans," a solemn picture is depicted. Facing a startling number of police beatings, the shooting deaths of unarmed Blacks, and the excessive use of force against minority youth, a majority of Blacks today do not believe that police are held accountable for acts of misconduct, an NAACP survey finds. Even that perception, divorced from its almost-certain reality, is reason enough to be concerned. Just this past year, new cases of inexcusable police brutality sprung up across the country, many involving the deaths of young African Americans and the complete acquittal and absolution of the officers who perpetrated the offenses.

As the galvanizing Jena 6 case taught us, we sometimes treat our Black children harsher than we treat our White children in the court-

room. The NAACP report finds that when White and minority youth are charged with the same offenses, Black youth are six times more likely to be incarcerated than White youth are. We cannot afford to give up on any of our youth—Black or White—and we must commit the resources to invest in their rehabilitation and educations. We will, one day soon, rely on that generation.

The reemergence of the hangman's noose as a symbol of fervid threat and unspeakable hatred is more than troubling. It represents a regression in the remarkable progress we have made in this country in terms of race relations. Since early 2006, there have been 43 reported noose hangings, the overwhelming bulk of those, 32, since the Jena 6 rally this past September. The lackadaisical and nonchalant response on behalf of authorities seems to have spawned this new wave. We must send the clear message that these nooses are neither harmless nor ambiguous—they are unveiled throwbacks to a Jim Crow era of public lynchings and racist terrorism. It is as direct a threat as words can be and has no place in America but as sad artifacts of still-recent history. We are today, however, so much better than that.

We move forward now sobered by these unfortunate findings but focused on an optimistic plan that unifies all Americans in this call for greater equality. A community policing that trains officers in cultural awareness, teams tip officers with minority communities in a working relationship, and without bias prosecutes officers for misconduct works best. So, too, does a colorblind justice system that doles out punishment evenly and without prejudice, one that works to free our youth from lives of criminality and tap, instead, into their reservoir of talents and skills.

I have no doubt the American people have the commitment and resolve to get this done. I am hopeful that for our government, our law enforcement, our justice system, we can say the same.

STATE OF EMERGENCY: STEMMING THE TIDE OF
INJUSTICE AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS

INTRODUCTION: STATE OF EMERGENCY

The case in which six black teens were arrested and charged with attempted murder for their part in a fight with fellow white students in Jena, Louisiana captured the country's attention. How is it that the black teens involved in the fight could be charged with attempted murder while the white students, whose racially-motivated actions presumably led to the schoolyard tussle, receive little more than a slap on the wrist?

Unfortunately, Jena is not an isolated case; rather, it is but one of many that are reminiscent of a disturbing trend involving the disparate treatment of African Americans in the criminal justice system. The latest examples include a boot camp beating death and an assault of black youths by representatives of law enforcement. In addition to the reprehensible treatment of youth at the hands of law enforcement officials, there has also been a startling increase in the number of hangman's noose sightings around the country.

If one were to take the aforementioned examples, coupled with the fact that racial harassment complaints filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) have more than doubled from just over 2,000 in 1991 to roughly 7,000 today, I one might conclude that a steady stream of racial intolerance has resurfaced. Some individuals might view the series of incidents

noted throughout this report as isolated incidents; others will view them as part of a larger systemic tide stubbornly connected to the history of American race relations. What is clear to anyone who cares about civil rights, however, is that the disparate treatment of blacks in the justice system accompanied by racial intimidation is unacceptable.

Not only do the police beatings, disparate sentencing cases, and noose hangings suggest movement toward a more hostile environment directed at blacks, but they call into question the extent to which African Americans really are viewed as a part of the American collective. A recent NAACP survey found that a majority of blacks do not believe the police are held accountable for acts of misconduct including, excessive use of force. Furthermore, they believe that when police use excessive force, they are more likely to exact it against African Americans than other racial and ethnic groups. The sentiment expressed by blacks in this survey is not new and demonstrates a consistency in the belief that "the system" works differently for blacks and whites. The disparate treatment of the Jena 6 defendants, the shooting deaths of unarmed blacks, and even the disparity in the rate at which black and Latino motorists are stopped and searched for drugs even though they are less likely than whites to actually have them, all serve to intensify the feelings of skepticism and mistrust toward the American criminal justice system.

It is in this context that the NAACP declares a State of Emergency.

THE CONTEXT OF INJUSTICE TODAY: POLICE MISCONDUCT, PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION, AND RACIAL INTIMIDATION

POLICE MISCONDUCT

Regrettably, many African Americans are aware of police misconduct in this nation's history, be it in the form of excessive use of force, brutality, or racial profiling. Oftentimes this familiarity is a result of firsthand experience or that of family members or friends. Therefore, the more recent instances of police misconduct, no matter how shocking, confirm what many blacks already believe about the American criminal justice system: that justice is not always leveraged fairly. Indeed, when law enforcement officials who are charged with beatings or other forms of misconduct are acquitted, the assertion of an unequal system is further corroborated. What follows are examples of alleged incidents involving black youth and adult mistreatment, death, or both at the hands of police since 1999.

New York—18-year-old Khiel Coppin was shot 20 times when five officers opened fire killing him. Police believed Coppin was holding a gun; it turned out to be a hairbrush. (2007)

Florida—15-year-old Shelwanda Riley was thrown around, punched, and pepper sprayed by a police officer, a man twice her size, as he tried to arrest her for a non-violent curfew violation. (2007)

Maryland—17-year-old Isaiah Simmons died after struggling with several adult staff members of a residential program under contract with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. Witnesses and staff sat on Simmons' limbs, chest and head. The state medical examiner ruled his death a homicide, however, the staffers were charged with reckless endangerment—a misdemeanor. (2007)

Washington, DC—14-year-old DeOnte' Rawlings was fatally shot by an off-duty officer for allegedly stealing a mini-bike and shooting at the officer during a foot chase. An autopsy found no gunshot residue on Rawlings and several suspicious injuries to his elbows, knees and face. (2007)

Florida—14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson died while in custody at the Bay County Boot Camp. An all-white jury acquitted deputies and a nurse who participated in the videotaped violent abuse that resulted in Anderson's death. (2006)

New York—23-year-old Sean Bell was leaving a bar after his bachelor party unaware that he and his friends were being followed by an undercover officer. Once accosted by the officer a confrontation ensued in which the officer said he believed Bell and his friends were going to retrieve a gun. During that confrontation, five officers fired 50 shots at the men's car, killing Bell and wounding his fiends. No gun was found in the car. (2006)

Georgia—Kathryn Johnston, an elderly woman, was shot 30 times by Atlanta police who entered her home with a fraudulent warrant. Two or three officers involved plead guilty to manslaughter. (2006)

Wisconsin—Frank Jude was beaten at a house party while unarmed. The three off-duty Milwaukee police officers were charged but acquitted. (2004)

New York—19-year-old Timothy Stansbury was shot and killed by police as he was attempting to climb to a rooftop with a pile of CDs in his pants. He was using the rooftop as a shortcut to go to a party in an adjacent building. The officer claimed he fired at Stansbury by accident and was cleared of criminal responsibility. (2004)

California—16-year-old Donovan Jackson-Chavis was slammed to the ground, tossed into the air, and bounced on the hood of a squad car and choked by police as they handcuffed him for allegedly not dropping a bag of potato chips at a convenience store. The incident was videotaped. (2002)

Ohio—Timothy Thomas was fatally shot by police during a foot chase. Cincinnati Police said Thomas, who was wanted for traffic violations, was reaching for a gun. An investigation showed that Thomas was unarmed and was holding his pants up as he ran. The officer was cleared on the shooting charges. (2001)

New York—Amadou Diallo was killed when police shot him 41 times. He was unarmed. (1999)

PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES: COURTROOM INJUSTICE

According to a report on racial disparities in the juvenile system, although minority youth are one-third of the adolescent population in the United States, they are two-thirds of the more than 100,000 young people confined to local detention and state correctional systems. The report notes that when white youth and minority youth are charged with the same offenses, black youth with no prior admissions are six times more likely to be incarcerated than white youth with the same background. Latino youth are three times more likely than white youth to be incarcerated. Additionally, youth cases that are sent to the adult court system involve black defendants at least fifty percent of the time—a number that increases to sixty-three percent when the cases involve drugs. Nationally, custody rates are five times greater for African American youth than for white youth, and among all offense categories, white youth are more likely than minority youth to be placed on probation.

Judges and prosecutors have a certain amount of discretion within the confines of the law to determine which charges to seek in a given case. However, as the examples below suggest, prosecutors and judges can and do exact uneven punishment by using the law in unintended ways. This is not a minor issue of concern if one considers that abuse of sentencing power has the potential to destroy lives.

RECENT EXAMPLES:

Marcus Dixon—a Georgia high-school honors student was charged with rape, assault and aggravated child molestation for having consensual intercourse with a younger white classmate. Dixon was held for over a year; his 10-year conviction was overturned once it was discovered that the Georgia prosecutor had misled jurors.

Genarlow Wilson—a talented Georgia high-school student and athlete was sentenced to 10 years for having consensual oral sex with a younger classmate. Wilson's felony conviction of aggravated child molestation was recently amended to a misdemeanor, however, Wilson spent more than two years in prison. Interestingly, as Wilson was being sentenced to 10 years in prison, a white 27 year-old Georgia high school teacher who had sexual intercourse with a 16 year-old male student was sentenced to 90 days in jail and probation.

Mychal Bell—a Louisiana high-school student charged with attempted murder for a fight that ensued between six black students and white students following a noose hanging on the school's unofficial "white tree." The white students involved in the fight were expelled and then later reinstated but not arrested, despite having engaged in other incidents against the black students. The black students were charged as adults with attempted murder for their part in the fight. No one was ever arrested for hanging the noose on the tree.

Shaquanda Cotton—a 14 year-old Paris, TX freshman shoved a hall monitor in a dispute over entering the building before the school day started. The hall monitor was not seriously injured but Cotton was convicted of assault of a public servant and sentenced to prison for up to 7 years. Meanwhile, a 14 year-old white girl was convicted of burning down her family's home and received probation. In the same town of Paris, a 19 year-old white man was convicted of negligent vehicular homicide for killing a black woman and her grandson. He received probation and was ordered to send annual Christmas cards to the victims' family.

RACIAL HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION: NOOSE HANGINGS

"What's the big deal? It's only a noose..." Why the hangman's noose is so offensive. The hangman's noose is a symbol of the racist, segregation-era violence enacted on blacks. A frequent part of the Jim Crow Southern way of life, it is an unmistakable symbol of violence and terror that whites used to demonstrate their hatred for blacks. The noose was not used as a mechanism to punish an individual; it was used to send a message to blacks in general about respecting the racial boundaries and to not "get out of place." Similar to a burning cross on a lawn, a noose is not an ambiguous symbol. In the pre-civil rights era the noose was a very specific artifact used in the lynching of blacks. Lynchings were big community events in which hundreds of white families would come to watch a black man being burned and mutilated before he was hung. Those in attendance would even pose for pictures with the charred body.

Since the dangling noose from a schoolyard tree raised racial tensions in Jena, Louisiana last year, the symbol of segregation-era lynchings has turned up at an alarming rate all around the country. Some have been found in fire stations and police stations, in truck yards and construction sites, in corporate places of business, and on college campuses. What follows is an overview of reported noose hangings since early 2006.

At the time of this report's release 43 known noose hangings have occurred since early 2006. A review of the occurrences shows

a pattern of noose hanging incidents in places of business and in school environments, with a significant increase following the media attention given to the Jena 6 case and the subsequent rally. That is, 11 cases were noted between February 2006 and August 2007; however, 32 noose incidents occur following the Jena 6 rally that took place in September. A strong pattern of noose hanging incidents seems to emerge in the north-east and southeast regions of the country.

RECENTLY REPORTED NOOSE INCIDENTS

Date, Location, and Incident:

Feb 2006, Jacksonville, FL, two black firefighters discover nooses at the fire station where they work. Both firefighters are placed on administrative leave.

Mar 2006, Conroe, TX, Black employee is choked in the bathroom by white employee.

Mar 2006, Newark, NJ, in an attempt to punish a student for not doing his homework, a substitute teacher instructs the student to stand on a chair, ties a noose around his neck, and kicks the chair.

Apr 2006, Bradenton, FL, noose found at entrance of Bayshore Elementary School.

July 2006, St. Louis, MO, noose hanging outside a holding cell in a civil court building. Two white employees and 1 black employee responsible for "practical joke".

Oct 2006, Baltimore, MD, Sigma Chi fraternity at John Hopkins University hosts a Halloween in the Hood party and uses a skeleton to imitate a noosing.

Oct 2006, Punta Gorda, FL, Mike Whiteaker has hung nooses in his front yard for 4 years and threatens to hang more.

Dec 2006, Jena, LA, A noose is found hanging under the high school's "all-white tree" after a black student sits there.

July 2007, New London, CT, Noose found on the bag of a black Coast Guard Academy cadet.

Aug 2007, Germantown, TN, 3 employees at Germantown Performing Arts Center hang a noose backstage as a practical joke.

Aug 2007, New London, CT, Noose found on the floor of a white woman co-worker who had been conducting race relations training in response to a previous noose sighting.

Sept 2007, Baltimore, MD, Noose hanging from tree near black student center on University of MD College Park campus.

Sept 2007, Greenville, NC, "Noose like" piece of rope in basement of residence hall at East Carolina University.

Sept 2007, Alexandria, LA, 2 men with nooses hanging from pick-up truck right after Jena rally.

Sept 2007, High Point, NC, 4 nooses spotted at Andrews high school—2 from a tree, 1 in the bus parking lot, 1 on the flag pole.

Sept 2007, Grambling, LA, At Grambling Lab's elementary school noose placed around kindergartner's neck as part of mock rally.

Sept 2007, Gurnee, IL, High school student hurls racial slurs at 2 black female students with nooses displayed from rearview mirror.

Sept 2007, Watchung, NJ, Holiday store in shopping center depicts Halloween scene showing a stuffed doll resembling a black man wearing a labor suit, hanging from a noose.

Sept 2007, Long Island, NY, Hampstead police find noose in men's bathroom.

Oct 2007, Columbia, SC, Nooses found hanging from a tree outside a high school. 2 teens—1 white and 1 biracial responsible.

Oct 2007, O'Hara Township, PA, Construction worker finds noose hanging from 2nd floor of construction site.

Oct 2007, Pittsburg, PA, Housekeep at Allegheny General Hospital found a noose in a 10th floor hospital room.

WHY DOES THIS INJUSTICE MATTER?

All of the recent events noted above, particularly as they relate to police misconduct and prosecutorial discretion, shine a light on the racial inequality that is apparent in the American criminal justice system. The overly aggressive handling of black youth by law enforcement entities as well as the racially discriminatory use of prosecutorial discretion represent a blatant disregard for the appropriate application of the law. In the noose cases, a few perpetrators were reprimanded; some cases remain under investigation while many have been dismissed as pranks. The undertone here seems to be reluctance on the part of some public and private entities to address hate crimes.

The problem of aggressively dealing with crimes of hate as well as racially disparate treatment in our criminal justice system must be addressed at every level of governance—from small towns and counties to major metropolitan cities. When the very people who are the caretakers of America's criminal justice system do not believe in equality under the law, it sends a message that racism and hate are acceptable.

The criminal justice system must live up to its Constitutional obligations to serve and protect all Americans with dignity and fairness regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or religious creed. The violence and intimidation being witnessed today against African Americans is unacceptable and must be tackled head on. Racial disparity in the handling of the law makes a mockery of American democracy, suggesting that all persons are not viewed as being equal under the law.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT TIDE OF INJUSTICE?

There are a number of steps that can be taken to address the seemingly hostile environment currently being witnessed.

BIG PICTURE

Vote to put into office individuals who are committed to a federal government that values civil rights enforcement. Many appointments to the U.S. Department of Justice and the EEOC, for example, come through the Executive branch. The U.S. Congress has the power to initiate and press for changes in hate crimes legislation. Congressional members also have the ability to deny confirmation of judges who are hostile to civil rights.

Hold state and local officials accountable as well. Push for State Attorney Generals and prosecutors to apply the law equally for all citizens and when they fail to do so, call them on it. Those who are charged with enforcing civil rights laws need to do their jobs.

OTHER ADVOCACY STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN (DEPENDING ON THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF A CASE IN A GIVEN COMMUNITY):

Advocate for more police training on cultural awareness and how to interact effectively with minority communities. In order to be effective in communities of color, police officers must have the trust of the communities they serve. Until the scourge of abuse has been addressed, police officers will not be as effective in those communities, and the assertion that the American criminal justice is one that exacts fair treatment across the board will continue to be highly suspect;

Advocate for more police training on 4th amendment (unreasonable search and seizure), 5th amendment (protection from self-incrimination), and 14th amendment (equal protection under the law) issues;

Call for the swift prosecution of police officers and other law enforcement officials who

engage in undeniable misconduct against civilians;

Engage in greater outreach and education to African Americans on their rights in dealing with law enforcement (e.g., Miranda rights) as well as how to file a complaint should they become the victim of misconduct at the hands of police. In addition to highlighting African American mistrust of the police, the 2007 NAACP opinion survey also shows that a third of black respondents do not know if their local police department has a review process by which it investigates allegations of police misconduct or excessive use of force. Additionally, more than a third of the respondents indicate that they would not know where to go or what to do to file a formal complaint concerning misconduct;

Call attention to cases where overcharging for an offense and disparate sentencing for the crime are clearly evident. Insist that local/state governmental entities and the academic community begin to collect data on these instances and produce more studies on overcharging and disparities in sentencing in order to highlight what is happening. The civil rights community can use this information to alert the public and force those within the justice system to explain these phenomena;

Call on the Ethics Commission of the American Bar Association in the states to investigate overzealous prosecutors and judges who seem to have a pattern of applying the law unevenly when it comes to minority and white defendants;

Advocate for greater diversity and sensitivity training in schools and in the workplace. Some of the perpetrators who have been held responsible for recent noose hangings have indicated that they did it as a "practical joke." Other perpetrators were clearly being malicious. Places of business and educational centers must do a better job of letting their employees and students know that such intolerance is unacceptable;

Advocates should push for tougher prosecution of hate crime laws by local and state officials. For example, the state senate in New York has passed a bill that makes it a felony to display a noose in a threatening manner.

A NOTE ON HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

Federal hate crime legislation permits federal prosecution of hate crimes committed on the basis of a person's race, color, religion, or nation origin when engaging in a federally protected activity. This includes the federal government being able to intervene in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes if they occur on federal property or if the victim was participating in one of six specific activities such as voting. Legislation currently pending (H.R. 1592 Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act) would expand existing hate crime prevention laws and allow the federal government to assist local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes regardless of what the victim was doing at the time of the crime. It would also expand the definition of a hate crime to include those motivated by the victim's disability, gender or sexual orientation and it would provide money to states to develop hate crime prevention programs. To date, 45 states and the District of Columbia have statutes criminalizing various types of bias-motivated violence or intimidation (the only states that do not are AR, GA, IN, SC, WY). Each of these statutes covers bias on the basis of race, religion, and ethnicity. The federal government as well as 27 states and the District of Columbia have statutes requiring the collection of hate crime statistics.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH ROBERT MOSER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Robert Moser showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Robert Moser was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Moser has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Robert Moser for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY SCOTT MOON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the distinguished career of Jeffrey Scott Moon and recognize his service to the city of Orange Beach, Alabama over the past 7 years.

The past 7 years for Orange Beach, as Charles Dickens would say, were the best of times and the worst of times. The city has experienced unprecedented economic growth, but in 2004, Hurricane Ivan struck and devastated the Alabama Gulf Coast. The steady hand of Jeff Moon helped guide the city through these ups and downs. His leadership and friendship will certainly be missed.

As city administrator, Jeff oversaw the planning and construction of 10 city facilities including the recreation center, aquatics center, tennis center, teen center, senior center, and fire station 2. He was instrumental in the planning and acquisition of properties for the city of Orange Beach, including the Orange Beach Golf Center, Medical Arts Complex, and Orange Beach Commerce Park. Jeff also helped guide the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Orange Beach following Hurricane Ivan in 2004. He worked to establish a professional team of skilled employees who serve the city of Orange Beach, a staff that doubled in size from about 150 to 300 employees during his tenure.

Jeff's hard work doesn't end at the office. From coaching youth basketball, softball and soccer to teaching Sunday school classes for high school students at First Baptist Church Orange Beach to volunteering as a cook and

a concession stand worker, Jeff is involved in all facets of life in Orange Beach.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his family, his wife, Nancy; their children, Kayla, Cheyenne, and Chason; and his many friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of Orange Beach and the state of Alabama.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him the best of luck as he heads to Woodstock, Georgia, to serve as the city manager.

MARIAM IBDAIWI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariam Ibdaiwi, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Mariam Ibdaiwi is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariam Ibdaiwi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Mariam Ibdaiwi for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING A AND M EXCAVATING, INC.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend A and M Excavating, Inc. of Lewisville, Texas, for its involvement in the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP). By participating in TERP, A and M Excavating was given the opportunity to replace four of its trucks.

A and M Excavating was awarded four rebates to upgrade its aging dump trucks to a modern, more efficient fleet. This constructive move by A and M will give it a competitive edge among competitors while preventing 26.7542 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting our North Texas skies over the next 7 years.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program presents businesses with the opportunity to "go green" by trading in their vehicles for cleaner, more economical diesel engines. TERP provides rebates and grants to help replace aging diesel engines that consume more fuel and generate more pollution than newer models.

All together, North Texas businesses have accumulated more than \$3.3 million in savings

and cut down pollution by nearly 353 tons to date. The rebates and grants offered by TERP set a positive example of the benefits of replacing and modifying older diesel engines for the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to represent such an environment-savvy and cost-conscious company in Texas' 26th Congressional District. I am certain that A and M Excavating's involvement in the Texas Emissions Reduction Program will encourage other area businesses to apply for the program in the future.

CAFÉ 2115—ANOTHER GREAT ADDITION TO HARLEM CUISINE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I would like to introduce and recognize Café 2115 in my home community, an example of the dining and retail renaissance in Harlem, and to enter into the RECORD an article from New York CaribNews for the week ending March 4, 2008, "Harlem's Finest with African Flavor."

Café 2115, recently opened at 2115 Frederick Douglas Boulevard, blends traditional African dishes with American fare and other delicacies from around the world. The owner, Abe Fofanah is a native of Sierra Leone, who came to the United States in 1998.

People who live in Harlem now have multiple options for shopping and dining that do not require them to leave the community. This is but one example of the richness of new restaurants and retail outlets that are opening in the 15th Congressional District on a daily basis. There is a renaissance occurring in Harlem.

HONORING THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 35 years of astounding community service provided by the citizen volunteers of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

RSVP was established for the purpose of creating opportunities for engagement, activity, and growth for older Americans. Through an amendment of the Older Americans Act, RSVP began as a nationwide program in 1969. The Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Chapter has been active since 1973.

With over 1,300 active volunteers assisting 300 non-profit organizations in Montgomery County, RSVP has become an invaluable resource. RSVP's volunteers serve to assist fellow citizens in a wide variety of activities. Their dedication to the community has greatly enhanced and contributed to an improved quality of life for thousands of citizens living in Montgomery County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking RSVP for their exemplary service to the citizens of Montgomery County. May their work be an inspiration to us all.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILLIAM C. BEST, STANLEY MALINOSKI, BARRY GRIMM, RICHARD RAST, FRANK HOLDEN, AND GLENN MOREHEAD

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, six remarkable New Jersey public servants retired from the Middletown Township Police Department. Let me take a few moments to tell you a little bit about each of these men.

Lieutenant William C. Best joined the Middletown Township Police Department in June 1971. Bill spent 20 years in the Patrol Division, working daily to help keep his community safe, and moving up through the ranks in the department until becoming a Patrol Lieutenant in April 2006. After more than 36 years on the force, Bill decided it was time to spend more time with his wife of 43 years, Sandra, their children, Kim and Amanda, and their two grandchildren—Molly and Teddy. I should also note that Bill's service to his country included a stint in the Navy from November 1961 through November 1963. Bill was a witness to history during this time, as he served aboard the aircraft carrier Saratoga during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

Lieutenant Stanley Malinowski joined the department in December 1972, and over his nearly 36 year career he held multiple assignments in the Patrol Division and the Community Relations/DARE program. Like Lieutenant Best, Lieutenant Malinowski served his country in the Navy before joining the police department. Stanley is a Vietnam veteran, having served from 1965 to 1969. He spent three of his four years in the Navy aboard the guided missile destroyer USS *H.B. Wilson*, with multiple tours in Vietnam.

Detective First Class Barry Grimm joined the force in June 1971, and he held numerous assignments in the Patrol and Detective Divisions over the course of his more than 36 years with the department. Barry was one of the department's arson investigation experts, and was an instructor at the National Fire Academy for more than 20 years. Barry has also been a member of the Middletown Township Fire Department since 1968 and served as its chief in 1999. Barry is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 36 years, Birgit Mosehach Grimm, their four children, Amy, Michael, Christopher and Shawn, his son-in-law Patrick and daughter-in-law Bethany, and his two grandchildren Owen and Sophie.

Detective First Class Richard Rast joined the force in November 1977. During his more than 30 years on the force, Detective Rast served in the Patrol Division, the Community Relations Division, the Traffic Division, and the Detective Division. Detective Rast is a member of the Eastern State Criminal Investigators

Association and the New Jersey Vehicle Theft Investigators Association. Like Lieutenants Best and Malowski, Detective Rast is a Navy veteran, having served during the Vietnam era between January 1969 and November 1971. Rich and his wife Gloria have been married 38 years. They have two children, Bonnie and Sarah, and four grandchildren—Rebecca, Julia, and Brooke.

Corporal Frank Holden joined the department in August 1987 and retired on December 31, 2007. During his 20 year career in the Patrol Division, Corporal Holden received numerous awards for his work, both from the department and from community groups, including the Women's Center of Monmouth County, the American Legion Post 338 of Middletown, and the Middletown Fraternal Order of Police. Corporal Holden has been extremely active in his community as a fundraiser for multiple charities, including The Rainbow Foundation, Jason's Dreams for Kids, The Special Olympics, The Lance Armstrong Foundation, and Victory Junction Gang Camp. Frank and his wife Carol have lived in the Locust section of Middletown for the past 16 years. They have three children—Jennifer, Sara, and Adam.

Corporal Glenn Morehead joined the department in December 1980 and retired in December 2007. He received multiple awards during his long career, and his commitment to his community extended well beyond his work as a police officer. Corporal Morehead served over 20 years each with Leonardo First Aid Company, the Lincroft Fire Company, and the Middletown Township Fire Academy. In July 2008, Corporal Morehead and his wife will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. The Moreheads also have a son, Matthew.

I think it's important for their neighbors and the citizens of their community to understand just how fortunate Middletown has been to have had these six men in public service for so long. For decades, they helped keep Middletown and its residents safe from criminals, fires, and disasters—both natural and man-made. Their involvement in the community has enriched lives and helped make Middletown the wonderful place to live that it is today. As each of these men and their families begin a new chapter in their lives, I want them to know that they have my sincere thanks for their long years of service and my best wishes for the future. Congratulations and well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 31, 2008, I was unavoidably detained with a prior obligation.

I would have voted as follows:

- (1) Rollcall No. 147: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3352.
- (2) Rollcall No. 148: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2675.
- (3) Rollcall No. 149: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 302.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH DAVID SCHLABACH FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach David Schlabach showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, David Schlabach was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Schlabach has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach David Schlabach for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

RICHARD SCHEMMELE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Richard Schemmel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Richard Schemmel is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Richard Schemmel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Richard Schemmel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING JOEL ESTRADA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joel Estrada of Lewisville, Texas for his efforts to protect the environment. Joel has been granted a rebate by the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) to replace an older-model dump truck. Joel's involvement in this program illustrates that the

world can be made better through the efforts of a single person.

Estrada's TERP rebate will allow him to upgrade his current dump truck to a new, more environment-friendly vehicle. Joel's participation moves TERP one unit closer to reaching its goal of replacing 4,500 older diesel engines with newer, less polluting models. Over the course of the next 7 years, the new dump truck will stop 5.8504 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting the planet.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program presents businesses with the opportunity to save money and protect the environment by trading in their business vehicles for cost-efficient diesel engines that conserve fuel more effectively.

Over all, North Texas businesses have accumulated more than \$3.3 million in savings and cut down pollution by nearly 353 tons to date. The rebates and grants offered by TERP set a positive example of the benefits of replacing and modifying older diesel engines for the Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Joel Estrada of the

26th District of Texas. He is a phenomenal example to other small businesses, and I heartily commend him for doing his part to help reduce pollution in North Texas one engine at a time.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT R.
THOMAS WILLIAMSON

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor President R. Thomas Williamson of Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Westminster College was established on January 21, 1852. As one of the earliest co-educational colleges in the Nation, Westminster was founded to promote Christian values while focusing on individual development.

In June of 2008, Westminster College President R. Thomas Williamson will retire after 11

years of service. President Williamson's tenure has provided over a decade of exemplary leadership and vision for Westminster College.

During his time at Westminster College, President Williamson oversaw the completion of 10 major building projects, grew the college's endowment to over \$100 million, and helped the college become the 15th best liberal arts college in the country, according to Washington Monthly. President Williamson's mantra of "get better, not bigger" has allowed students to receive the continued personal attention they deserve. Westminster College maintains a 12:1 student to faculty ratio and a 98 percent placement rate for its graduates.

President Williamson is a former U.S. Navy officer and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore. He and his wife, Jean Simmonds Williamson, have four children and three grandchildren.

I want to commend President Williamson for his dedication to the students of Westminster College and the community of New Wilmington. I congratulate him on his career and wish him all the best in his retirement.