

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the achievements of Cleveland's Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chapter on the occasion of their sixth annual banquet. For the past 6 years, CAIR has played an instrumental role in bridging the divides between Greater Cleveland's diverse communities.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is a nation wide nonprofit organization whose mission is to "enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding". The CAIR staff of Ohio has worked tirelessly to ensure that this vision becomes a reality and I thank every member of the organization for their commitment to improving the lives of the citizens of the Cleveland area.

Together with the organizers of CAIR's sixth annual banquet, titled "Let the Conversation Begin," I also stand in recognition of the distinguished speakers; Dr. Christopher Pyle of Mt. Holyoke College and Imam Johari Abdul Malik of the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center. Dr. Christopher Pyle is currently a Professor of Politics at Mt. Holyoke College and an award winning investigative journalist, scholar, teacher and historian. Imam Johari Abdul Malik is the head of Muslim Chaplains in Higher Education, Government Relations Chair for the Muslim Alliance in North America and President of the Muslim Society of Washington, Inc. I commend their efforts and work in speaking out on important issues and promoting social justice.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Council on American-Islamic Relations for their truly outstanding achievements. The work of CAIR is vital in an ever changing, diversifying and growing community. May their efforts to promote dialogue and create a more inclusive world endure for years to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MARJORIE SELLERS ON HER 75TH YEAR OF TEACHING DANCE

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Marjorie Sellers has been teaching dance for 75 years with enthusiasm and joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of dedication and love which began in 1924; and

Whereas, an occasion such as this illustrates that hard work and commitment truly represents an honest path to success as evidenced by Marjorie's receipt of several major dance awards including the 1998 Member of the Year for Dance Masters America; and

Whereas, Majorie's love of dance has fostered the education and careers of thousands of students, some of which have shared their talents as professional dancers under her guidance; and

Whereas, we wish Majorie many more years of joy in sharing her talents and love with us; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Majorie Sellers, for her dedication to teaching dance for 75 years.

CALL UNITED STATES TO ASSIST WITH THE HAITIAN FOOD CRISIS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this Congress a matter of utmost importance—the current civil unrest in Haiti over rising food prices, and the inability of ordinary Haitians to afford to feed themselves and their families. Haiti is an impoverished nation and this current crisis will only push Haiti further into despair.

I am urging our great Nation to provide emergency food aid to Haiti. Food costs have risen on average 40 percent over last year's cost. The cost of staples such as rice, beans, fruit and milk has increased by 50 percent. The majority of Haitians live on approximately \$2 a day. These extraordinary circumstances have caused wide spread rioting throughout Haiti and have even resulted in death. People should not have to die in pursuit of food to feed their families.

As a donor nation, the United States should have answered the World Food Program's (WFP) call for donor support earlier. The WFP appeal is for \$96 million, and only 13 percent of the request has been provided. Our great Nation should be embarrassed for allowing our Caribbean neighbor to suffer this fate. I want to urge this Congress and the President to quickly answer the call of the WFP and provide critical food assistance to Haiti in its time of great need.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 15, 2008*

Mrs. Jones of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Emergency Assistance

for Secure Elections Act because I believe it is essential that we ensure every American's basic right to vote and to have that vote counted.

Currently, 15 states still use paperless voting machines which have been proven to be unreliable and vulnerable to hacking. In the past two election cycles, voting machines have malfunctioned and votes have been lost forever. Computer scientists across the country have shown how easy it is to hack these voting systems.

This bill will address these problems by providing the states with financial backing from the Federal Government in order to convert from electronic voting systems to paper ballot voting systems in time for the November 2008 elections. The bill also provides emergency paper ballots if the jurisdiction uses a direct recording electronic voting system which happens to fail.

Today, 9 percent of the U.S. population records their votes electronically. These numbers vary greatly from State to State. Twelve percent of Ohio votes are recorded electronically; 80 percent of Kentucky voters use electronic ballots. Without an adequate confirmation method, mechanical deficiencies could have a drastic impact on close elections. This problem must not go unnoticed, and must be addressed.

Considering the tremendous election discrepancies that we have seen take place in this country in 2000 and 2004, we know that we are still dealing with a flawed system. I believe that the passage of this legislation is paramount to ensuring that people throughout this country are not disenfranchised when they attempt to exercise their right to vote.

The right to vote is a right every citizen of this country deserves. As Members of Congress, we all have an obligation to make sure all of our constituents' votes are counted through the most fair and accurate means available. The right to vote should not be reserved for just some of our constituents, but for all of our constituents. It is for this reason that I introduced the Count Every Vote Act of 2007 which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 presidential election. It is for the same reason that I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for votes on April 14, 2008, as well as for part of the day on April 15, 2008, as I was visiting American servicemen and women in Afghanistan. If I were present for votes on these days, I would

• 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.

have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 183, "yea" on rollcall No. 184, "yea" on rollcall No. 185, "nay" on rollcall No. 186, "nay" on rollcall No. 187, and "yea" on rollcall No. 188.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, I was in Tyler attending the funeral of the longest serving county judge in Smith County history: Judge Larry Craig of Tyler, Texas. Had I been present for the vote on the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5719 regarding sanctuary cities, I would have voted "aye."

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN  
PRESIDENT LEE TO WASHINGTON

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, this week the President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, arrives in Washington on his first official visit to the United States since his inauguration on February 25. Indeed, this is President Lee's first major overseas trip, underscoring the importance of the long-standing U.S.-Korea alliance.

The partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea is multilayered; it has political, diplomatic, strategic, cultural, and economic components. It is historic: the friendship between the U.S. and South Korea is more than 125 years old. It is also familial: over the past century, hundreds of thousands of people emigrated from South Korea to settle in the United States, with the result that today comprises a vibrant and dynamic Korean American community with nearly 2 million constituents.

It has been my privilege to serve as co-founder and cochair of the Congressional Korea Caucus, and in that capacity I have had many opportunities to learn about the Republic of Korea and U.S.-Korea relations. I recently stood side by side with South Korean Ambassador Lee Tae-sik at an event in my district commemorating the Korean war. I have met with numerous Korean war veterans—including many who live in Staten Island and Brooklyn—who served our Nation nobly and who lost comrades on the battlefield or who came home wounded with irreversible scars of that conflict. We will never forget their sacrifice and how their service paved the way for South Korea's enduring freedom today.

Madam Speaker, South Korean soldiers have fought alongside Americans not only in their own homeland but in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, South Korea sent the third largest contingent of armed forces to Iraq among all the countries that have participated in that conflict and has pledged over \$460 billion in reconstruction efforts.

The Republic of Korea has often been described as an "economic miracle." A little more than 50 years ago, South Korea was an

impoverished nation perceived as having few prospects for survival, much less potential for affluence or influence. Today, it has the world's 11th largest economy and is the 7th largest trading partner of the United States.

It is no wonder, therefore, that last year negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded a free trade agreement that now awaits approval by this Congress and the South Korean National Assembly before it is implemented.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, of the United States by over \$10 billion annually. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers to the South Korean market.

With growing uncertainty about the health of our economy, it is critically important that we make every effort to spur U.S. economic growth and create new American jobs through securing access to markets in which U.S. farmers and businesses can compete and succeed. The proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement stands to further increase U.S. exports to Korea and will generate new jobs for Americans. This agreement will be a win-win-win situation—a win for workers, a win for businesses, and a win for consumers.

The visit of President Lee Myung-Bak to Washington offers an unprecedented opportunity to discuss the important issues that our two countries face, jointly and separately. It gives us a chance to celebrate a long and productive friendship. It provides us with a reason to welcome an ally to our country and our Nation's Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in offering our best wishes to President Lee on the occasion of his first official visit to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 14, 2008 for the entire legislative day and Tuesday, April 15, 2008, for part of the day, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes due to CODEL to Afghanistan and Pakistan that I was leading. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 183—"yes"; rollcall No. 184—"yes"; rollcall No. 185—"yes"; rollcall No. 186—"yes"; rollcall No. 187—"yes"; and rollcall No. 188—"yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES J.  
MITCHUM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles J. Mitchum, for 30 years of outstanding public service at the Social Security Administration.

On March 26, 2008, Mr. Mitchum achieved the milestone of 30 years of exceptional service for the Social Security Administration (SSA). His leadership, care, and hard work over the past 30 years has been responsible for the great service residents of the northeastern Ohio community have come to expect from their local SSA offices. Mr. Mitchum began his career at the SSA offices in Ohio as a Contact Representative in the TeleService Center, connecting with constituents via telephone. He diligently worked his way up, holding positions as a Claims Representative, Operations Supervisor, Supplemental Security Income Program Specialist, Executive Assistant to the Regional Commissioner, Team Leader, Assistant District Manager and District Manager prior to being appointed as Area Director in 2004.

As Area Director for 29 northeastern Ohio Social Security Administration field offices, Mr. Mitchum ensures that the residents of northeast Ohio receive timely and courteous service. He also works closely with congressional offices to improve service to SSA beneficiaries. Mr. Mitchum's unwavering commitment to public service and ability to connect with SSA beneficiaries has been recognized in many Commissioner and Regional Commissioner Citations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Charles J. Mitchum for 30 years of exceptional public service and for continually striving to make a positive difference in the lives of SSA beneficiaries.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING METEOR SEALING SYSTEMS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SAVE ENERGY NOW PROGRAM

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems has been a top performer in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program; and Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems committed itself to creating a world class, energy efficient company; and

Whereas, since 2006, Meteor Sealing Systems has contributed to the conservation of over five metric tons of carbon emission; be it

*Resolved*, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Meteor Sealing Systems on its performance in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and the admirable example they have set.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY  
MANZANET

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to take this time to remember

the life of Puerto Rican boxing champ and a long-time community activist Johnny Manzanet.

Manzanet was a man whose life embodied the reverie of the American Dream, a man of distinction whose accomplishments were a testament to his great Puerto Rican heritage.

Born in the small fishing town of Salinas, Puerto Rico, Manzanet rose up to become a world class middleweight boxing champion and dedicated public servant. In 1968, he was called upon to lead the Olympic Team of the United States in Mexico's Summer Games of the XIX Olympiad. He was then called to serve once more, when Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him as the New York State Boxing Commissioner in 1970.

In the ensuing decades, Johnny continued to remain involved with the boxing world, training and developing young talent in every era. All-in-all, the list of those who learned from him include some of the sport's best, from Mike Tyson to the first Hispanic cruiserweight champion, Jose "Chegüi" Torres, to even Cassius Clay, the young upstart who would go on to become the great Muhammad Ali.

Yet no matter where he was or what he was doing, Johnny always managed to devote his time to the betterment of the Puerto Rican community. He contributed his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly. Places like the Community Corporation of Loisaída and the Puerto Rican Community Development Project were the recipients of Manzanet's fierce advocacy and protection. He continued to serve in his final years, as a community representative under Bronx Borough Presidents Fernando Ferrer and Adolfo Carrion, Jr.

Sadly, Manzanet passed away on January 22, 2008, a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor. Though he will be greatly missed, his family, his friends, and his community will never forget his lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others. They and we should never forget that in and out of the ring, Johnny Manzanet had the heart of a champion.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT (H. RES. 1095)

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, H. Res. 1095. Signed into law in April 1968, the landmark Fair Housing Act includes broad prohibitions on discriminatory activity in the sale and rental of housing. Undoubtedly, this law has created significant change and progress in our Nation. Yet, the law has had a disappointing impact in deterring continued housing discrimination.

Racial discrimination in the real estate market, rental market, and in financing continues at high rates. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, every year, more than 1.7 million fair housing violations are committed solely against African-Americans. An annual report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

indicates that of the 10,328 housing-related complaints handled by the agency in 2006, race and disability made up the largest percentages. In an earlier HUD study, the agency found that among Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders, one in every five customers encountered discrimination by rental agents. The harmful effects of these discriminatory housing practices have led to hyper segregated communities and schools across the country.

In my congressional district in Cleveland, Ohio, fair housing organizations such as the Housing Research & Advocacy Center report that the number of housing discrimination complaints have doubled in the last 5 years. Of those reported in my district, 38 percent involved disability, 34 percent alleged race discrimination, and 13 percent were based on familial status. These unlawful practices perpetuate communities where schools go without adequate resources and residents have access to fewer health care facilities and other essential services. Unfortunately, ongoing housing discrimination has created communities across this Nation that do not reflect the neighborhoods envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King 40 years ago.

Housing discrimination has also played an integral role in our Nation's subprime loan and foreclosure crisis. A report by Cleveland's Housing Research & Advocacy Center found that, "not only do African-Americans and Latinos have a harder time getting approved for a loan, but once they get a loan, they wind up with high-cost sub prime loans more often than whites, even when they have higher incomes." U.S. maps that highlight the high number of foreclosed homes in minority communities further demonstrate the critical importance of the protections provided by the Fair Housing Act. Our Nation's dignity and economic security depend on the enforcement of this important law.

I appreciate this opportunity to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. I proudly join my colleagues and housing advocates across the country in advocating for increased efforts to achieve the "beloved community" incaptured in Dr. King's dream.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in support of a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March for Meals campaigns.

This resolution recognizes the important work Meals on Wheels does in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our Nation's seniors. It also encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America recently concluded its annual March for Meals campaign. March for Meals is a national

campaign during the month of March to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of local communities. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act.

An important part of March for Meals is Mayors for Meals Day, where mayors and elected officials from across the Nation deliver meals for their local Meals on Wheels programs. On March 19, 2008, a new record was set when 1,084 U.S. mayors and elected officials joined together to deliver meals to seniors.

I have proudly participated in past Meals on Wheels Association of America's "March for Meals" events and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

I also encourage you to join me in supporting this resolution which will give the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs the honor and recognition they so richly deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 16, I was unable to be present in the Capitol and missed rollcall votes Nos. 192 through 195. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall votes Nos. 192 and 193, procedural votes on H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall votes Nos. 194 and 195, procedural votes on H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING DR. MA YING-JEOU UPON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Ma Ying-jeou upon his recent election to the Presidency of Taiwan.

On March 22, 2008, Taiwan elected a new President, Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, former mayor of Taipei. As a long term observer of Taiwan, I have noticed that this island country has taken great strides toward full democracy. The latest presidential election proved that democracy is thriving in Taiwan. Regarding Taiwan-U.S. relations, President-elect Ma has also indicated the need to strengthen our informal ties with each other. After 9/11, Taiwan was one of the first countries to give its support to us and has

been proactive in providing information and resources to us in combating global terrorism. In addition, Taiwan has been cooperative in reducing its trade surplus with us and promoting U.S. goods and services in its domestic market. In return, we must assure Taiwan that we will remain faithful to the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan has come a long way from its authoritarian past and is today a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Far East. I wish to congratulate President-elect Ma and the Taiwanese people for their latest demonstration of democracy. A true democracy like Taiwan deserves friendship and support.

---

**MORE COHERENT PLAN NEEDED  
FOR IRAQ WAR**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a committee member I had the opportunity last week to hear first-hand the testimony of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker when they appeared before the Armed Services Committee to update us on the status of America's military and diplomatic involvement in Iraq.

There have been many comments on that testimony, but one of the best I have seen was a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette.

As the editorial noted, "One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an everchanging description of who 'the enemy' is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is 'special teams,' presumably supported by Iran."

In addition, the editorial commented on the speech to the Nation in which President Bush announced that although tours of duty would be reduced to 12 months, for the foreseeable future the number of troops deployed in Iraq would remain at the same level as before the "surge" and on the president's description of the desired outcome in Iraq.

The editorial's response was "The president spoke in broad generalities of 'a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs.' Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here."

Madam Speaker, I think that sums it up very well. And, as one who opposed the Bush Administration's rush to war in Iraq, I also must concur with the editorial's statement that "The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective."

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the Gazette's editorial.

[From the Gazette, Apr. 13, 2008]

IRAQ: NO MORE HOLD AND PRAY

President Bush's speech Thursday, combined with the congressional appearances this week by Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, suggest strongly that the U.S. strategy in Iraq until the end of this year is "hold on and pray."

Even the welcome news that Army combat tours will be reduced from 15 months to 12 months, no doubt welcome news to the top military chiefs who have expressed concerns publicly and privately about the military being "hollowed out" by the endless combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, has a whiff of unseriousness about the mission to it. Granted, as outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody told the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, the Army is "out of balance" because of the war. But if the president had a coherent strategy for turning the corner in Iraq, he might well have been willing to tolerate that for a while.

The president spoke in broad generalities of "a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs." Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here.

One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an everchanging description of who "the enemy" is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is "special teams," presumably supported by Iran.

It's clear now: The longer we remain in Iraq the more enemies we make. Imagine if the Chinese army were occupying California. Opposition to that occupation would come from new quarters every week.

Perhaps the most encouraging development from this week's hearings is the growing number of Republican lawmakers beginning to question administration policy. "The people of the United States have paid an awful price," said Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, R-Calif., noting that the Iraqi government had budget surpluses. "It's time for the Iraqis to pay that price for their own protection."

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, Reps. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, John McHugh of New York, Randy Forbes of Virginia, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Steve Chabot of Ohio and even Dan Burton of Indiana all expressed impatience with the pace at which the Iraqi government is assuming responsibility.

Republicans may simply be distancing themselves from an unpopular president as they face reelection bids in November. Whatever the reasons, it is encouraging to see them express the skepticism most Americans feel.

The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective.

---

**IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL  
WITKOWSKI**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Witkowski, of Gar-

field Heights, Ohio, for 51 years of dedication and hard work for the Department of Public Utilities in Cleveland.

Mr. Witkowski began working at the age of nineteen in June of 1956 as a water serviceman aid. Mr. Witkowski diligently worked his way through the company rank. During his time at the Department of Public Utilities, he played an instrumental part in completing the Futuristic Trunk Main Study. This study measured flow rates and crating maps for the division trunk main system which is still in use today. In 2003, he was promoted to assistant superintendent of distribution in the engineering section. He was recently honored by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson as one of 70 employees that has worked at least 25 years in the department.

Mr. Witkowski, now 70 years old, oversees seven crews and remains active by doing daily operations for the division. For over 40 years, his knowledge and expertise has been vital to the services of the Department of Public Utilities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Daniel Witkowski for 51 years of public service to the city of Cleveland.

---

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE REXAM  
PRESCRIPTION MANUFACTURING  
FACILITY**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rexam Prescription celebrates the 40th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, Rexam Prescription has grown from a small manufacturing facility in 1968 through hard work and dedication; and

Whereas, the Rexam Prescription has become a world class facility as a testament to the committed Ohioians who work there; be it

*Resolved*, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rexam Prescription on its 40th Anniversary. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

---

**WELCOMING THE POPE'S VISIT  
AND HOPING IT WILL FURTHER  
THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to warmly and reverently welcome Pope Joseph Alois Ratzinger to the United States—

making his stay at our esteemed capital, the District of Columbia, as well as my home State of New York. This country boasts a strong Catholic tradition, home to the third-largest Catholic population in the world at approximately 66 million followers, and has generated a fount of enthusiasm at this, his first visit to American soil as Pope. The 265th reigning Pope will hold mass at the Nationals and Yankee stadiums, meet with the President at the White House, address the United Nations, and pray at the Ground Zero site in lower Manhattan. May he enjoy a safe and spiritually fulfilling trip.

It is my wish that this Pope's commitment to progressive causes—prime among them the proliferation of peace and socioeconomic justice—ignites that noteworthy agenda in this country. He has called for peaceful resolutions to global conflicts, publicly expressing his conscientious opposition to the war in Iraq, and has bravely noted that all are entitled to at least the bare necessities of life: A roof overhead, food for nourishment, access to medicines. These are basic human rights and entitlements that ought to be made sacrosanct in our society.

MR. JIM STEMMLER

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today, with my colleague Congressman JOE DONNELLY, to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Jim Stemmler. I have known Jim for many years, and he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the IronWorkers Local 395. Jim has been a member of the IronWorkers Local 395 for an astounding 35 years, and his contributions to the organization are immeasurable. Although Jim has been a constant fixture within the organization, he will be retiring from the Local 395 at year's end. For his efforts and many contributions to the union, Jim will be honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana.

Jim Stemmler was born in Hegwisch, Illinois, on December 30, 1947. He lived there until he joined the Army, in which he served during the Vietnam conflict. Following his return from Vietnam in 1973, he began his apprenticeship and became a member of the IronWorkers Local 395. Jim's service as an elected member of the union began with the position of Trustee. His dedication to the union and its members continued as he was elected Recording Secretary, and later as he served as president of the IronWorkers Local 395. With Jim's commitment to serve, it is only fitting that Jim was elected the first-ever business manager of Local 395.

Aside from his elected service to the Local 395, Jim also served on several Local 395 boards, including the joint apprenticeship committee and the health and welfare board. The respect and trust of the union's members for Jim is apparent in his appointment as the chairman of the board of trustees for Mid-America Pension Plan and to the supple-

mental monthly annuity fund board. Jim is also currently the President of the LaPorte, Starke, and Pulaski Building and Construction Trades Council and holds several politically appointed positions throughout the State of Indiana.

When not engaged with the union, Jim spends his spare time with those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Jim's commitment to the union and its members is surpassed only by his dedication to his family. Jim and his wife, Sandy, have shared many wonderful years together.

Madam Speaker, Jim Stemmler has given his time and efforts selflessly to the members of the IronWorkers Local 395 for the past 35 years. As a friend to Congressman DONNELLY and myself, his fellow members, and the larger community, I commend his work throughout northern Indiana. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING MOTHER LUCY SLADE  
LEE ON HER 106TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mother Lucy Slade Lee, who celebrated her 106th birthday with family and friends last Saturday at New Gethsemane Baptist Church in Crown Heights where she has been an usher for many years.

Mother Lee, whose official birthday was on April 9, was born in 1902 in New Bern, North Carolina, to the late Elijah and Mahalia Slade, and is succeeded by generations of Slade children. She continued to work well into what many consider retirement age, as an usher and a caretaker to the elderly.

Mother Lee and her family moved into a home on Fleet Street in Brooklyn in 1922, and recalls fondly a time in Brooklyn when there was no electric lighting in home or on the streets; when subway fare was a mere nickel and the Daily News 2 cents; when New York City streets were lined with stables where horses were kept; and when you used your windowsill as a refrigerator. Although these times were not easy, Mother Lee's faith inspired her to devote much of her time to New Gethsemane Baptist Church, where she began serving as an usher in 1966.

For inspiration on how to become better people, we must look to those amongst us who have mastered life's difficult challenges. With Mother Lee's longevity, she has established herself as an outstanding role model for the rest of us.

HONORING REDMOND HIGH  
SCHOOL—WINNING THE PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH  
AWARD

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, it's with great pleasure that I congratulate students from

Redmond High School in my home state of Washington for winning a prestigious national honor, the President's Environmental Youth Award.

These outstanding students took it upon themselves to create and develop the "Cool School" campaign with the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 1,000 pounds per classroom. Their efforts went well beyond the initial goal and reduced their school's carbon footprint by 72 tons and saved the school \$7,500 in its electric bill last year alone.

Led by science teacher Mike Towns, who is an inspiration to those committed to leading a zero-carbon lifestyle, these students exemplify the effort and ingenuity needed to launch a U.S. clean-energy revolution. I have no doubt that these bright minds will continue to be environmental leaders.

It's among the greatest honors as a member of the House of Representatives to meet and work with youth who are involved in their communities and deeply committed to making our world a better place. Our future depends on these young people who are making a real impact in the fight against climate change.

I commend the students and staff of Redmond High School for their efforts and look forward to working with them in the years ahead to beat global warming.

HONORING THE TEACHING CAREER  
OF MRS. ARLENE CORY OF PENN  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 37 years of inspiring and motivational teaching of Mrs. Arlene Cory of Penn Christian Academy located in East Norriton Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Cory will be honored with a well-deserved retirement dinner on April 29, 2008, at Presidential Caterers in the township.

Ms. Cory began her career at Penn Christian Academy in 1971 and she is now teaching a second generation of students. Alumni who have learned of Mrs. Cory's coming departure have expressed regret that she will not be their children's teacher one day. She is loved, admired and respected by many. Her friends will tell you that this is due to her kind heart and her willingness to always lend a helping hand.

In 1985, along with her long-time co-worker Linda Kuntz, Ms. Cory was dubbed a "teacher extraordinaire". I'm sure the thousands of children whose lives she has touched over the years could not agree more.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking Mrs. Arlene Cory for her exemplary service to the children of Penn Christian Academy. May her teaching career be an inspiration to us all.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JEANETTE VANBUSKIRK ON RECEIVING THE COLUMBUS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jeanette VanBuskirk has acted as a role model for her friends, family, community, and church; and

Whereas, Jeanette VanBuskirk has shown hard work and dedication as the Children's Ministry Director at Triumphant Church; and

Whereas, Jeanette VanBuskirk's compassion has provided opportunities and support for hundreds of women and children each year through summer camps and retreats; and

Whereas, Jeanette VanBuskirk has unselfishly given her time and money in support of those less fortunate; be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jeanette VanBuskirk for her service, dedication, and receipt of the Columbus Woman of the Year Award.

BACKING FULL VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ON THIS, THE DAY ITS RESIDENTS PAY TAXES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today—the day that hundreds of thousands of DC residents pay federal income taxes while denied today (and every other day) the full vote to decry disenfranchisement in our capital city. This country was founded on the notion that, at the very least, by contributing to the purse, a citizen and his district ought to be afforded an electoral voice. 'No taxation without representation!' they shouted then, and they (rightfully) still shout today. For too long, the District of Columbia has been robbed its voting seat in Congress. For too long, voices have been silenced and democracy has been severely hemorrhaged.

Granting Washington, DC a vote in Congress is of historical import. That's because the city is home to one of the largest percentages of African American residents nationwide. Alongside our many triumphs as a democracy were certain failures in our not-so-distant past that we must never forget or recommit. We once legally, routinely, and unabashedly kept the vote from our African American brothers and sisters, and it would be a powerful symbol if a region as diverse as this one were not similarly kept from exercising its right to be heard. Anything short of that represents an unnerving setback in civil rights, one that indisputably has a racially disparate effect, if not intent.

The District is in need. It has gradually given way to an unfortunate schism, where this country's well-to-do and politically powerful live and work side by side with communities, namely of color, plagued by overwhelming poverty, rundown schools, and un-

safe streets. If any area is most deserving of partaking in the national conversation regarding the challenges this country faces, from the slumping economy to the campaign for affordable health care, it is this one. The needs of the District, however, are not endemic to itself—as the representative city for our democracy, its needs are of salience to us all. It is in our national interest that those needs be met with proper and full, electoral representation.

We are now at a place and point of decision with legislation to create a vote for the District having passed this House. We now urgently need that the Senate act to pass this legislation and affirm the intention of this Congress to right this historic wrong.

CONGRATULATING DR. JERRY W. ROY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 SILVER EAGLE AWARD

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jerry W. Roy on receiving the Annual Silver Eagle Award. The award will be presented to Dr. Roy by the Longhorn Council, Boy Scouts of America, on April 29, 2008.

The Annual Silver Eagle Award is presented to individuals who exhibit excellence in their selected field and have embodied the Boy Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives. Each year the honoree is someone who has shown dedication to improving their community, an important aspect of the morals and values of scouting.

Dr. Roy has served as the Superintendent of Schools for Lewisville Independent School District since June 2001. Prior to joining Lewisville ISD, Jerry served Goose Creek CISD in an array of positions ranging from teacher and coach to Superintendent over the course of 28 years.

Dr. Roy received his bachelor's and his master's degrees from Eastern New Mexico University and his doctorate from Baylor University. Among his many achievements, Jerry was named a Select Distinguished Alumnus by Baylor University in 1996 and is a recipient of the Texas Superintendent of the Year Award by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Madam Speaker, today it is my honor to recognize the achievements of Dr. Jerry W. Roy. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary, and deserves our sincere appreciation and respect. It is a privilege to represent Dr. Roy in the 26th District of Texas. I look forward to observing the positive impact he will continue to have on our children's educations, both now and in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTER ANN SAKAC

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann Sakac, president of Mount

Saint Mary College, in Newburgh, New York, as she prepares to retire on June 30 after 31 years as president, and nearly 40 years of service to this excellent college and to the Hudson Valley region of New York State.

Over the past four decades, Sister Ann has nurtured and enhanced the educational environment of Newburgh and the Hudson Valley. The Mount Saint Mary College board of trustees appointed her as the fourth president of the college in March 1977; she had been named acting president the previous August. When she became president, enrollment stood at 877; today some 2,600 men and women attend and benefit from the college.

Sister Ann is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, formerly the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, who founded the college in 1959. She came to the Mount Saint Mary College in 1969 to teach English. She also served as assistant dean of students.

During her presidency, the college has added programs in accounting, business management and administration, computer science and communication arts as well as graduate programs in education, nursing, and business. The Mount has incorporated technology into the classroom, its library and the operation of the college. Under her leadership, the college has engaged in an extensive building and renovation program for new academic, residential and recreational space, including a new Mathematics, Science and Technology Center, the William and Elaine Kaplan Recreation Center, the renovation of Guzman Hall and Founders Chapel, the construction of a mid-rise student residence and the renovation of the College Courts residence halls. Mount Saint Mary College has invested more than \$75 million in its campus since 2002 and seen its annual operating budget expand from \$3.5 million in 1977 to \$54 million today.

Sister Ann has also made a tremendous impact off campus. Many organizations have absorbed her wisdom and expertise for their boards. She served as president of the Associated Colleges of the Mid-Hudson Region and is former chair of Pattern for Progress, Inc. She was a trustee of St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital from 1981–1999 and served on the board of trustees of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities. She has received many awards, including an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Providence College in 2003. The New York State Senate named her a Woman of Distinction in 2006.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor and thank Sister Ann for her distinguished career as president of Mount Saint Mary College and for her service to higher education and the community. I congratulate and salute Sister Ann, who has become synonymous with the identity of Mount Saint Mary College, on her dedication to teaching and her commitment to improving the lives of so many individuals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, on April 10, 2008, I was not present to cast a recorded vote on Rollcall No. 182, an amendment offered by Representative JEFF FLAKE to

H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act. As you know, in advance of debate on the Flake Amendment, House leadership announced that further consideration of H.R. 2537 would be postponed until the week of April 14th, 2008. Had I been present to vote on the Flake Amendment, I would have voted "aye."

I was scheduled to be in Medford, Oregon, for a series of events that began at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 11, 2008, including two economic stimulus tax clinics with senior citizens and a presentation at Jewett Elementary School. This schedule of events required that I travel from Washington, DC, to Medford on the evening of April 10, 2008, prior to the time that the House voted on the Flake Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ALAN  
KALKIN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21 years of service of Superior Court Judge Alan Kalkin on the occasion of his recent retirement from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

Prior to his service on the bench, Judge Kalkin graduated from William and Mary College and the University of Richmond Law School in Virginia. After practicing briefly, he and his wife moved to southern California, where he served as a prosecutor in the city of Burbank for 11½ years.

Judge Kalkin was appointed to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court in 1987 by Governor George Deukmejian. In 2000, he was elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court after the approved consolidation of the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts.

The communities of Los Angeles County have benefited tremendously from his years of service as a judge and a prosecutor, where he earned a superb reputation as a fair, thoughtful, and ethical lawyer and jurist.

The Congress of the United States joins in thanking Judge Kalkin for his many years of valuable service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
BUCKEYE HILLS-HOCKING VALLEY  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT FOR 40 YEARS OF  
SERVICE

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District has been enhancing the lives of Southeast Ohio residents for 40 years; and

Whereas, the nine rural counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Noble, Perry and Washington came together in 1968 to create a centralized planning effort for the entire region; and

Whereas, the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District serves over

255,000 residents by planning public works projects and social services that benefit the entire region; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District on their contributions and service to the people of Southeast Ohio. Congratulations to Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District for 40 years of committed service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN  
ANTONIO COLLEGE FOLK DANCE  
FESTIVAL

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, as a San Antonio native, I'm personally familiar with the role our city's culture and diversity plays in the lives of our citizens. We proudly celebrate our heritage throughout the year and recognize the importance of our culture through various events and activities. The annual San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival is no exception.

This year's festival will celebrate its 50th year of providing entertainment and education to patrons. The festival provides a multitude of different enriching activities, ranging from craft shows to culture sessions and, of course, dance lessons with live music. The festival is not solely for adults either, as it caters to people of all ages with many exhibits specifically tailored for children.

Most importantly, the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival benefits the San Antonio College's student scholarship fund. The festival's proceeds contribute to this fund which extends higher education opportunities to many students across our community. San Antonio College's generosity with this scholarship program, and for hosting the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival, provides a great public service for our community through the students they help and the citizens they entertain.

I am honored and privileged to represent this great community and this institution that serves the people of San Antonio, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize their success during the last 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO DICK VITALE

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dick Vitale for being inducted with the 2008 class to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. In his long career as a teacher, coach, and commentator, Mr. Vitale has become known around the world for his unrelenting and unyielding passion for the game of college basketball.

Dick Vitale was born in Passaic, New Jersey, where his parents taught him to give "110 percent all of the time," a lesson that has stayed with him throughout his life. After graduating from Seton Hall University, Vitale took

a job at Mark Twain Elementary School in Garfield, NJ, where he began his coaching career. After several years he returned to his alma mater, East Rutherford High School, and coached the basketball team to two state championships over the next 6 years.

In 1970, Dick Vitale burst onto the college basketball scene when he was brought on as an assistant coach for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights basketball team. He was soon hired as the head coach of the University of Detroit, and led the Titans to a 78 and 30 record and a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1977. His success at the college level caught the eye of another team in Detroit, and he was hired to coach the NBA's Pistons in 1978. Although his professional coaching career wasn't as successful as he hoped, what was supposed to be a temporary job while waiting for another coaching opportunity ended up leading Mr. Vitale to his true calling. He signed up with the then fledgling ESPN network as a basketball analyst and the rest, they say, is history "baby!"

Since calling the first college basketball game in ESPN's history in 1979, Dick Vitale has been court-side for more than 1,000 contests. His pithy comments seem to keep even the most lackluster games interesting and colorful. Love him or hate him, Mr. Vitale's trademark catchphrases and endless enthusiasm have become a part of college basketball history. As he approaches his 30th year with ESPN, his election to the Basketball Hall of Fame as a contributor to the sport is well deserved.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Mr. Vitale, and I thank him for the personality and passion he has brought to the game of college basketball.

THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON  
FOUNDATION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize the National Florence Crittenton Foundation on its 125th year anniversary. As the first charitable organization created under a congressional charter, the Crittenton Foundation continues to perform good works for communities across the country.

The city of Portland, Oregon, was just over 40 years old when the Portland Crittenton Refuge Home was founded there in 1893, resulting from a donation made by the organization's founder, Charles Crittenton. Today, the headquarters of the National Crittenton Foundation is still located in the heart of Portland.

The work of the Crittenton foundation in reaching out to welcome and care for girls and young women seeking support during their unplanned pregnancy is well known. However many are less familiar with the extensive work of the national network of affiliated Crittenton agencies and how they have shaped the way social services are offered and the mentality of self-empowering the girls and young women they serve.

The unique relationship between the National Crittenton Foundation and the family of affiliated agencies continues to be based on

the beliefs of co-founders Charles Crittenton and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett. They believed that the best way to address compelling social issues in the United States was through a network of independent, local agencies supported by a national body. This belief grew into a national movement encompassing, at one point, 76 agencies in 5 countries, and continues to guide the organization today.

There are now over 23 Crittenton agencies across the country, which have provided valuable support and services to 5 million vulnerable girls, young women, and their families. Their success has come from over a century of providing forward-thinking and innovative services grounded in research, compassion, and a belief that change comes through empowerment. Crittenton programs address complex social issues, including teen pregnancy, mental health, substance abuse, and interpersonal violence, and they do so in ways that are gender and culturally specific.

Most importantly, Crittenton services build upon the individuality, resiliency and strength of this country's young women.

Please join me in wishing another successful 125 years to the National Crittenton Foundation and its family of agencies across the country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING OHIO  
VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION FOR 40  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission has been enhancing the lives of Southern Ohio residents for 40 years; and

Whereas, the twelve rural counties of Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton came together in 1968 to create a centralized planning effort for the entire region; and

Whereas, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission serves these twelve counties by planning public works projects and social services that benefit the entire region; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission on their contributions and service to the people of Southern Ohio. Congratulations to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for 40 years of committed service.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, pleased to recognize a milestone anniversary

for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, TMACOG, in northwestern Ohio and southeast Michigan. TMACOG celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

When in the early 1960s Federal funds began to go to local governments directly, local leaders from communities in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan had been meeting informally as the Area Cooperation Committee and building a regional organization. In 1968 the group formally adopted bylaws and elected leadership as TMACOG. Andy Devine, who was then a member of Toledo City Council, was elected to be the first chair. The newly formed executive committee held its first meeting in the council chambers in the city of Oregon, Ohio. In celebration of TMACOG's 40th year, the April 16, 2008, meeting of the TMACOG executive committee will also be held in the city of Oregon.

TMACOG's areas of concentration are transportation planning, environmental planning, and commuter services. Looking to the future, member concerns also include alternative energy and energy conservation measures, economic development, and more interest in freight transportation and logistics.

TMACOG's vision statement, adopted in 2002, states that "TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges." Over the course of four decades, local leaders have looked to the organization to lead the region forward. While we celebrate TMACOG's achievements the past 40 years, we join with the organization to promote a bright future of opportunity and growth.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

**HON. RICK BOUCHER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, of which Virginia Tech is a part.

One year ago, a tragedy of a scale and senselessness that defied explanation befell the university, and it came to a campus that is known across the Nation for its friendliness, peacefulness and close association among students and faculty.

In the year that has passed, an incredible spirit of cohesion and determination and a generous outpouring of support from across the Nation have benefited the campus, and much healing has occurred.

The university's proud traditions and its reputation as an exemplary institution of teaching, learning and research have carried on, and the resilience of students, faculty and the community has assured for Virginia Tech a strong recovery.

Today as we remember the enormous loss of young lives full of promise and mature lives of major contribution from a violent and inexplicable act, we also remember the poise and dignity with which the university's faculty and administration responded in a time of uncertainty;

The courage of the Virginia Tech, Montgomery County and Blacksburg first responders in a time of emergency;

The heroism of those who risked personal safety to prevent further loss of life;

The generosity of those who offered their support and financial contributions to the victims and their families in their time of greatest need;

And the remarkable spirit of the Virginia Tech community and resilience of our region when faced with great tragedy.

Today, as we remember an act of great violence, we also remember Virginia Tech's strong resurgence, and we look forward and are committed to its even greater future.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AT VIR-  
GINIA TECH

**HON. VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting incident, which occurred one year ago today. On April 16, 2007, a great tragedy shocked and saddened the world, claiming the lives of 32 innocent members of the Virginia Tech community and injuring many others. I continue to pray for the families and friends of the victims as they cope with the pain this heartbreaking incident brought upon them. At the same time, I am moved and touched by how the world united over the past year to support the Virginia Tech community as it navigates the difficult recovery process.

In the days that followed the tragedy, citizens across America and around the world watched as the Virginia Tech community pulled together to demonstrate the power of "Hokie Spirit." The Nation also provided an outpouring of support, caring, and compassion for the students and families affected by this event. With the world's assistance, the Virginia Tech community exhibited its resilience, collective strength, and courage in the days, weeks, and months following the tragedy. Virginia Tech Professor Peggy Meszaros described this process by stating, "The reverberations around our campus, and the community, and the state and the nation, if not the world, this Hokie spirit, this belief that we will support one another, that we will survive this tragedy that we will, if we can, even become stronger—that's been a real unifying theme in all of this."

Moving forward, we should remember the victims for how they lived: as loving, caring scholars and citizens who wanted to make the world a better place. Today, the victims' families and friends carry on this legacy on behalf of those who lost their lives. For example, last year Virginia Tech created V.T.-Engage, a volunteer program for persons in the university community to perform public service in honor of the victims of the tragedy. The program volunteers have already completed more than 200,000 hours of service this year, paying tribute to the memory of those lives lost.

I ask Congress to honor and remember the victims of this tragedy and continue to show support for those affected by it. May God continue to bless the families and friends who lost loved ones and the entire Virginia Tech community on this day of solemn remembrance.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
STARLIGHT SCHOOL FOR THEIR  
SUPPORT OF THE TUSCARAWAS  
COUNTY ROCKETS SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Starlight School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, the Starlight School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Starlight School on supporting the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball team in winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL  
CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 125th anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation and its 23 member agencies. Among its distinguished agencies, is one that I particularly wish to honor, Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina.

South Carolina's Crittenton movement began when founder Charles Crittenton visited Charleston, South Carolina in 1897. Along with the pioneering female pediatrician, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, Mr. Crittenton served as an early advocate of services for young, unmarried, and pregnant women.

Based in Charleston, Florence Crittenton Programs was the first historically-documented agency to respond to the needs of young women. Its establishment was spurred by local concern following the suicide of a young pregnant woman. In the early 1900s, the South Carolina movement consisted almost solely of volunteers who took these young women into their homes in order to keep mothers and children together.

In 1934, the first residential home to serve girls and young women was built in Charleston. Today, the building still serves as the core of the multifaceted agencies of the Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina.

Through its tireless work, Florence Crittenton helped to develop positive social change in the attitudes toward pregnant and parenting young women. The agency also focused on the specific social needs of the young women.

As such, in 1975, the agency hired master's level staff to develop a sophisticated clinical

program to respond to the mental health needs of the young women.

In the 1980s, the agency's name was changed from the Florence Crittenton Home to Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina. The change reflected the growing development of multiple professional programs and services such as day programs for local clients and community education in local county schools.

Additionally, a family development program was created to provide off-site housing for mothers and children. The family development program was also created to provide educational instruction to help young mothers cultivate nurturing relationships with their children.

Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina is truly a beacon of light and hope to young, unmarried mothers. Its service to the community of South Carolina has offered tremendous help and given even greater guidance to the young women it serves.

Madam Speaker, this organization is located in my District and I am proud to represent them in this August body, and ask that you and my colleagues join me in commending them for 125 years of national leadership.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MACDONALD

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to someone who has dedicated his adult working life to a career of helping people in Oregon's Second Congressional District, my chief of staff, Brian MacDonald.

Brian is one of those rare individuals in this process who puts the needs of others ahead of his own. For new staffers and interns he is the ultimate coach, helping them grow into their jobs, undertake their responsibilities with proper attitude and professionalism and prepare for future opportunities. In short, he cares deeply about the people he works with and works tirelessly to help them be the best they can be.

And when it comes to helping Oregonians, I've never worked with anyone who is more dedicated and effective. Forget time zone differences between the east coast and the west coast. Forget what day of the week or weekend it is. When Oregonians call for help, Brian is there, Blackberry in hand, ready to respond.

All of us who have the great privilege of serving in the Congress know that we cannot do it alone. Given the enormous volume of incoming requests for assistance, the extraordinary list of complicated issues to understand and vote on, and the sheer confusion of the schedules we keep, it takes a talented team of thoughtful and capable staff to make it all work. Over the course of nearly 10 years as my Chief of Staff, Brian has distinguished himself as one of the best at pulling everyone together and juggling it all successfully.

But Brian MacDonald is more than just one of Capitol Hill's finest. He is a caring husband to his wonderful and talented wife Poppy, and a very proud papa to his son Gill and daughter Marley. Before Gill arrived in the world, I remember Brian remarking about how he didn't

think the addition of a child would significantly affect his time commitment to his work on the Hill. In fact, he said that because he requires less sleep than most, he didn't foresee many changes at all. To which I suggested the hours he usually set aside for sleep might not be the same ones that his yet-to-be-born son would choose. As the parent of a soon-to-be 18 year-old son, I remembered the days of bottles, diapers and sleepless nights all too well. And, of course, we all know "the rest of the story." Now, in addition of having to juggle the daily flurry of activities in a Congressional office, Brian and his wife have two wonderful children to raise.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, Brian will reach a milestone in his life. He will turn 40. And as much as he would not want anyone to know or celebrate such an occasion, those of us who consider him a dear friend and colleague cannot let this significant—well, historic—mark pass without notice.

Therefore, I rise today to both wish him the very best on the occasion of his 40th birthday and to thank him for his friendship, his leadership, and his thoughtfulness. He is truly a trusted friend, a terrific chief of staff, and the living definition of what "public service" is all about.

THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SHOOTINGS AT VIRGINIA TECH

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, an oasis. That is what so many of us are reminded of when we think of Virginia Tech. The Commonwealth of Virginia's land-grant university, it is located in a beautiful valley in southwest Virginia. Virginia Tech—home of the Hokies—is located just outside my congressional district, a short drive from the Roanoke metropolitan area. It is linked in so many ways to the Roanoke Valley and to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Those links were never more evident on this day a year ago—April 16, 2007. Whether direct—as a result of being a student, a faculty member, an administrator, an employee—or indirect—a family member, a contributor, a supporter, a friend—those links combined to form a chain a year ago today. That chain was formed almost instantaneously when shots rang out in a dormitory and an academic building. The chain formed from innumerable links in reaction to unspeakable horror, heroic response, shared grief, and what became an outpouring of worldwide support.

The day that led us to this one, 365 days later, broke like so many others on the campus in Blacksburg. Like any other university, Virginia Tech thrives on routine—dining hall lines and daily classes, instruction and research, service projects and athletic contests, friendships formed. None of those or a multitude of other routines have been the same since. For the first time in my nearly 16 years in Congress, I literally turned around halfway through my 4-hour drive to Washington. I knew that I couldn't continue that trip, with such events occurring a mere 40 miles away from my front door affecting my constituents, friends, and associates in Blacksburg.

But in the gathering that I attended the next day on campus, I saw a remarkable transformation. I saw a community touched by the deaths of 32 people—students and professors all—turned into a friendship community unlike anywhere else. And then the world began sharing its hopes that the Almighty would transmit healing to each and every person touched in some way by the heartbreak that had befallen Virginia Tech.

One cannot help but reach out to our fellow man at times such as those like April 16, 2007. The magnitude with which the globe embraced Virginia Tech in its ultimate time of need still amazes me. It does so because I see that embrace as visible evidence of the university's motto at work—"Ut Prosim"—"That I may serve." And we have seen that service in ways, shapes, and forms we could never have imagined being necessary on the Virginia Tech campus.

On that day and on each day since, we are reminded of the marvelous impact that comes from simply lending a hand. There are the first responders—the police officers and other emergency service officials who put their lives in harm's way in order to save the lives of those who did not fall, and bring an end to the chaos. There are the school officials—tested as if in a war zone, yet called back each day hence to preserve the integrity of a storied institution of higher learning. There are the thousands who gathered spontaneously on the Drillfield the evening of the shootings—one large force whose aim was to bring light to the deep darkness of the day just finished. There's the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund—formed to serve as the clearinghouse for contributions, small and large, that began pouring in to help offset the untold costs associated with what beset the families of those who died and the university itself. There are the orange and maroon ribbons worn on our clothes, the visits by performers like Dave Matthews and athletic teams like the New York Yankees.

And so it has continued through the year since, almost unabated. The outpouring of support remains active. And so be it, for we should never forget the 32 lives taken. It is for them that we continue to grieve with and pray for their families and friends, that God may bring them comfort through the memories of the wonderful things their loved ones accomplished. It is for them that we are drawn to the memorial on the Drillfield, a part of the campus that will permanently serve as a destination for reflection. We remain steadfast in offering a kind ear to anyone who is touched in any way by the April 16, 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech and still requires reassurance. And we thank each person participating in today's remembrance events on campus, showing through their time and talents that they stand ready to help put the events behind us while maintaining recollections of lives lost.

We were all Hokies United a year ago. A year later, Virginia Tech has prevailed. It remains Virginia Tech. Today, let us pray to God for the men and women who passed into his embrace on April 16, 2007. Let us never forget the sacrifices, far and wide, made in service to the Virginia Tech community. And let us hope for healing, for it is through that healing that we can shape the lives of those yet to come who yearn to be able to proudly share in saying, "We are Virginia Tech."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH LINDA HOBART FOR COACHING THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY ROCKETS SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Linda Hobart showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Linda Hobart was a leader and mentor for the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Hobart has been a role model for 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 Coach Linda Hobart for leading the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team to winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

### ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago today, 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech lost their lives when a deranged gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, opened fire on campus, indiscriminately killing and maiming everyone in his path. One of the most deadly school shootings in American history, the tragedy stunned the Nation and shook the school to its core. I cannot imagine how the parents and families of the victims dealt with the heart-breaking news that their loved ones, who they thought were in a safe learning environment, had become the victims of gun violence. On this one year anniversary, my thoughts and prayers go out to the victims, their families, and the entire Virginia Tech community as they continue to cope with the aftermath of that tragic day.

But it is also important to honor the courage displayed by the entire Virginia Tech community during the days and weeks following the shooting. Students, faculty, parents, alumni, and Blacksburg residents all came together to help each other cope with the physical and psychological damage of the shooting. The resolve demonstrated by the Hokie community was one of the most poignant acts of solidarity that I have ever witnessed.

Shortly after the tragedy, many of those affected chose to participate in initiatives to fix the laws that facilitated the perpetration of this crime. First among them was the deficient manner in which mental health records were added to the national background check system. Given his mental health history, had

Seung-Hui Cho's information been handled properly he would have been prevented from purchasing the weapons used in the shooting. Responding to pressure from these citizen advocates, Congress passed the NICS Improvements Act, a law providing funding to States to insure that mental health records are added efficiently to the national background check system.

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting yesterday with a survivor of the Virginia Tech massacre. Her name is Lily Habtu. Lily was shot in the jaw and arm during the violent melee. She described how the events of that day have forever changed her life. That trauma could have left Lily a shell of her former self, afraid to face a world that no longer made sense. Instead, Lily has become an activist, joining the Alexandria, VA-based organization called ProtestEasyGuns.com to stand up against the gun lobby so that others might never experience the pain she was forced to bear one year ago today. Right now, she is participating in a demonstration outside the Supreme Court, calling for commonsense legislation to close loopholes that make the purchase and possession of illegal firearms and the violence they perpetrate prevalent in our society.

I am given strength by people like Lily. Rather than retreat from the world, they have channeled their experiences into a positive, fighting to prevent future acts of violence. But the sad fact is that not enough elected officials are willing to take a strong stand on gun safety issues.

The problem is not confusion over what laws need to be implemented. Requiring universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, preventing terror suspects from purchasing firearms, tightening laws against straw purchases, and banning weapons like the .50 caliber sniper rifle and the rapid-fire assault rifle are all positive steps that would reduce violent crime yet do not restrict the lawful ownership of firearms. The lack of action on these measures is not due to uncertainty over policy, but rather a lack of political courage.

We will never forget the lives cut short on April 16, 2007, and the families and friends of the victims who continue to suffer today. But our sympathy for these victims is hollow unless it is matched with a determination to prevent gun violence. It is imperative Congress honor the memory of the Virginia Tech victims. As a body, we need to stand up before another tragedy occurs, by passing strong, responsible gun safety regulations.

### FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 15, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4056 which provides Congress the ability to recognize and honor the dedicated men and women in Federal law enforcement who risk their lives and welfare daily while performing necessary and often hazardous duties.

There are thousands of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, FLEOs, including those that bravely serve in the Department of Homeland Security. Of these thousands, some are injured in the course of duty. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to these individuals, especially given the difficult task they have of enforcing our laws and protecting our way of life.

In the Department of Homeland Security alone, countless FLEOs serve to protect the Nation from harm at our borders and ports of entry as well as our financial, cyber and transportation systems. On a daily basis, these individuals work diligently, often apprehending or detaining people suspected of criminal offenses, even if it means putting themselves in harm's way. Their work is absolutely necessary to the security and well-being of our country and it should be properly acknowledged.

While measures exist to award military personnel and State and local officers for their sacrifices, currently only 2 out of the more than 70 Federal agencies recognize their own valiant FLEOs. Therefore, it is imperative that Congress address and highlight the value of these distinguished men and women by establishing a Congressional Badge of Bravery. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING  
THE VIRGINIA TECH COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today we remember and honor the students and faculty who lost their lives a year ago at Virginia Tech. The entire community has made a valiant effort to move forward while still honoring those who were lost and injured on that fateful day. As a proud alumnus of Virginia Tech this day has very personal meaning to my family and me. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and the entire Hokie family today.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
COACH DAN McCAULEY FOR  
COACHING THE TUSCARAWAS  
COUNTY ROCKETS SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS BASKETBALL TEAM  
TO WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION  
IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:  
Whereas, Coach Dan McCauley showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Dan McCauley was a leader and mentor for the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach McCauley 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 Dan McCauley for leading the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics Basketball Team to winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

THE DAILY 45: CHAVEZ CLARKE

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Sadly enough, one of the victims on March 29 was eighteen-year-old Chavez Clarke. This Chicago student was gunned down after Saturday classes at Simeon Career Academy, where Clarke was attending in hopes of graduating this summer.

One teenage gunman brought a gun to school because he knew security would be light, police said. Clarke's classmates were outraged. On April 1—instead of playing April Fool's Day pranks—three hundred anti-violence activists and Chicago Public Schools students joined local leaders in their fight for gun control.

If we, as adults, parents, and legislators don't hear the cries of our children, then, WE are the fools. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

VIRGINIA TECH ONE-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1-year anniversary of the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech University.

Madam Speaker, today, April 16, 2008, marks one of the darkest days in our Nation's history. A year ago today, 32 innocent lives were mercilessly cut short in their prime. A year ago today, families and friends lost their loved ones in a crime of unspeakable horror. A year ago today, we, the American people once again lost a piece of ourselves and our sense of security.

These poor people. Their poor families. These were real people that were killed. They were our sons and daughters. This was our American family that was impacted on April 16, 2007.

The shooting at Virginia Tech was the deadliest school shooting ever seen on our soil.

Far too many times we have stood here in this Chamber commemorating days like today. Days when we reflect on what evil can come to bear on good people and we make grand proclamations about how we will do everything we can to make sure that it will never happen again. Never again.

And here we are—again.

The cynics among us will no doubt throw their hands up in the air and claim that this is just the way things are. What can we do?

Can we ever stop these nightmares from happening in the first place, so we don't have to hear about another life needlessly lost? The answer is most likely an unsettling no.

The fact is that someday, somewhere, despite all of our best efforts, we will probably come together again sometime down the line and we will deliver similar speeches and we will once again feel the helpless confusion that we have become so uneasily and reluctantly accustomed to.

No, we can't say that there will never be another shooting of major proportions like the one at Virginia Tech, but we can say that we will do everything in our power to close any loophole we can find that would make it easier for another individual to commit such a heinous crime.

We have made strides in the right direction. In January, this Congress passed and the President signed into law the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Improvement Amendments Act.

This bill was a step in the right direction toward keeping guns out of the hands of the people who stand to do the most harm with them. In fact, based on his diagnosed mental illness, it is possible that the killer, Mr. Cho, might not have been able to acquire the weapons he used on his murderous rampage.

We can and will save lives as a result of the mechanisms put in place through the passage of this legislation. But in order for the Improvements to NICS to be truly effective, we must make sure that this Congress steps up to the plate and appropriately funds the legislation that we all supported. This measure is too important to play politics with, and I call on my colleagues to stand with me and do the right thing by fully funding the NICS Improvement Amendments Act.

But beyond keeping guns out of the wrong hands, we need to make sure that systems are in place that will keep our Nation's college campuses safe.

Last week I stood with the families of Virginia Tech victims and announced the introduction of the "Virginia Tech Victims Campus Emergency Response Policy and Notification Act," H.R. 5735, also known as the VTV Act.

The bill amends the Jean Clery Act and requires schools to provide warnings within 30 minutes after campus or local law enforcement officials have determined there is an emergency or dangerous situation on campus.

Had Virginia Tech quickly warned students that there was a gunman on campus when first two murders were confirmed, many of the victims may have sought shelter or stayed put. Instead, people went about their normal day with no knowledge of the danger they were about to encounter.

No notifications were sent until 9:26 a.m., when the school emailed students that there was a shooting, and to watch for suspicious behavior. At 9:45 a.m., the second round of shootings occurred. But by that time, students had already gone to their classes.

Many believe if the students had been notified earlier, they might not have gone to class and some might not have been exposed to the shooter.

If the warnings required by the VTV Act were in place on April 16, 2007, lives might have been saved.

Joe Samaha, father of Virginia Tech victim Reema Samaha said last week that, "If we do not learn the lesson, we will have lost our students for nothing."

Let's honor the memories of those students and work to be proactive and do anything necessary to make sure that we can deliver fewer and fewer statements commemorating tragedies like Virginia Tech.

This body has the duty to pass laws that protect Americans, and we can do just that, by supporting sensible legislation like the VTV Act to make sure that we do everything we can to avoid more gun violence.

So let's mark today's unfortunate anniversary by upholding the memory of those lost at Virginia Tech last year and promise to do better, work harder, learn the lessons and not let them be lost for nothing.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was away from Washington attending to personal matters and missed several votes. I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008, "no" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 5719, "yes" on H.R. 5719, the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008, and "yes" on H.R. 5517, designating a post office in Humble, Texas.

#### WELCOMING POPE BENEDICT XVI TO THE UNITED STATES

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, my wife Marie and I were among the thousands who joined President George W. Bush and Laura on the White House lawn today in welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States.

It was among the most inspiring events of my 28 years in Congress.

Both men—extraordinary leaders for extraordinarily difficult times—spoke eloquently of the challenges, opportunities and duties of global citizenship. Both called us to work harder and more effectively for others, especially the disenfranchised, weak and vulnerable.

President Bush—speaking for us—said to the Pope:

"Here in America you'll find a nation of compassion. Americans believe that the measure of a free society is how we treat the weakest and most vulnerable among us. . . . Here in America you'll find a nation that welcomes the role of faith in the public square. . . . Here in America, you'll find a nation that is fully modern, yet guided by ancient and eternal truths. . . . Most of all, Holy Father, you will find in America people whose hearts are open to your message of hope. And America and the world need this message."

Pope Benedict said "I come as a friend. a preacher of the Gospel, and one with great respect for this vast pluralistic society. . . ."

He said he hoped his presence would be "a source of renewal and hope." He reminded us that "Freedom is not only a gift, but also a summons to personal responsibility." And the Pope urged us to greater action:

"the need for global solidarity is as urgent as ever, if all people are to live in a way worthy of their dignity—as brothers and sisters dwelling in the same house and around that table which God's bounty has set for all his children. America has traditionally shown herself generous in meeting immediate human needs, fostering development and offering relief to the victims of natural catastrophes. I am confident that this concern for the greater human family will continue to find expression in support for the patient efforts of international diplomacy to resolve conflicts and promote progress. In this way, coming generations will be able to live in a world where truth, freedom and justice can flourish—a world where the God-given dignity and the rights of every man, woman and child are cherished, protected and effectively advanced.

Madam Speaker, what follows are both the President and Pope's remarks in their entirety.

PRESIDENT BUSH WELCOMES HIS HOLINESS

POPE BENEDICT XVI TO WHITE HOUSE

President Bush: Holy Father, Laura and I are privileged to have you here at the White House. We welcome you with the ancient words commended by Saint Augustine: "Pax Tecum." Peace be with you.

You've chosen to visit America on your birthday. Well, birthdays are traditionally spent with close friends, so our entire nation is moved and honored that you've decided to share this special day with us. We wish you much health and happiness—today and for many years to come.

This is your first trip to the United States since you ascended to the Chair of Saint Peter. You will visit two of our greatest cities and meet countless Americans, including many who have traveled from across the country to see you and to share in the joy of this visit. Here in America you'll find a nation of prayer. Each day millions of our citizens approach our Maker on bended knee, seeking His grace and giving thanks for the many blessings He bestows upon us. Millions of Americans have been praying for your visit, and millions look forward to praying with you this week.

Here in America you'll find a nation of compassion. Americans believe that the measure of a free society is how we treat the weakest and most vulnerable among us. So each day citizens across America answer the universal call to feed the hungry and comfort the sick and care for the infirm. Each day across the world the United States is working to eradicate disease, alleviate poverty, promote peace and bring the light of hope to places still mired in the darkness of tyranny and despair.

Here in America you'll find a nation that welcomes the role of faith in the public square. When our Founders declared our nation's independence, they rested their case on an appeal to the "laws of nature, and of nature's God." We believe in religious liberty. We also believe that a love for freedom and a common moral law are written into every human heart, and that these constitute the firm foundation on which any successful free society must be built.

Here in America, you'll find a nation that is fully modern, yet guided by ancient and eternal truths. The United States is the most innovative, creative and dynamic country on earth—it is also among the most religious. In our nation, faith and reason coexist in harmony. This is one of our country's greatest strengths, and one of the reasons that

our land remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for millions across the world.

Most of all, Holy Father, you will find in America people whose hearts are open to your message of hope. And America and the world need this message. In a world where some invoke the name of God to justify acts of terror and murder and hate, we need your message that "God is love." And embracing this love is the surest way to save men from "falling prey to the teaching of fanaticism and terrorism."

In a world where some treat life as something to be debased and discarded, we need your message that all human life is sacred, and that "each of us is willed, each of us is loved" and your message that "each of us is willed, each of us is loved, and each of us is necessary."

In a world where some no longer believe that we can distinguish between simple right and wrong, we need your message to reject this "dictatorship of relativism," and embrace a culture of justice and truth.

In a world where some see freedom as simply the right to do as they wish, we need your message that true liberty requires us to live our freedom not just for ourselves, but "in a spirit of mutual support."

Holy Father, thank you for making this journey to America. Our nation welcomes you. We appreciate the example you set for the world, and we ask that you always keep us in your prayers.

Pope Benedict XVI: Mr. President, thank you for your gracious words of welcome on behalf of the people of the United States of America. I deeply appreciate your invitation to visit this great country. My visit coincides with an important moment in the life of the Catholic community in America: the celebration of the 200th anniversary of elevation of the country's first Diocese—Baltimore—to a metropolitan Archdiocese and the establishment of the Sees of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Louisville.

Yet I am happy to be here as a guest of all Americans. I come as a friend, a preacher of the Gospel, and one with great respect for this vast pluralistic society. America's Catholics have made, and continue to make, an excellent contribution to the life of their country. As I begin my visit, I trust that my presence will be a source of renewal and hope for the Church in the United States, and strengthen the resolve of Catholics to contribute ever more responsibly to the life of this nation, of which they are proud to be citizens.

From the dawn of the Republic, America's quest for freedom has been guided by the conviction that the principles governing political and social life are intimately linked to a moral order based on the dominion of God the Creator. The framers of this nation's founding documents drew upon this conviction when they proclaimed the self-evident truth that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights grounded in the laws of nature and of nature's God.

The course of American history demonstrates the difficulties, the struggles, and the great intellectual and moral resolve which were demanded to shape a society which faithfully embodied these noble principles. In that process, which forged the soul of the nation, religious beliefs were a constant inspiration and driving force, as for example in the struggle against slavery and in the civil rights movement. In our time, too, particularly in moments of crisis, Americans continue to find their strength in a commitment to this patrimony of shared ideas and aspirations.

In the next few days, I look forward to meeting not only with America's Catholic community, but with other Christian communities and representatives of the many religious traditions present in this country.

Historically, not only Catholics, but all believers have found here the freedom to worship God in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, while at the same time being accepted as part of a commonwealth in which each individual group can make its voice heard.

As the nation faces the increasingly complex political and ethical issues of our time, I am confident that the American people will find in their religious beliefs a precious source of insight and an inspiration to pursue reasoned, responsible and respectful dialogue in the effort to build a more human and free society.

Freedom is not only a gift, but also a summons to personal responsibility. Americans know this from experience—almost every town in this country has its monuments honoring those who sacrificed their lives in defense of freedom, both at home and abroad. The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good, and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate. It also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate.

In a word, freedom is ever new. It is a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over for the cause of good. Few have understood this as clearly as the late Pope John Paul II. In reflecting on the spiritual victory of freedom over totalitarianism in his native Poland and in Eastern Europe, he reminded us that history shows time and again that "in a world without truth, freedom loses its foundation," and a democracy without values can lose its very soul. Those prophetic words in some sense echo the conviction of President Washington, expressed in his Farewell Address, that religion and morality represent "indispensable supports" of political prosperity.

The Church, for her part, wishes to contribute to building a world ever more worthy of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. She is convinced that faith sheds new light on all things, and that the Gospel reveals the noble vocation and sublime destiny of every man and woman. Faith also gives us the strength to respond to our high calling and to hope that inspires us to work for an ever more just and fraternal society. Democracy can only flourish, as your founding fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation.

For well over a century, the United States of America has played an important role in the international community. On Friday, God willing, I will have the honor of addressing the United Nations organization, where I hope to encourage the efforts underway to make that institution an ever more effective voice for the legitimate aspirations of all the world's peoples.

On this, the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the need for global solidarity is as urgent as ever, if all people are to live in a way worthy of their dignity—as brothers and sisters dwelling in the same house and around that table which God's bounty has set for all his children. America has traditionally shown herself generous in meeting immediate human needs, fostering development and offering relief to the victims of natural catastrophes. I am confident that this concern for the greater human family will continue to find expression in support for the patient efforts of international diplomacy to resolve conflicts and promote progress. In this way, coming generations will be able to live in a world where truth, freedom and justice can

flourish—a world where the God-given dignity and the rights of every man, woman and child are cherished, protected and effectively advanced.

Mr. President, dear friends, as I begin my visit to the United States, I express once more my gratitude for your invitation, my joy to be in your midst, and my fervent prayers that Almighty God will confirm this nation and its people in the ways of justice, prosperity and peace. God bless America.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK**

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, April 13–19 is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week—a week dedicated to public-safety telecommunicators who handle millions of calls every year with great efficiency. The selfless nature with which these public servants do their jobs is truly one of a kind. Since 1991, Congress has recognized their work. It gives me great pleasure to honor and personally say "thank-you," to the many men and women in my district and across Washington State that provide this valuable service to our communities each and every day.

As the former Sheriff of King County in Washington State, I worked alongside the men and women in our communications center, depending on them daily to provide me with the correct information in order to safely carry out my duties and keep our communities safe. I will never forget the great lengths the men and women at our communications center took to be sure I was okay after a head-on collision in 1991, and the care and compassion they showed me. After the collision, I was able to get out of my car and check on the others involved in the accident. I left my portable radio behind in the patrol car, not knowing that the men and women at the communications center were nearly in tears and beside themselves with worry, wondering if I was safe. It is a difficult and sometimes emotional duty they perform, not always knowing what's happening on the other end of the line because they can't see what's going on but can hear the cries for help and the commotion and confusion of the scene. I cannot adequately express how much it meant to me, knowing they cared so much about my well-being. The men and women at our communications centers are truly heroes to the law enforcement officers and citizens they serve.

A former Chief of Police in Colorado once wrote that dispatchers must possess, among other things, the humor of David Letterman, the endurance of the Energizer Bunny and the patience of Job. It is not often that such traits are found in one person. However, in my experience, to find such a person one need look no further than the telecommunications section of a local police, fire or Sheriff's office. These men and women work tirelessly with the heart of a servant; always ensuring the needs of the callers and the first responders they dispatch are met and placing their security above all else.

I encourage all my friends, colleagues, and neighbors to take a moment during this week

to thank a telecommunications dispatcher—let them know their service is appreciated and encourage them to continue providing guidance and help to their fellow citizens when they're most in need.

**HONORING THE VISIT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the visit of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict the XVI, to the United States. In addition to commemorating this Pontiff's first visit to our Nation as the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, today also marks the 81st birthday for his Holiness. The theme for the Pope's U.S. visit is "On Christian Hope," and on behalf of the more than 200,000 Catholic residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I would like to welcome Pope Benedict the XVI to Washington, DC and the United States.

Pope Benedict the XVI was elected the 265th Pope in August of 2005. Since that time he has traveled to nations all over the world spreading the beliefs of hope, peace, and justice. Throughout his life the Holy Father has touched the hearts of millions. From his humble beginnings in Germany through his current role as leader of the Roman Catholic Church, his religious doctrine and his belief in faith, hope, and kindness have guided his commitment to the Church and people around the world. He has connected with Catholics and non-Catholics alike through his dedication for advancement of human rights for all people.

The Holy Father has been honored throughout the world as a leader on issues that affect people of all races, religions, and creeds. He is an advocate for the poor and the needy, the hungry and the old, the sick and the tired. The belief that all citizens of the world should have rights is not simply a religious belief, but a human belief and one that we as Americans should honor.

Roman Catholics make up over 20 percent of the United States population and over one-sixth of the world's population. The Roman Catholic Church in the United States operates schools, universities, shelters, and hospitals to help and educate people of this great nation.

Madam Speaker, the Holy Father is a dedicated servant to the Church and his followers, and we are proud to welcome him on his first visit to America. I wish him continued success in his efforts for human rights and spiritual advancement, as well as a very happy birthday.

**HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF KEITH D. MCFARLAND, PH.D.**

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant who has dedicated his entire life to higher education, Dr. Keith D. McFarland.

His teaching career began in 1966 while working on his doctoral degree, and since then, he has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. McFarland has published books, reviews and numerous articles dealing with twentieth century military history, and has also made professional presentations dealing with his discipline and graduate studies.

In 1969, Dr. McFarland became an Assistant Professor of History at East Texas State University. This position would pave the way for him to become President of the institution, which in 1996 became part of The Texas A&M University System as Texas A&M University-Commerce.

During Dr. McFarland's tenure, he was able to take Texas A&M University-Commerce to new academic heights—twenty new programs were introduced at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. With enrollment at its highest point in 25 years, the university remains one of Texas' top producers of teachers, principals, superintendents, school counselors and educational diagnosticians. The MBA program is considered the number three best buy in the Nation.

In the past 4 years, administrative costs have dropped from 11½ percent to 9½ percent, while external gifts and research funding has increased by over 200 percent.

Passionate about improving a deteriorating physical plant, Dr. McFarland pushed for the first new Campus Master Plan in 40 years. In 2001, he began the first campus construction project since 1977. This project led to the demolition of forty-one defunct buildings, replacing them with modern and efficient classrooms and support facilities. Under construction today is the Sam Rayburn Student Center, named for one of my personal heroes.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to join the many graduates of Texas A&M University-Commerce, including my wife Mary Ellen, in congratulating Dr. McFarland upon his retirement. I can't think of a better testament to public service than educating tomorrow's leaders, and Dr. McFarland is to be commended for his commitment to the field of higher education. Please join me in honoring him on this prestigious occasion.

HONORING COMMANDER DANIEL K. BRIGGS FOR HIS CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE SONS OF AMVETS OF OHIO

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the distinguished service of Mr. Daniel K. Briggs to the Ohio Department of the Sons of AMVETS. A resident of Findlay, he will be recognized at a testimonial dinner this weekend for his outstanding work as Commander of the Ohio Department.

Born in Bucyrus, Ohio, Commander Briggs is a 1970 graduate of Bucyrus High School. His dedication to veterans' causes was evident from the start through his service to Bucyrus's Sons of the American Legion chapter.

Upon moving to Findlay in 1998, Commander Briggs continued this commitment to

our nation's veterans, joining Findlay's Sons of AMVETS squadron. He has held many offices in Findlay's Squadron 21—and continues in the position of First Vice Commander of the Findlay squadron even as he leads the state organization.

During his time as First Vice Commander of Ohio, six new squadrons were established in the state and Ohio membership increased to more than 8,000 sons, grandsons, brothers, and husbands of veterans.

Commander Briggs is a longtime employee of the General Electric plant in Bucyrus. Combining his work with his passion to give back to veterans, he started a program to donate light bulbs to veterans' homes and other veterans' organizations in Ohio. So many have benefited from the thousands of light bulbs donated through this program and the money saved as a result.

Commander Briggs has received numerous honors from his peers in the organization, including the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award and the Gil Garza Award: the highest award bestowed by the Sons of AMVETS. His commitment to fulfilling needs at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky garnered him the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Leadership Award two years ago.

I am honored to join the chorus of well-wishers as the State of Ohio again recognizes his distinguished service to Ohio's veterans. He is a shining example of our mutual responsibility to serve those who devoted their lives to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

SÖDERTÄLJE, SWEDEN ACCEPTS  
5,000 IRAQI REFUGEES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, I rise today to recognize the generosity of the people of Södertälje, Sweden, who have opened their doors to more than 5,000 Iraqi refugees. This small city has a population of 83,000 and has accepted more Iraqi refugees than the United States and Canada combined.

On April 10, the Mayor of Södertälje. Mr. Anders Lago, testified at a Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "OSCE Partner States and Neighbors Overwhelmed by Iraqi Refugees: Band-aid Solutions to Implosion in the Middle East?" In his testimony, Mayor Lago noted, "The millions of refugees in the world must be a concern for us all, not just for those areas bordering on the breeding grounds of war, or for a small number of countries and cities such as Södertälje." In addition, he said, "Despite the fact that we need immigrants, Södertälje has become a town that must now say—STOP, STOP, STOP. Do not misunderstand me. We will always help others when we can. We must act when the lives of our brothers and sisters are in danger. It is imperative that we have a humane refugee policy world wide. Our common agreement that all people are equal, no matter what color, religion or gender, must become a reality."

Madam Speaker, the country of Sweden has accepted more than 30,000 Iraqi refugees

since 2003. This is no doubt a commendable act of humanitarian kindness. I offer my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to the government of Sweden which is truly committed to assisting Iraqi refugees.

It must also be noted that, while Mayor Lago has opened the doors of his small city to so many Iraqi refugees, the strains on its infrastructure have been tremendous. Nonetheless, his generosity, and that of the people of Södertälje, put the United States to shame. The Mayor has clearly gone above and beyond the call of duty to help refugees from Iraq and he is nothing short of a "humanitarian ambassador."

Madam Speaker. I thank Mayor Anders Lago and the people of Södertälje, Sweden for their kindness and generosity, and I submit the Mayor's statement for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TESTIMONY OF ANDERS LAGO—MAYOR OF SÖDERTÄLJE MUNICIPALITY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEFORE HELSINKI COMMISSION, APRIL 10, 2008

Chairman Hastings, Members of the Congressional Commission, Distinguished Speakers and Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost I would like to thank the Commission for your invitation. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about the difficult situation regarding the people now fleeing from Iraq.

Allow me to be totally frank. I am not the President, a Cabinet Minister, an Ambassador or even a Member of the Swedish Parliament. I am the Mayor of Södertälje, a small town with slightly more than eighty thousand inhabitants. I am here today as the representative from a small country on the northern edge of the European Union, but I can say with both pride and disappointment, that when it comes to refugees, I come from a great nation. The United States is the country in the western world that accepts the largest number of refugees. Directly thereafter comes Sweden, and according to census statistics, it is my hometown that receives most refugees in Sweden.

Many Iraqi refugees have sought shelter in Södertälje since the start of the war in Iraq. Almost all belong to the Christian minority. Södertälje accepts approximately five percent of all the Iraqi refugees who come to Europe. To illustrate this even more dramatically, my little town alone, receives more Iraqi refugees than the United States and Canada together.

We did not start the war in Iraq, however we assume a huge responsibility for those people who are affected.

Last week I met with seven Iraqi pupils at a local school. Meena, a girl in fifth grade, had a tear in her eye when she said "It is nice here in Sweden, but I miss my father." Her father is still in Iraq. Another little girl, Meryem, said with an edge to her voice, "If the war continues, the doors must be open for the refugees." All the children I met have relatives left in Iraq. And those children live in homes tormented with fear.

When I asked these children what they wanted to be when they are older, they brightened up and competed with one another to tell me. Renza wanted to become an artist. Steve wanted to become a policeman. Meena said shyly that she wanted to be a doctor. These children, in spite of all they have been through, have not let circumstances diminish their ability to dream of the future.

In Södertälje we face three problems. Firstly our schools and preschools are full; of the town's eight thousand pupils, five hundred are enrolled in the special preparation

classes we have for newly arrived refugees. We can not hire teachers or build schools fast enough to give all these, often highly motivated pupils a good start in their new country.

Secondly there is a lack of living accommodation. A great many of the refugees lodge with relatives or friends. We know of cases of fifteen people sleeping on mattresses in a two room apartment.

And last but not least we have a shortage of job opportunities. A small town can not possibly produce jobs for a thousand refugees each year. Here the United States could really help Södertälje. American companies looking to set up businesses or expand in Europe, are most welcome to visit my home town. We need all the job opportunities we can get.

I am in awe of the refugees' ambition and will to make new lives for themselves. Many of those who come to our town are well educated and motivated to start a new life in a new country. We need immigrants if we are to manage the demographic challenges we face, as the number of aging citizens in the western world rises.

Despite the fact that we need immigrants, Södertälje has become a town that must now say—STOP, STOP, STOP! Do not misunderstand me. We will always help others when we can. We must act when the lives of our brothers and sisters are in danger. It is imperative—that we have a humane refugee policy world wide. Our common agreement, that all people are equal, no matter what color religion or gender must become a reality.

The millions of refugees in the world must be a concern for us all, not just for those areas bordering on the breeding grounds of war, or for a small number of countries and cities such as Södertälje.

Södertälje works hard to spread the reception of refugees equally over the whole of Sweden, to all cities and towns. Internationally, we must find a model for an equal and more responsible reception of refugees. We must also have special support for the refugees on site in Iraq, in Jordan and in Syria. Most of all, we must put an end to this and other ongoing wars.

The children I met last week have cousins and friends who are left behind in Iraq. Those children are trying to lead a normal childhood in a land where uneasiness and fear are always present.

I am not a President; I am not an Ambassador; but I know that we must create a new future for the children fleeing from war.

And I know there is no time to lose.  
Thank you for your attention.

**COMMENDING BILL AND PEGGY ZACK FOR DEVOTION TO THE POCKET FLAGS PROJECT**

**HON. STEVAN PEARCE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the patriotism and dedication of Bill and Peggy Zack. These two New Mexico residents have fully devoted their time and money to lifting the spirits of our troops deployed in Iraq.

Mr. and Mrs. Zack began the Pocket flag project in 2002 and have since sent out over 70,000 pocket flags. The pocket flags are small folded American flags that are enclosed with a message. On a small piece of paper reads "A flag for your pocket so you can al-

ways carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you. Thank you for defending our freedom." A heartfelt message that is sure to lift the spirits of our service men and women. Pocket flags have been sent to the 647 Support Group at Fort Bliss, Texas and all National Guard and special units being deployed through Ft. Bliss. Additional receipts of these flags include the Mountain Brigade in Fort Drum, NY and the AYN of the Alabama National Guard. The list goes on.

It should also be noted that Bill and Peggy don't accept any donations to help them with materials and shipping expenses. In fact the cost of shipping all 70,000 pocket flags has summed up to about \$10,000 and over 7,000 hours. The only reimbursement the Zacks will accept are the letters written by soldiers currently deployed. While the letters vary, most say how thankful they are for Bill and Peggy taking the time to send them a little piece of home.

It is inspiring to know that citizens like Bill and Peggy Zack are trying to do all they can to lift the morale of our troops. On behalf of all servicemen and women I would like to thank Bill and Peggy Zack for all their efforts to comfort the troops in the Middle East.

**JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5489 which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

Congresswoman Davis was the second woman and first Republican woman in Virginia's congressional delegation. She came from humble beginnings and rose to become a successful business woman before being elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1997.

I came to know Congresswoman Davis personally over the years since we first arrived to Congress together in 2001. She was a wonderful woman with whom I was honored to serve. We shared a strong commitment to ensuring that military families and veterans receive the care and compensation they deserve. I will always remember and admire Jo Ann for her strength during her courageous fights with breast cancer.

Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege in joining my colleagues in honoring this distinguished woman and good friend by designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 14,

2008. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 183, rollcall 184, and rollcall 185.

**TRIBUTE TO THE 125TH BIRTHDAY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO**

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the occasion of Mesa County's 125th birthday. I would like to express my appreciation of this unique, diverse and vibrant county and all its citizens.

Since before the county was founded in the 1880's, the area's history has been remarkable. Dinosaurs that roamed this area left behind their tracks and bones to tantalize historians and geologists. The advent of the main line of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroads through this valley in 1887 brought the prospect of "civilization." The foresight of the founding fathers to build a major irrigation system, still used today, has helped create some of the best fruit crops in the country. As a farmer, I appreciate the importance of agriculture and the tremendous value it imparts to a community.

Mesa County is also a national leader in many industries and fields. Mesa County residents helped develop the New Deal, worked on the Manhattan Project and served in Congress.

The area is also blessed with a variety of natural resources, including uranium, natural gas and oil shale. In the 1980's the shale-dependent economy crashed after the withdrawal of Exxon Mobile, but with its typical determination, Mesa County is now a thriving economic power. In 2008, Mesa County was named the 9th fastest growing area in the country, a tribute to the resiliency and strength of this county.

On the 125th birthday of Mesa County, we pay tribute to a special area that embodies the best of Colorado. Its blend of rural and urban life has enhanced the life of its citizens. The past and traditions of this special place on the Western Slope are worth celebrating. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Mesa County as it commemorates its 125th birthday.

**VIRGINIA TECH**

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, one year ago, the idyllic calm of campus life at Virginia Tech, and everywhere in America, was shattered forever. We mark this somber occasion in solemn memory of those too soon taken from us, and in prayerful sympathy with their still-grieving families and friends. Part of our State's future was lost that day. Immeasurable potential abruptly and cruelly cut short. Remembering hurts, but forgetting would be unforgivable.

It falls to us to make some sense of unthinkable tragedy and do our best, in their honor, to build the world they could only envision

through bright, inquisitive eyes. At Virginia Tech, in Richmond, and throughout the Commonwealth, grief has given life to action, spurring positive steps to help and to heal. Campus security has been strengthened and sentinel systems to identify and confront potentially violent students have been made more sensitive, more vigilant. We do these things for them, and for the safety of the students who follow in their footsteps. And we work in their memory to mark our calendars from this

day forward with memorials to youthful accomplishment and growth, not tragedy.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Tuesday, April 15,

I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 186, 187 and 188 due to an official congressional delegation to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 186 (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5719), "yea" on rollcall vote 187 (H. Res. 1102—Rule providing for H.R. 5719—Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008) and "yea" on rollcall vote 188 (H.R. 5036—Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008).

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 22

10 a.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs To hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on the role of the credit rating agencies. SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine the future of the Internet. SR-253

10:30 a.m. Foreign Relations International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine international deforestation and climate change. SD-419

2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, focusing on a recent report on moving passengers and freight into the future. SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine S. 934 and H.R. 1374, bills to amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, S. 2833, to provide for the management of certain public land in Owyhee County, Idaho, and S. 2834, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, and improve public land in Washington County, Utah. SD-366

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine an update on Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration. SR-418

10 a.m. Judiciary To hold hearings to examine National Security Letters, focusing on the need for greater accountability and oversight. SD-226

2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine phantom traffic. SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nanci E. Langley, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission. SD-342

3 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine S. 662, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate resources at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System, S. 827, to establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, S. 923 and H.R. 1528, bills to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the New England National Scenic Trail, S. 956, to establish the Land Between the Rivers National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, S. 2073, to amend the National Trails System Act relating to the statute of limitations that applies to certain claims, S. 2513, to modify the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park, S. 2604, to establish the Baltimore National Heritage Area in the State of Maryland, S. 2804, to adjust the boundary of the Everglades National Park, H.R. 53, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a long-term lease with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to provide land on the island of Saint John, Virgin Islands, for the establishment of a school, and H.R. 1483, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas. SD-366

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions, focusing on policy options for the U.S. and its allies. SD-342

10 a.m. Judiciary Business meeting to consider S. 2533, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 702, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs, and the nominations of Michael G. McGinn, of Minnesota, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, and Ralph E. Martinez, of Florida, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of

the United States, both of the Department of Justice. SD-226

Appropriations Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for military construction. SD-124

10:30 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Business meeting to consider S. 2688, to improve the protections afforded under Federal law to consumers from contaminated seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies, to strengthen activities for ensuring that seafood sold or offered for sale to the public in or affecting interstate commerce is fit for human consumption, S. J.Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to broadcast media ownership, S. 2607, to make a technical correction to section 3009 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, H.R. 3985, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, H.R. 802, to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI, and the nomination of Robert A. Sturgell, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. SR-253

2 p.m. Foreign Relations To hold hearings to examine international debt, focusing on building relief initiatives. SD-419

2:15 p.m. Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine S. 2680, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior to take certain actions to address environmental problems associated with the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in the State of Colorado, S. 2805, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to assess the irrigation infrastructure of the Rio Grande Pueblos in the State of New Mexico and provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the Rio Grande Pueblos to repair, rehabilitate, or reconstruct existing infrastructure, S. 2814, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, H.R. 29, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, H.R. 1803, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water

supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.		subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.			MAY 1
	SD-366		SR-232A	9:30 a.m.	
2:30 p.m.		4 p.m.		Armed Services	
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee		Armed Services		Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.	SR-222
To hold hearings to examine national nanotechnology, focusing on charting the course for reauthorization.	SR-253	Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee		Energy and Natural Resources	
		Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.	SR-222	To hold hearings to examine military build-up on Guam, focusing on the impact on civilian community, planning, and response.	SD-366
					MAY 2
				9:30 a.m.	
				Armed Services	
				Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009.	SR-222
					MAY 7
				9:30 a.m.	
				Veterans' Affairs	
				To hold hearings to examine pending benefits legislation.	SR-418
					MAY 21
				9:30 a.m.	
				Veterans' Affairs	
				To hold hearings to examine pending health care legislation.	SR-418
					CANCELLATIONS
					APRIL 30
				10 a.m.	
				Rules and Administration	
				To hold hearings to examine electronic voting systems, focusing on top-to-bottom inquiries by Secretaries of State.	SR-301