

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALISHA D. PRATHER FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented individual who has been a dedicated member of our Committee staff—Alisha D. Prather.

Alisha came to the Committee as the communications director for the minority staff at the beginning of the 108th Congress. She filled a newly created position since the minority staff had functioned without a press person for some years.

Her degree in Telecommunications from Baylor University and a Master's in Communication Studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette meant Alisha was well prepared for the job. She also came to us with a great deal of work experience on Capitol Hill under her belt.

From the start, the challenge Alisha faced on the Committee was taking technical, scientific information and translating it into an interesting and informative message for the American public. She succeeded. With her quick intellect and some long hours, Alisha soon produced an organized press shop, building enormous credibility with our science constituencies, the public and the media.

One of her first projects as the new communications director was to shepherd the minority website through a top to bottom redesign. She did an outstanding job. The website received a Congressional Management Foundation Gold Mouse Award in 2006, recognizing the site as one of the best web sites on Capitol Hill. Alisha did it again in 2007 when our Committee website received another Gold Mouse Award and was judged to be the number one committee website in Congress.

With our move to the Majority in 2007, Alisha undertook the task of meeting the press needs of a growing staff and an increasingly busy Committee agenda, while assuring that my media needs and the needs of our active Membership were well attended.

Prior to her time with us, Alisha worked for 8 years as the communications director for Representative Chris John of Louisiana. For several years, Alisha also served as the communications coordinator for the Blue Dog Coalition.

Alisha leaves the Hill after 11½ years here, and she will be missed. She's heading to Texas which takes her that much closer to her home State of Louisiana. Although a huge fan of Capitol Hill and the Washington, DC area, Alisha has always had an interest in spending some time closer to home.

We wish her well as she takes on a new challenge—Director of Communications for the

new Galveston National Laboratory projected to open in November of this year. As Alisha says, it's the opportunity to build something from the ground up.

We're quick to point out that she did just that with our press operation here at the Committee, and we extend our sincere thanks to her for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELMAR LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Delmar Little League, which will celebrate its opening day and 50th anniversary on April 19. For one half-century, the Delmar Little League has been providing the only organized summer activity open to all youths in the town of Delmar, Delaware.

The Delmar Little League was chartered in 1958 under the leadership of Epperson "Eppie" Culver, who also became the league's first president and one of the league's first coaches. The league was initially organized into four teams: the Vets, sponsored by the Delmar VFW Memorial Post 8276, the Moose, sponsored by Moose Lodge No. 582, the Firemen, sponsored by the Delmar Fire Department, and the Lions, sponsored by the Delmar Lions Club. The inaugural season was officially dedicated on August 15, and the first games were played on a corner lot provided by the Delmar Fire Department. That year, using equipment given to the league by the Delmar Kiwanis Club, the four teams only played against each other: they did not compete with any other teams outside of the league.

By the 1959 season, the Delmar Little League had grown to 60 boys, and the league had its own field on which to play. The league held a contest to decide on the name of the park. The winning entry was submitted by James Mills, and Pote Field was dedicated on June 19, 1959. The new location was named for Monroe Pote, or "Mr. Baseball", as he was known in Delmar. Mr. Pote is credited with establishing the first organized baseball team in Delmar in 1922, along with many other sports teams and organizations for the young men of his town. Mr. Pote became an inspiration and a father figure to many of the boys that he coached. 1959 proved to be a milestone year for the league in scoring, as well: the first home run was scored by Gary Wooten on May 30 and the first grand slam by John Ehrlich on June 23. The league formed its original First All-Star Team in 1960.

The league moved to its present facilities in 1962, when the park's namesake, William

Gordy, Sr., donated the land for a new field. Today, there are 449 players registered in the Delmar Little League, with over half of the players hailing from Delaware. In addition, the league has hosted several state level tournaments. The Delmar Little League established a female softball division in 1982 and the baseball league is now open to young women, as well.

I acknowledge the Delmar Little League for 50 years of promoting physical fitness and community involvement amongst young people in the State of Delaware. I am confident that the league will continue to do so for many more years to come.

PACCAR: TRADER OF THE YEAR

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate PACCAR, Inc. for earning the 2008 Governor's Trader of the Year Award in Washington State for expanding the State's international trade. PACCAR, headquartered in my congressional district, is a global leader in the design, manufacture and customer support of light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks. In addition, PACCAR provides financial services and informational technology for the actual truck makers—all while conducting its business with the health and safety of the planet in mind.

With 22,000 employees worldwide and 2,500 in Washington State, PACCAR is a local business with a truly global reach. In 2007, PACCAR had \$15.2 billion in net income, selling products and services in more than 100 countries, while setting record industry sales for commercial vehicles above 15 tons in Western and Central Europe.

I also want to recognize PACCAR for its leadership and innovation in energy independence and environmentally friendly business practices. The company truly represents the spirit of the Pacific Northwest region by conducting business within and very often exceeding regulatory environmental standards, harnessing the power and efficiency of solar energy and, perhaps most importantly, conserving energy utilizing breakthrough hybrid technology.

PACCAR is a leader in truck design and manufacture. It is an American company from the Pacific Northwest with a global impact. It is also a wonderful example of American business leading the way in energy independence and environmentally-friendly business practices and I offer its employees my sincere congratulations and appreciation.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of the debate team at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Directed by Dr. Todd Graham, the team of Kevin Calderwood, a junior in political science from Chesterfield, MO, and Kyle Dennis, a senior in economics from Blue Springs, MO, won the national championship in the 54-team National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence.

It is important to note that this was a very select competition. A team must qualify for the national championship tournament by doing well throughout the year. While only 54 teams competed, more than 300 attempted to qualify.

The debate program also entered teams in the National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament. That tournament is held at the end of March at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and includes over 250 universities and colleges. Among the 500 debaters competing, Kevin won the top spot in the individual awards, solidifying his position as one of the best debaters in the country. Kyle took home third place overall in the individual awards.

In addition, the team of Katie Thomas, from Fort Collins, CO, and Adam Testerman, from Springfield, MO, won fifth place as a team overall. Also participating in the debate program was Nicholas Deml of La Crosse, WI. Graduate students Benjamin Haas, from Poplar Bluff, MO, and Brian Norcross from San Diego, CA, assisted Dr. Graham with team preparation.

Not surprisingly, the debate program's successes throughout the season resulted in a great deal of recognition from peers at other universities. Ryan Lawrence, a debater from the University of California at Berkeley and the top debater last year, commented to Dr. Graham that he would still hold his head high if beaten by Southern Illinois because he and his teammates considered it "the smartest, hardest-working and best debate team in the country."

Madam Speaker, Southern Illinois University has a proud tradition in teaching, research and public service. It is widely recognized that graduates who are well prepared become leaders in their fields. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the debate team, faculty and students at Southern Illinois University for their continuing commitment to excellence.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bayview Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale, FL on its 50th An-

niversary. For the past 50 years, Bayview Elementary School has been providing students with the skills, knowledge, and preparation they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Instrumental to the success of Bayview Elementary is the hard work of the teachers, administrators, parents and other volunteers within the community who are committed to providing these children with a topnotch education. The faculty at Bayview truly cares for the well-being of their students, and their dedication to improving the quality of education in their classrooms will benefit these students for generations to come.

I would also like to recognize Ms. JoEllen Scott, the principal of Bayview Elementary School, whose hard work and excellent leadership have helped make this school the success it is today. I am confident that Bayview Elementary School will continue to produce well-rounded and motivated students for the next 50 years and beyond.

DEACON ASPINWALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

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

VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today marks the 1 year anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. One year ago, students on the campus woke up and went to class. It was another seemingly ordinary day. But a mentally-ill coward, hungry for control and infamy, followed through on his premeditated rampage.

On April 16, 2007, there were two separate attacks, 2 hours apart on the campus of Virginia Tech. The murderer, Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 people and wounded many.

The first attack occurred at West Ambler Johnston Hall. Cho entered the co-ed dormitory, home to 894 students, at 7 a.m. Fifteen minutes later, he murdered two victims

before returning to his dorm room. Nearly 2 hours later, Cho went to a post office to mail writings and video footage to NBC News. He was sure to inform the press because he wanted the infamy and power. This coward carried chains, locks, a hammer, a knife, two guns, nineteen 10- and 15-round magazines, and almost 400 rounds of ammunition. He was on a murderous mission.

Two hours after his first killings, Cho continued his murder spree at Norris Hall. He chained the three main entrance doors shut, placed a note on the doors that said if the door was opened a bomb would explode, and then went up to the second floor to begin the massacre. Cho peeked into the classroom twice, to view his prey. He entered Professor G.V. Loganathan's classroom, killing the professor and then killing 9 of the 13 students. Two other students were injured and only 2 students survived unharmed. Cho then walked across the hall to Christopher James Bishop's classroom where he killed Bishop and 4 other students. Cho wounded 6 others. Cho continued down Norris Hall, shooting students and professors. He returned to the classrooms several times. Cho's spree continued for 10 to 12 minutes. He fired at least 174 rounds.

The 2 hour murderous massacre taught us that universities must have a coordinated, quick system to notify students, staff, and the entire university community of a pending danger. I'm an original cosponsor on the Virginia Tech Victims Campus Emergency Response Policy and Notification Act, which would require universities to notify students and employees within 30 minutes after campus security or law enforcement determines that an emergency exists on campus. It is unfortunate that it took a tragedy to teach us this lesson.

This country continues to mourn the lives of the 32 victims from Virginia Tech. We will never forget them. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 153, 154, 155, 164, 165, 174, 178, 179, and 181 I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN HONOR OF THE SPELLING
CHAMPIONS OF THE MULTI-RE-
GIONAL STATE SPELLING BEE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, last month, students from all over Minnesota met at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites to compete for the honor of traveling to Washington in May for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. I commend all of the students who participated for their extraordinary commitment to academics and their brilliance and poise under pressure.

In particular, I share in all of Minnesota's pride in 8th Grader Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit Catholic School in Rochester, Minnesota, who will be participating in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

I also wish to commend the winners of the Central Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee who competed amongst 56 students in grades 5 to 8 from 34 different school districts. These students earned a spot at the State Bee: Ali Fuller of Chisago Lakes, Christina Huling of Annandale, Matt Schultz of St. Michael-Albertville, and Peter Doyle of Rocori. The skill these young men and women showed is truly awe-inspiring. They are a real example for us all.

HONORING THE LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM UNIVERSITY CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today very proud to honor and congratulate the Lone Star College System University Center in The Woodlands, Texas, on its 10th anniversary.

The University Center broke ground in June of 1996 under the theme of "common ground for the common good." Partner universities, which include: Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston and University of Houston-Downtown, began offering courses in September of 1997, and facilities were opened in January of the next year. Since that time, the University Center has indeed honored the vision of providing multi-level quality higher education instruction to a diverse population of citizens from north Houston, north Harris and Montgomery counties.

Over the past decade, the Center has experienced phenomenal growth. Student enrollment and the number of courses offered has grown four-fold. In 1997, the Center served 374 students in 65 classes. Today, over 2,300 students participate in 255 classes. Fifty-two thousand students have been served in ten years with no signs that growth will stop.

This unique partnership between the six Texas universities and the five colleges of the Lone Star College System has created amazing educational opportunities for the students of the region. Through this partnership, students at the University Center can complete baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and continuing professional studies in over 65 programs without having to drive long distances. Having such programs right in their own backyard is an opportunity that the enrollment numbers clearly tell us is just too good to pass up.

The University Center is not only an asset to our community now, but the sky is the limit for its future impact. By offering convenient access to top quality instructors and innovative teaching, the opportunity for students to achieve their higher education goals in my district has never been so strong.

I consistently hear from employers that University Center students take their outstanding

educations and make a mark in the workplace. Many careers have been started or enhanced through this unique educational resource. As the University Center moves beyond its first decade, the best is truly yet to come.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent the University Center in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I urge you to join me in congratulating the Lone Star College System—University Center on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE TREATY ROOM AND THE CROSSROADS OF DESTINY EXHIBIT AT THE GARST MUSEUM IN GREENVILLE, OHIO

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Treaty Room and the Crossroads of Destiny Exhibit at the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio.

One of most significant historical moments in Darke County was the signing of the Treaty of Greene Ville, which ended forty years of conflict over the upper Ohio Valley and opened the door for western settlement, leading to Ohio's statehood. This exhibit tells the story of life on the frontier: war, resolution, loss, progress and the growth of a nation.

While Darke County is no longer the Western edge of the United States, its citizens retain the finest qualities of frontier settlers: generous hearts, a zeal for public service and the passionate patriotism that General Anthony Wayne, General William Henry Harrison, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark exhibited more than two centuries ago.

It is my pleasure to congratulate The Garst Museum, the Darke County Historical Society and the citizens of Darke County on the grand opening of this new exhibit.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of St. Mary of Vernon, a well-established church located in the 10th district of Illinois.

In 1978, Father John Finnegan went to Lake County to establish a new parish in the Vernon Hills area. The first Mass took place on August 15, 1978, in a rented space at Hawthorn Jr. High School. Three years later, in 1981, the church moved into their new Worship Center which doubled as a building for Mass as well as for social and community activities. In December of 2005, the church moved into a new church building, fulfilling their dream. Despite the acquisition, the congregation takes pride in the fact that it is the people inside the church's walls that make St. Mary of Vernon what it is.

The parishioners of St. Mary of Vernon are dedicated to the Catholic education for all

ages. Their goal is for all activities and gatherings to have a spiritual dimension and regular participation in these programs helps develop a community within the church.

Going beyond themselves, St. Mary of Vernon believes in serving the needs of their surrounding community. Through outreach programs, people feel welcome in the church at all times. To maximize their impact, they also partner up with other congregations and community efforts.

This year we pause to celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary and their impact on our community. I commend St. Mary's for their accomplishments over the years and know they will continue to do great things in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF GERRET AND TATIANA COPELAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their momentous gift to Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart and Vascular Health. The Copelands' gift will enable Christiana Care to purchase a Stereotaxis remote navigation system that can more effectively target problem areas in the heart while still preserving healthy tissue, thereby providing the people of Delaware with the best treatment available for a potentially fatal disorder.

Stereotaxis is used to treat Atrial Fibrillation, a common heart condition that occurs when the heart rhythm becomes irregular, possibly leading to blood clots and eventual stroke. The current procedure—which involves inserting a catheter through the artery, identifying the areas of the heart that trigger the irregular heartbeat, and destroying those areas—puts healthy tissue in the heart at risk, is time consuming, and has only a 50 percent success rate. The Stereotaxis equipment, which will be housed in a new surgical suite named for Gerret and Tatiana, uses computer technology to create three-dimensional images of the heart and veins, allowing the cardiologist to direct a magnetic catheter with greater precision and less chance of damaging the patient's heart. These features should increase procedure success rates to as high as 90 percent. In addition, the Stereotaxis procedure is shorter than the traditional procedure; thus, the patient should require less sedation, less post-surgery medication, and recover at a faster rate. This type of cutting-edge equipment is available in only 100 hospitals worldwide.

The Copelands are no strangers to philanthropy: they have been generously supporting various causes in Delaware for many years, most notably the arts. Their gift to Christiana Care, however, is very personal. In 2006, following a cardiac catheterization, Gerret underwent heart bypass surgery to treat blockage in six of his arteries. Due to the extraordinary skill of the dedicated team of doctors at Christiana Care, Gerret has since made a full recovery. He and Tatiana hope that their donation will help others benefit from the same exceptional care.

I thank and acknowledge Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their commitment to aiding the fight against heart disease. Their gift grants Delaware residents access to the latest technology used to treat life-threatening heart problems, undeniably bettering countless lives and transforming cardiac care for the people of Delaware.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JUSTIN MCCAULEY FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Justin McCauley showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Justin McCauley was a supportive member of the team; and

Whereas, Justin McCauley always displayed dedication to the sport of basketball and the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics basketball team; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Justin McCauley on supporting the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics basketball team during their quest to win the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

INTRODUCTION OF NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EQUITY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, today I have joined with my colleagues Congressman SIMPSON of Idaho and Congressman WESTMORELAND of Georgia in introducing a resolution to end disparity in college sports that is an unintended consequence of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS). This resolution declares the BCS an illegal restraint on trade, and demands that the US Department of Justice take the proper actions to investigate and end the unfair BCS system. It also encourages the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to establish a true football playoff system to determine the national collegiate football champion in the interest of parity and sportsmanship.

The BCS is fundamentally unfair. Non-BCS schools, those in conferences not automatically qualified for the BCS bowls, are at a disadvantage prior to the first kickoff of the season. Non-BCS schools must basically have perfect seasons, and must be the best of over 50 schools to even be considered to play in a BCS bowl, while schools that belong to conferences that are automatically-qualified for BCS bowls (BCS schools) must only be the best of 8–12 schools, depending on the con-

ference they compete in. Six of the ten schools that participate in the BCS bowls qualify by becoming the regular season champion of a BCS automatically-qualifying conference: the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big 10, Big 11, Big East, Pacific–10, and the Southeastern Conference (SEC). The four others are determined based on rankings, conference standings, and in some cases, selected by bowl officials. There is also a rule prohibiting more than one non-BCS school from competing in a single year.

These unfair eligibility requirements produce effects that go far beyond restricting access to playing for the national championship. The BCS generates hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue annually, and this money is disproportionately awarded to BCS conferences. Of the more than \$217 million generated by the 2006–2007 post-season bowls, \$185 million, or 85 percent went to the BCS schools, which represent 66, or 55 percent of Division I schools. Money generated by the post-season games help schools cover costs for their athletic departments, facilities, equipment, recruitment, and other sports programs. Non-BCS schools must use their general funds to cover costs of their athletic departments, which takes funding from academic and administrative needs.

The lopsided distribution of BCS revenue results in two tiers within the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division 1), those with access to the BCS, and those without. Those without are unable to change their situation as the money and prestige associated with the BCS makes it highly unlikely that a non-BCS school will be able to compete for the same recruits, coaches, sponsorships, national television exposure, and the revenue it generates. This disparity keeps them in the second-class status and must be changed.

Questions about the legality of the BCS have also arisen. Legal scholars have analyzed the anti-trust aspects of the BCS, and some have concluded that the BCS violates the Sherman Anti-Trust Act under the Rule of Reason test. This requires that the competitive benefits of the system outweigh the anti-competitive effects. However, the anti-competitive effects of the financial gain and recruiting advantage of the BCS schools can easily outweigh the pro-competitive benefits of arranging for the top two ranking BCS teams to play for the national championship.

Many have called for the end of or change to the BCS, and the current system is only the latest reincarnation. The NCAA has, on multiple occasions, studied and considered moving to a playoff to determine the national champion. Successful BCS school football coaches and presidents have called for a playoff system, as have presidents of non-BCS schools. Congress has held multiple hearings questioning the fairness of the BCS and states have introduced and passed legislation calling for changes to the system.

NCAA football is the only college team sport without a playoff determining the national champion. While the NCAA Basketball Championship's format will not transfer perfectly to college football, it is an ideal system. All Division I schools start the season with an equal chance of making it to the playoffs. The championship is decided on the court by the players and their talent, not rankings and their schedule before the tournament. The basketball championship also allows for a nearly annual

“Cinderella story,” an underrated team that defies expectations, upsets traditionally strong opponents and competes deep into the tournament. This year it was Davidson College, a member of the Southern Conference, which was seeded tenth in its region and made it to the Elite Eight, beating former champion Georgetown University, the University of Wisconsin and Gonzaga University along the way. This scenario is highly unlikely in the BCS system, as there is little chance for a non-BCS school to even be offered an invitation to play. Non-BCS schools, the University of Hawaii in 2008 and Boise State University in 2007 were undefeated going into the BCS and were not even given the opportunity to play for the national championship.

Something must be done to ensure that money and opportunity are evenly distributed among all college football programs. Congress should act in the interest of all the athletes, coaches, staff and supporters to guarantee parity and competition in college football. The current system leaves much to be desired and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution calling for the NCAA Division I national champion to be determined by a playoff.

BRITTANY PADGETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING FLORENCE CRITTENTON SERVICES ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize Florence Crittenton Services in Topeka. Kansas, on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation.

Florence Crittenton Services in Topeka, one of the 22 Crittenton agencies nationwide, is

justifiably proud of their more than 100 years of service to the State of Kansas' most vulnerable girls and young women.

In 1900, this agency began in Topeka with a contribution of just \$100, which was given to provide much-needed community services and shelter to young women in the community.

It is worth our time to take a moment and realize just how much that small \$100 contribution has created.

Today, 100 years later, Florence Crittenton Services provides not just shelter, but cutting edge, comprehensive services to Kansas' most vulnerable girls and young women. Currently, Florence Crittenton is the only Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in Kansas that serves female clients only.

Many people who know the Crittenton name associate it with support for unwed mothers. While this is an important part of the Crittenton legacy, the program has evolved over time to meet the increasingly complex and acute needs of at-risk young women and their families all across Kansas.

Most importantly, this array of services to girls and young women in Kansas provides opportunities for growth and support that would not exist otherwise. I am proud to acknowledge Florence Crittenton Services of Kansas for their long-standing and worthwhile efforts that give girls the tools and skills to change the course of their lives.

On this historic occasion, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Florence Crittenton Services in Topeka for their ongoing commitment to at-risk girls, young women and their families.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the National Crittenton Foundation, a national organization dedicated to supporting and empowering young women and girls at-risk.

More than a century ago, founder Charles Crittenton and his colleague, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, began an international movement to help homeless, pregnant women and their babies. Today, the unique partnership between The National Crittenton Foundation and the Crittenton Family of Agencies carries on this mission through a national network of affiliated independent, local organizations.

As a leading member of the Crittenton Family of Agencies, the Florence Crittenton Agency in Knoxville, Tennessee has worked tirelessly to ensure that the children, families, and pregnant young women of East Tennessee have the best possible services. I am proud to have such an upstanding organization located in my congressional district.

Founded in 1896 under the proud leadership of Mrs. Annie McGhee McClung, the Knoxville organization experienced a period of decline during wars and the Great Depression, but the challenges facing young women and girls remained. Seeing the great need that still existed, seven Knoxville community leaders signed a second Charter of Incorporation on

October 1, 1963, ushering in a new era of innovative services and support.

Through its active participation with The National Crittenton Foundation and the Crittenton Family of Agencies, the Florence Crittenton Agency in Knoxville continues to strengthen communities and have a positive impact on East Tennessee.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the National Crittenton Foundation and Knoxville's Florence Crittenton Agency on this historic occasion and thank them for their ongoing commitment to our communities and to our country.

TRIBUTE TO SAMMY GEORGE OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Sammy George of my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as he departs the broadcasting industry at the height of his career with 35 years of service. Mr. George has been an outstanding leader at home, in the industry and within our community. Now that he will be spending more time with his family and friends, I want to take a moment to recognize his tremendous accomplishments and thank him for all he has done in Chattanooga.

Alter serving in the U.S. Marines in Vietnam, Sammy returned to his hometown of West Blocton, Alabama, where he worked as a disc jockey, DJ. He moved to Chattanooga in 1985 to become the general manager of the upstart radio station WUSY US-101 where he has remained for more than 22 years.

During his term, the station has won countless awards and has been recognized for its distinction and excellence. These include nine Country Music Association Station of the Year awards, four R&R Station of the Year awards, one Academy of Country Music Station award, a National Association of Business, NAB, Marconi for Personality of the Year and the NAB Crystal award.

Most importantly, Sammy has focused his talent and energy on helping those in need. He has humbly led our community in raising millions of dollars for charitable causes, including \$5 million for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and \$800,000 of supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Sammy retires as the market manager for Clear Channel/Chattanooga where he oversaw three popular radio stations: WUSY US-101, WLND 98.1 The Legend, and WRXR Rock 105. After taking some much deserved time off, he will bring his wealth of experience to Northwest Georgia Bank where he will be vice-president for new business.

Sammy George is a man of integrity, loyalty and outstanding leadership, and I am proud to recognize him today.

THE 2008 COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Mount Rainier National Park, the Student Conservation Association, SCA, the Washington's Trails Association, WTA, the National Parks Conservation Association, NPCA, Washington's National Park Fund, and The Mountaineers for being awarded the 2008 Cooperative Conservation Award, CCA, from the Department of the Interior. The CCA is the Department of Interior's highest award presented to private citizens and organizational partners who support the agency's mission and demonstrate significant contributions to its programs.

The award was given to the coalition for their outstanding efforts in rebuilding damaged trails, campgrounds and other facilities at Mount Rainier following the disastrous floods and windstorms during the winter of 2006. The coalition named their efforts the Mount Rainier Recovery Initiative and enlisted the help of more than 700 people from all over the country to rebuild and solidify some of the most beautiful trails, campgrounds and habitats in the country. The work they did was truly remarkable. Their dedication is appreciated by residents of the Pacific Northwest and the residents of the Eighth District, the district I represent.

The work by the coalition, along with countless volunteers, will be enjoyed for years to come by the thousands of visitors to Mount Rainier. With all the coalition has accomplished, their efforts continue by expanding their reach outside Mount Rainier to other areas in Washington State affected by extreme weather utilizing the success of their Mount Rainier Model. Again, congratulations the SCA, the WTA, the NPCA, Washington's National Park Fund and The Mountaineers for their dedication to the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest and urge them to continue in their efforts.

THE CITY OF ROCK PORT, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize, the City of Rock Port, Missouri, the first community in the United States of America whose energy source is totally wind powered.

Rock Port, where Lewis and Clark camped in 1804, the county seat of Atchison County—named after United States Senator David Atchison—and the home of the annual Atchison County Fair, has come a long way to be the undisputed leader of energy innovation by becoming the first community in our Nation to be totally energy independent of foreign resources.

Named for the soil that it is built on, Loess Hills Wind Farm is located on agricultural lands within the city limits of Rock Port. The

four wind turbines that make up the Loess Hills Wind Farm will produce 16 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Rock Port will truly be the first community in America capable of meeting its entire annual electricity demands from wind power.

As a long standing supporter of wind energy, I am a proud to report the first 100 percent wind-powered community in the United States is in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire United States House of Representatives join me in celebrating with the City of Rock Port, Atchison County and the great State of Missouri in being the "true" leader for this Nation for energy independence.

DESIREE LAWRENCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Desiree Lawrence for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RACHEL RUSSELL FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME IN LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the 125th anniversary of the National Crittenton Foundation, an organization that supports empowerment and self-sufficiency for young women at risk. In particular, I want to celebrate the work of a leading member of the Crittenton Family of Agencies: The Florence Crittenton Home in Lexington, Kentucky.

Established in 1894, The Florence Crittenton Home in Lexington is a private non-profit residential treatment facility that provides comprehensive services to girls who have been abused, neglected, abandoned or are experiencing pregnancy and parenting in the face of mental health and behavioral challenges. Every day, this dedicated organization strives to provide a stable, safe and nurturing atmosphere to help its clients achieve the personal growth and family stability necessary to thrive as adults.

Originally known as the Lexington House of Mercy, the Florence Crittenton Home opened its doors on September 3, 1894 in response to community concern about the lack of support for the city's girls. Over the years, with help from community partners including the Fayette County Board of Education, the University of Kentucky, the Keeneland Foundation, the Junior League of Lexington, numerous churches and dedicated volunteers, the Florence Crittenton Home has provided important social services to thousands of Kentucky's young women.

The National Crittenton Foundation and Lexington's own Florence Crittenton Home are to be commended as organizations that allow Kentucky's young women to believe in and empower themselves. It is with this ongoing contribution in mind that I recognize them both on this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO JANET ELIZABETH THIESSEN

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who spent more than 20 years working for the people of the 2nd District of Washington State. Janet Elizabeth Thiessen, who passed away last month at the age of 78, was at the side of former Congressman Al Swift, throughout the years he represented the 2nd District from 1978 until 1995.

Ms. Thiessen's service to the 2nd District didn't begin with Rep. Swift; she first worked for his predecessor, Congressman Lloyd Meeds, as a caseworker in the district office and later as a member of his DC staff.

After graduating from Western Washington State College, Ms. Thiessen started out her career as a teacher. When she and her husband moved to Skagit County, she turned her

attention to raising sons Kyle and Scott and volunteering in the community. One of her volunteer projects she was most proud of was helping to bring childcare to migrant families in Skagit County so children wouldn't have to be in the fields while their parents were in the fields picking fruit and vegetables. It was during her years as a volunteer for the local Democratic Party that she met Lloyd Meeds. Her volunteer efforts for Rep. Meeds led to a job helping his constituents, first in the district office and then in Washington, DC. Ms. Thiessen and Swift both worked for Rep. Meeds and when Swift was elected, she became office manager and ultimately his Chief of Staff.

Ms. Thiessen was respected and admired by all who worked in the office. She set high standards and expected top-quality work from all staff in the Swift office. Her hand was in nearly every issue that Swift worked on throughout his tenure in Congress, from his Motor Voter bill, which eventually became law, to the various projects that he sponsored around the 2nd District, such as the 88th Street Interchange on I-5 and the return of passenger rail service between Seattle and Vancouver, BC. She knew the issues, she knew the district, and she made sure everything ran smoothly for Rep. Swift and his legislative staff.

Her writing and grammatical skills were the envy of the entire office. I've been told that both she and Rep. Swift were terrific editors, but her eagle eyes would rarely let a misspelled word or typo slip by in any of the correspondence that went out of the office. Outside of the office, her ability to work a crossword or any type of word puzzle was legendary!

She was one of the first to arrive in the office each day and usually the last to leave at night. She took young staffers under her wing and often pushed them to better themselves in their careers—whether that meant going back to school or taking another job. Many of Swift's former staffers whom Ms. Thiessen helped nurture have gone on to become state legislators, CEOs, judges, attorneys, public affairs officers, top congressional staff, archivists, and teachers. I am fortunate that my own district director for many years worked with and was mentored by Ms. Thiessen.

Janet Thiessen was an independent woman who made her way in a world that was, at that time, often dominated by men. She rose from an unpaid volunteer to the Chief of Staff for a veteran congressman, all on her own. Her intellect, political skills, loyalty, sense of humor and kindness served her well in her career on Capitol Hill and in life. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE LEWIS LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, the city of Fontana and neighboring cities in the region will gather to celebrate the grand opening of the Lewis Library and Technology Center located in Fontana, CA.

The idea for the Lewis Library and Technology Center was birthed out of the need to create a library that would house the needs of the growing community. City officials and local developers believed that a more technologically advanced library was necessary to enhance personal, professional, recreational and lifelong learning goals, a task that was unattainable through the already existing "Emerald Street" Library.

The Lewis Library and Technology Center is the first significant new building in the region. This library creates not only a new awareness for the city, but a newfound awareness and appreciation for the Inland Empire Region, specifically the San Bernardino County area.

In addition to representing a new image for the city and the region, the Lewis Library and Technology Center provides accessibility to surrounding cities like Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, Colton, Ontario, Bloomington and San Bernardino.

Fontana is the 5th fastest growing city in the State and the 8th fastest growing city in the Nation—population 183,640 and growing. Fontana is also a melting pot with 12 percent Black, 60 percent Hispanic, 25 percent White, with a wide variety of cultures and languages. Roughly 41 percent of our 42,000 school-age children in the classrooms are designated "English Language Learners." That's 17,176 kids who need your help. The library will fulfill the community's desire for improved library services as well as establish an icon for a maturing and growing city.

The Lewis Library and Technology Center will for years to come be symbolic of the city's diversity and will be representative of the advancements that have been made in Fontana. The library will be a historic monument for the city and the region.

It is on behalf of the children of our community and our region that we recognize this great work and give tribute to the grand opening of the Lewis Library and Technology Center.

THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the House and Senate leadership on their negotiations throughout the last year on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. They have worked diligently on this issue and I rise today to encourage them to finalize a version of the bill that protects the civil liberties of our citizens, provides comprehensive guidelines for our intelligence community and reaffirms the importance of private industry cooperation in government investigations.

The right to privacy has long been regarded as an inherent American value and it is our Government's responsibility to strike a balance between protecting that constitutionally protected right and securing the country against future terrorist attacks. I have been pleased to support the Democratic led efforts towards Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act reauthorization that have made it clear that these rights are to be at the forefront of actions taken by Government officials.

In addition to this emphasis, I believe it imperative that a final bill exempts from liability the telecommunications companies who participated in the Bush administration's requests for information on customer records. I join the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, members of the 9/11 Commission and the Florida State Attorney General Bill McCollum in urging this protection. A provision as such will ensure that the cooperative relationships that law enforcement and the private sector have will continue to facilitate critical information exchanges that protect this Nation and its citizens.

I am confident that Congress will continue the role intended by our forefathers to oversee the past, current and future actions of the executive branch, particularly in regard to these bedrock issues that make the United States the greatest country in the world. Our intelligence community deserves updated direction and guidance on these issues backed by the force of law, and I urge our leaders to continue their good work.

HONORING VOLUNTEERS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to bring before this Congress the following outstanding people who have voluntarily served orphans, public school children, college students, juvenile delinquents, and needy families under the official invitation and authority of government agencies in Austria, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and Ukraine. The excellent character demonstrated by these people, as well as their commitment to the principles upon which our Nation was founded, have not only attracted the attention of leaders, parents, the media, and students, but it has also brought honor to the United States of America and to the Lord Jesus Christ who they serve.

Bair, Aileen, IL; Bair, Robert, IL; Beiler, Krista, PA; Bisson, Hannah, OH; Bollinger, Lauren, OH; Brown, James, NY; Chen, Anna, NY; Chen, Faith, NY; Chen, Grace, NY; Chen, Karen, NY; Chen, Dr. Stephen, NY; Chen, Timothy, NY.

Christensen, Edith, GA; Christiansen, Alissa, OK; Christiansen, Chad, OK; Clawson, Laura, MN; Clayton, Philip, NC; Coffing, Dominique, NM; Connelly, Sarah, AZ; Conzatti, Dena, WA; Cook, Aaron, SC; Cook, Kristi, SC; Cooper, Gloria, TX; Cooper, Josiah, TX.

Copu, Carmen, IL; Copu, Joy, IL; Copu, Paul, IL; Copu, Peter, IL; Copu, Rebecca, IL; Copu, Stefana, IL; Copu, Valen, IL; Copu, Victor, IL; Copu, William, IL; Crisp, Heather, OH; Cyrus, Lauren, MI; Dalrymple, Hannah, GA.

DeBoer, Rachel, IL; DePriest, Amy, MO; Dornink, Melody, MN; Dudley, Juliana, PA; Dudley, Wesley, PA; Ehnis, Nathan, MI; Ehnis, Shannon, MI; Eng, Emily, NC; Eng, Michelle, NC; Estes, Autumn, FL; Estes, Curtis, FL; Estes, Daniel, FL.

Estes, Mildred, FL; Farr, Roger, TX; Farr, Sue, TX; Freehan, Benjamin, WA; Feig, Joel, WI; Feig, Zachary, WI; Fernandez, Jonathan,

CA; Fields, Jonelle, TX; Forsman, Camille, MN; Fox, Elizabeth, CA; Frahm, Jonathan, GA; Frahm, Laura, GA.

Gamble, Allison, AL; Gay, Carissa, OR; Gilley, Rebekah, AL; Gillson, Kennan, MN; Gillson, Kirsten, MN; Greenwood, Karen, CT; Grier, Anna, GA; Grindall, Rachel, WA; Hanes, Austin, AL; Haueisen, Michelle, WA; Heath, Joshua, PA; Heath, Krystal, PA.

Hilton, Alex, VA; Hollinger, Seanna, NE; Hubbard, Micah, AR; Hug, Ruth, WA; Hung, Daniel, CA; Hung, Rachel, CA; Hung, Rebecca, CA; Hung, Sharon, CA; Hynes, Joy, IN; Jefferies, Megan, MI; Johnson, Amanda, WI; Johnson, Rebekah, IL.

Jorgensen, Andrew, PA; Jorgensen, Rachel, PA; Kallberg, Luke, IL; Kallberg, Naomi, IL; Krauter, Jocelyn, PA; Ku Isabelle, NJ; Kulp, Jarita, WI; LaLone, Douglas, PA; Langemann, Christy, CO; Lawrence, Ian, AL; Lehman, Regina, PA; Leskowat, Catherine, OK.

Leskowat, Naomi, OK; Levendusky, Angie, OK; Levendusky, Dr. Tim, OK; Lewis, Mai, WI; Lindley, Jessica, IL; Lindley, Sarah, IL; Little, Lauren, NJ; Llewellyn, Chad, MD; Lukachick, Anna, LA; Lukachick, David, LA; Lyons, Hannah, IL.

Lyons, Mary, IL; Lyons, Naomi, IL; Lyons, Roy, IL; Mally, Grace, IA; Mally, Harold, IA; Mally, Rebekah, IA; Mally, Sarah, IA; Mally, Stephen, IA; Malm, Ben, MN; Marshall, Dallas, OK; Marshall, Ezra, OK.

Marshall, James, OK; Marshall, Johnathan, OK; Marshall, Louanne, OK; Marshall, Thaddaeus, OK; Mason, Christina, AR; Matchak, Jacob, CA; Mattix, George, IL; Mattix, Pattie, IL; McCray, Jo, AR; McCray, Dr. Kevin, AR.

Meng, Christine, NC; Meng, Ethen, NC; Meng, Grace, NC; Meng, Justin, NC; Meng, Stephen, NC; Neu, Daniel, KS; Newhook, Andrew, PA; Newhook, Trevor, PA; Newhook, Tyler, PA; Nicholson, Benjamin, TX; Noland, Katerine, MA.

O'Conner, Adam, LA; Payne, Ashia, MD; Payne, Nikolai, IA; Pennel, Corrie, DE; Peterson, Joy, FL; Phariss, Erik, TX; Phariss, Ken, TX; Phariss, Sacha, TX; Phariss, Susana, TX; Pierpont, Holly, MI; Plattner, Tessa, AZ.

Randall, Erin, TX; Richmond, Kristen, OH; Ross, Charles, GA; Ross, Mary, GA; Ross, Rebecca, GA; Sachse, Jennifer, TX; Samaha, James, SC; Sanborn, Diane, FL; Sanders, Charity, AL; Sater, Jonathan, ID.

Seale, Susanna, TX; Searle, Shawn, CA; Sellin, Tammy, KS; Shepherd, Gracie, GA; Sherrer, Katherine, NC; Shoemaker, Richard, OK; Simpson, Jerry, OH; Simpson, Nichole, OH; Snyder, Benjamin, MA; Staddon, Donald, WV; Steinbach, Jeff, CA.

Stewart, Andrew, OH; Stewart, Lucas, OH; Stonecypher, Esther, IN; Stonecypher, Caleb, IN; Stonecypher, Debra, IN; Stonecypher, Elizabeth, IN; Stonecypher, Leah, IN; Stonecypher, Maurice, IN; Straub, Nathan, WA; Straub, Teresa, WA; Strickler, Ruth, PA.

Sullivan, Andrei, NC; Sullivan, John David, NC; Sullivan, Roslyn, NC; Sullivan, Sarah, NC; Sullivan, Tom, NC; Taylor, Luisa, CA; Turner, Jane, GA; Vaccaro, Jeanette, MT; Van Ry, Sheralee, WA; Waller, Adam, IL.

Waller, Brian, IL; Waller, David, IL; Waller, Derrick, IL; Waller, Lydia, IL; Waller, Matthew, IL; Waller, Rachelle, IL; Waller, Rebecca, IL; Waller, Samuel, IL; Waller, Sarah, IL; Waller, Sue, IL; Waterman, Kaylan, MI; Wenstrom, Angela, FL; Wenstrom, Brittany, FL.

Wenstrom, Chris, FL; Wenstrom, James, FL; Wenstrom, Kimberly, FL; Wenstrom, Matthew, FL; Wenstrom, Michelle, FL; Whitten, Susannah, IN; Williams, Arnah, IN; Williams, Burton, CT; Williams, Sue, CT; Winkler, Kathryn, NY; Yaste, Alexander, IN; and Zaloum, Kristina, IN.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ROBERT EASLICK FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

Whereas, Robert Easlick always displayed sportsmanship on and off the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Robert Easlick on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

GENEVIEVE MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Genevieve Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL JILL RAMSEY AND TEACHERS MR. PATRICK FINE, MS. LIESA HARTIN, MR. MIKE KAISER AND MR. STEVE MUSIAL

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Principal Jill Ramsey and

physical education teachers: Mr. Patrick Fine, Ms. Liesa Hartin, Mr. Mike Kaiser, and Mr. Steve Musial. Principal Jill Ramsey and the Chesterfield Elementary School has successfully renewed its STARS status. The criteria for STARS recognition is based on the National Standards for Physical Education, specifically, educationally and developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and teaching skills, adequate facilities and equipment that are safe and appropriate for the age and abilities of the students and that enable students to participate in the maximum amount of active time on task, and classes taught by certified physical educators.

A quality school physical education program is the foundation for helping all children develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence that promote lifelong physical activity. By improving the quality of school physical education programs across the country, we will have a direct effect on the health of America's children.

I want to thank the fine educators of Chesterfield Elementary School for their commitment to the health and education of our future generations and congratulate them on the successful renewal of their STARS status in 2008.

CONGRATULATING WANDA JENSEN FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AS STICKNEY TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEEWOMAN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wanda Jensen as she retires from over 40 years of service as Stickney Township Democratic committeewoman. Throughout her tenure, Mrs. Jensen served her community commendably and I am pleased to recognize her for her long and admirable record of public service.

A longtime resident of the Third District, Mrs. Jensen has demonstrated true community spirit with an unwavering devotion to serving the public. Her service to Stickney as a Democratic committeewoman since 1966 is but one example of her deep community involvement. A true pillar of the community, Wanda has served as a Stickney Township trustee for more than 30 years, all the while devoting extra time to organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

As a testament to her success at bringing the community together, Mrs. Jensen is the proud founder of a local fashion show that has been running for 41 years. Over time, this event has evolved into a popular community gathering that sells out every year.

Amidst her many commendable contributions to the Third District, Mrs. Jensen raised 4 children and now enjoys the pleasure of a large family, which has grown to include 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Jensen is also a devoted member of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to commend the dedication and service of Wanda Jensen as she retires from her post as Stickney Township Democratic committeewoman. I am proud to have in the Third District such an exemplary model of a devoted public servant. I

deeply appreciate her service and wish her and her loved ones a wonderful celebration as they commemorate her many years of service.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize seven outstanding young women who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest offered by the Girl Scouts.

I am honored to extend my congratulations to Ms. Kellie Poland, Ms. Marlene Smith, Ms. Andreanna Haun, Ms. Heather Graham, Ms. Nikita Garman, Ms. Mindy Merdian, and Ms. Alexis Moore, all Gold Award winners. These young women join an elite group of Girl Scouts, as last year only about 5 percent of eligible Scouts earned the prestigious Gold Award. Each of these young women's accomplishments demonstrates their ability to successfully meet a challenge and achieve a truly difficult goal. They have shown leadership in their communities and, through their efforts, have had a positive impact on the lives of others. The Girl Scouts can be proud today, as I am, of these fine young women, who, with character and confidence, have shown the courage to achieve the highest of honors available to them, the Gold Award.

I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service to our communities. I encourage them to continue to be positive examples for those around them, and, again, I offer my sincere congratulations.

FERNANDA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Fernanda Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR WASSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleagues ANNA ESHOO and DENNIS KUCINICH to honor the memory of an optimistic, vivacious woman whose positive outlook and zeal for life inspired many. Eleanor Wasson, a driving force behind WomenRise for Global Peace, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2008. She was 100 years old.

Miss Wasson grew up in Los Angeles, California and was raised by a loving, supportive family. In her life she was always conscious of the importance of giving back to the community. She devoted her life to fighting for political and social causes in the United States and abroad. Miss Wasson was an active volunteer, working three decades as a coordinator of Volunteer Services for UCLA, and later, creating her own organization. Miss Wasson helped introduce volunteerism to the rest of the world through the creation of International Volunteer Education, which was designed to teach foreign countries to recruit and train large numbers of volunteers.

A feminist ahead of her time, Miss Wasson's activism and longevity was fueled by her uplifting outlook on life. Miss Wasson was noted for the ability to befriend people from all over the world and from diverse walks of life. Her warm heart led her to treat each individual with equal respect and friendliness; noting that having plenty of friends attributed to her own longevity. Above all, she led her life believing in the universal power of love, and that we all had power, providing that every action was motivated by love.

Later in her life, Miss Wasson was drawn to the beauty of California's Central Coast. She moved to Santa Cruz in 1989, where she continued to cultivate her spirit of volunteerism, contributing much to a local environmental organization. EarthSave. There, she continued to make friends and spread her contagious optimism with Santa Cruz locals. Old age could not stop Miss Wasson as she continued her activist lifestyle up until her recent passing. Her memories live on, along with her book "28,000 Martinis and Counting," which details her centenarian life of "living, learning, and loving."

Eleanor is survived by her daughters Joan Smith and Diane Wright; along with numerous beloved family members and friends.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend our Nation's deep gratitude for Eleanor's service to the United States and her own local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in offering our condolences to Joan, Diane and the entire Wasson family for the loss of their beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TRAVIS GLASGOW FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Travis Glasgow showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Travis Glasgow was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Travis Glasgow always displayed 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 Travis Glasgow on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall votes 192, 199, 200, and 201. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 192, "yea" on rollcall No. 199, "yea" on rollcall No. 200, and "yea" on rollcall No. 201.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 175, 176, 177, 180, and 182 I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MRS. PINKIE PARKER HARDY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We lost our beloved Mrs. Pinkie Hardy on April 3, 2008. She led a full and vibrant life during her 91 years on this earth, raising a loving family and mentoring many in her church and community.

On May, 19, 1916, Pinkie Parker was born in Washington, Louisiana to Alice White and John Parker. During Pinkie's life, she witnessed many of the Nation's most turbulent and controversial moments. Growing up in the south in the first quarter of the last century, Pinkie was self-educated and she devoted her energies to her community, her family, and her faith. She was a lifelong resident of Eunice, Louisiana.

In 1936, at the age of 20, Pinkie Parker married Herman Joseph Hardy. From this loving union, five sons and two daughters were

born. In 1949, Mrs. Hardy became a parishioner at St. Mathilda Catholic Church. She remained a devout and extremely active member of this parish until she became ill just last year.

Mrs. Hardy contributed immeasurably to the growth and service of St. Mathilda Parish during her life. Bishop Flynn appointed her as the first Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at St. Mathilda. She also served as Lector and Parish Council President for several years. For 50 years, Mrs. Hardy was an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver (KPC) Council #92. Mrs. Hardy spent 26 of those years serving as the Grand Lady of KPC.

In 1987, Mrs. Hardy was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Diocese of Lafayette. In 2002, she received the Bishop's Medal for devoted service to her church and society.

It is clear that Mrs. Hardy was an indispensable component of her community. She came of age and lived her adult life during the most tumultuous and influential political period in American history. Mrs. Hardy's life exemplifies that of many African-Americans during this century, their struggle for human rights and civic freedom, and their strength and perseverance.

These important men and women are seldom recognized for their greatness. Mrs. Hardy's life is one to be remembered and admired as an example of the true work and inner fortitude that keeps this country together. These individuals dedicated their lives to the service of their God and community in the face of incredible odds. Each and every one of them had a unique story, a special impact, and a loving family. Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy was a member of mine.

On a very personal level, Mrs. Hardy was "family" to me. She shared her deep religious faith, her wonderful Creole cooking (especially her gumbo) and her insights as a strong, yet gentle African-American woman with me on several occasions. To know "Mrs. Pinkie" was to love her.

Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy will be sorely missed by all those who loved her and were honored to have her kindness and spirit touch their lives. Her memory and legacy will live on through her seven children, five daughters-in-law, 22 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren as well as innumerable relatives and friends.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and children. Thank you for sharing her great spirit with so many people over the last century. May her soul rest in peace.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KERSHAL ZEHNDER FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Kershal Zehnder showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Kershal Zehnder was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kershal Zehnder always displayed 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 Kershal Zehnder on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

QUIANNE HOLMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

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

JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE
LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT
CANCELLATION OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act. This bill seeks to help those struggling under the most grievous economic circumstances abroad. It reflects a strong bipartisan effort to assist in full debt cancellation for 24 of the world's poorest countries.

Under this bill, introduced by Congresswoman WATERS, debt relief would be extended to countries not currently eligible under the IMF's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries program. Nine of these countries would receive immediate assistance under this act while the remaining countries would have to

meet stringent standards in order to receive the forgiveness.

These standards would ensure countries receiving assistance do not acquire new debt or encourage bad actors within their government. Countries would not be eligible for assistance if they lack transparency in their budget, commit human rights violations, support international terrorism, have excessive levels of military funding, or fail to cooperate on international narcotics control issues. The bill further provides that external financing needs of these countries are met through grants rather than loans to prevent them from falling victim to exploitive lending in the future.

Debt relief for the most severely disadvantaged throughout the world concerns us all as global citizens and numerous constituents in my district have reached out to me expressing their overwhelming support for this compassionate bill. I am proud to be a member of the committee that passed this bill with a favorable recommendation and of this House which has moved this legislation today. H.R. 2634 helps our world's neediest individuals, many of which have suffered under repressive regimes, move forward and use their countries' future capital on important economic growth activities and health care.

JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE
LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT
CANCELLATION OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hastings amendment to H.R. 2634 which expresses the sense of Congress that Haiti's debts should be immediately forgiven. This amendment seeks to empower a nation that has endured a turbulent past and has fought courageously to achieve a relative measure of stability.

As the world has experienced a 40 percent rise in global food prices since mid-2007, Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has keenly felt this increase on a greater scale. Eighty percent of Haiti's population lives on less than \$2 a day. The cost of staple foods which Haiti's economy depends on, such as rice, beans, fruit, and condensed milk, has gone up 50 percent in the past year.

The high cost of food in Haiti has led to anti-government protests and riots, in which at least 5 people have died and 40 people have been wounded. These extreme reactions to the humanitarian crisis will jeopardize Haiti's security and the capacity of its democratic institutions to govern effectively. To put it simply, Haiti's democracy cannot survive if it is unable to ensure that its people have access to basic food commodities at a reasonable price.

The Hastings amendment reinforces the point that Haiti is scheduled to send

\$48,700,000 in debt payments to multilateral financial institutions in 2008—money that could be better spent on providing for its people.

In light of this devastating global food crisis and the crisis in Haiti, we must urge the Secretary of the Treasury to do all that he can to expedite the complete and immediate cancellation of Haiti's debts to all international financial institutions.

This is a reasonable amendment that responds to an urgent need, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the National Crittenton Foundation, an organization that supports empowerment, self-sufficiency, and an end to cycles of destructive behaviors and relationships for at-risk and system-involved girls, young women and their families.

On this historic occasion, I am particularly honored to recognize the ongoing contribution of one of the leading members of the Foundation's Family of Agencies, DePelchin Children's Center in Houston, which proudly serves my home district and other children and families from across Texas.

DePelchin Children's Center has strong roots in our community. More than 120 years ago, Charles Crittenton, the well-known American philanthropist, visited Houston and inspired a group of local activists to establish one of the country's first maternity homes, a refuge for young unmarried mothers. In response to changing community needs, the Crittenton Home significantly expanded its services over the years, merging with DePelchin Children's Center in 1983.

Recognizing that a child's needs are best met in a family environment, DePelchin Children's Center strives to strengthen the lives of children and families by providing a continuum of services to prevent and resolve social and emotional crises. Each year, the agency provides more than 30 programs for over 26,000 vulnerable children and families each year in multiple locations in Harris, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston, Fort Bend and Waller counties. In addition to teen parenting and independent living services, DePelchin offers foster care, adoption, prevention, residential, and an array of other services designed to meet its clients' complex needs.

The unique partnership between DePelchin Children's Center and The National Crittenton Foundation is an additional strength for Houston's children and families. This ongoing collaboration was and is based on Charles Crittenton's and Dr. Kate Waller Barrett's belief that the most effective way to address compelling national social issues was through a network of affiliated independent, local organizations supported by a national body.

I am proud of the work The National Crittenton Foundation and DePelchin Children's Center continue to do on behalf of vulnerable children and families across the state

of Texas and across this nation. I thank them for their commitment and wish them a strong and continued partnership in the coming years.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 125th anniversary of the National Crittenton Foundation and the Crittenton Family of Agencies. I do so because this network of organizations deserves recognition for the profound role they have played in allowing girls and young women to realize their full potential.

In particular, I would like to draw attention to the Florence Crittenton Services of Arizona in Phoenix. For more than a century, this organization has provided valuable services, education and community-based programs to help Arizona children and teens overcome the issues of abuse, neglect, teen pregnancy and mental health problems. Through its comprehensive network of services and support systems, this organization provides a refuge where vulnerable youth, ages 12 to 21, prosper from the assistance of a caring community and discover the possibility of a bright new future in spite of their challenging past experiences.

As society has experienced dramatic changes in the last 100 years, the Phoenix home has changed too, but its goal of giving every girl it serves safety, hope, and opportunity has remained constant. I commend the Florence Crittenton board members, staff and volunteers for their compassion and dedication to excellence, ensuring that their services continue to grow to meet the needs of the girls it serves, and for becoming one of the state's leading experts in gender-specific services.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the Florence Crittenton Services of Arizona and its nationwide community of Crittenton sister organizations on their successful efforts to empower at-risk girls to rise above the negative circumstances they have been exposed to and become productive and self-sufficient citizens who understand the value of always treating themselves and others with respect.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF THE WIRELESS INTERNET NATIONWIDE FOR FAMILIES ACT OF 2008

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, today Rep. CHRISTOPHER CANNON and I introduced the Wireless Internet Nationwide for Families Act of 2008 (WIN) which, if enacted, would foster the deployment of a new nation-wide wireless broadband network.

By every measure, the U.S. is losing the international broadband race and our competitiveness as a nation is at stake. More than

100 million Americans do not have broadband at home. Seventy-one percent of Latinos do not have broadband at home. Sixty-nine percent of Americans living in rural areas do not have broadband. Sixty percent of African Americans do not have broadband at home.

The high cost of internet access is a barrier for too many families who want broadband. In just the last year, the average cost of a broadband connection has risen \$2 per month, or nearly five percent. These troubling figures must change and that's why I've introduced the WIN Act. This legislation mandates that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) auction certain spectrum that is currently lying fallow.

The winner of the auction would be required to build and complete a network within 10 years which must provide coverage to at least 95 percent of our country. The licensee would be required to provide service for free to consumers and public safety users. The WIN Act also requires the licensee to deny access to obscene and indecent material on the free service tier.

The results of the 700 MHz auction disappointed many of us who hoped that a new entrant would emerge. Seventy percent of the auctioned spectrum went to only two carriers. While the auction required under this legislation is open to anyone, it is my hope that the bold conditions of requiring free, family friendly service will encourage the entry of a new national broadband service provider.

The public airwaves are a national resource that should be utilized to benefit the public. For far too long our nation's carriers have stockpiled spectrum, gamed building-out requirements, and provided poor service to consumers. This bill attempts to remind licensees that they do not own the public waves in fee simple. As licensees, they hold spectrum in a public trust. This is an agreement that obligates them to utilize this spectrum in the public interest in exchange for their exclusive control.

The Innovation Agenda made a commitment to spur affordable access to broadband and this bill will go a long way to providing universal broadband access. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Rep. CANNON in support of this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY PRICE MOORE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Dorothy Moore of Arkansas City, Arkansas, who passed away April 9, 2008, at the age of 97.

Dorothy Moore, affectionately known as "Miss Dorothy" to all that knew her and throughout the state of Arkansas, was a tremendous woman and an inspiration to everyone who called her a friend. Raised on her family's farm in Southeast Arkansas during the Depression and the Great Flood of 1927, she learned the importance of small town values such as hard work, honesty, compassion for others, and reverence for all which she exemplified throughout her life and were evident in all she did.

Faithful to her community, Miss Dorothy returned home to Arkansas City after college to begin her lifelong career in public service. For over two decades Miss Dorothy served as the Deputy Collector in the Desha County Sheriff's Office while her husband, Robert S. Moore, held the post of Sheriff. During this time she was the backbone of her wonderful family as well as a trusted political advisor to her husband. After her husband's life was tragically cut short, it was Miss Dorothy who stepped in and completed the remainder of his term as Desha County Sheriff—a role that was only fitting for a person dedicated to her community and committed to public service.

After Miss Dorothy completed her time as Sheriff, her political journey in Arkansas continued as she was selected by then-Governor Bill Clinton to serve on his staff. Her friendly style and warm smile became so contagious around the office that she was asked to continue working for Arkansas's next two governors. Her numerous years spent working in the Governor's office established her as a legendary figure in Arkansas history.

Miss Dorothy was a great ambassador for Desha County and Southeast Arkansas as she worked tirelessly to create a strong sense of community in everything she did. I was truly honored and humbled to be able to speak at Miss Dorothy's funeral, and I will always cherish the fond memories I have of her. It is with great admiration and heartfelt respect that I will remember a lady who was a mother figure to an entire state, and whose class and dignity will always represent what Southern Hospitality should be.

I send my deepest condolences to her daughter Dorothy Lee Moore Paige and her husband David of Davis, California; her son State Representative Robert S. Moore Jr. and his wife Beverly of Arkansas City; and to her four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and numerous friends across the state. Miss Dorothy will be greatly missed in Desha County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I will continue to keep her family in my thoughts and prayers.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JOHN CALSON FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

Whereas, John Calson always displayed 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 John Calson on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

ALIA SHEYA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alia Sheya, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alia Sheya is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alia Sheya for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARROLL
SHELBY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carroll Shelby, a true visionary in the automotive industry, to honor his receipt for the Automotive Industry Executive of the Year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born January 11, 1923 in Texas, Carroll Hall Shelby served admirably in the U.S. Air Force as a flight instructor and test pilot during World War II. After his service with the military, Shelby began what would become a decorated and distinguished career as a professional automobile racer. Named Sports Illustrated's Driver of the Year in 1956 and 1957. Carroll Shelby was also inducted into both the International MotorSports Hall of Fame and the Automobile Hall of Fame.

Mr. Shelby's influence on the racing world as a driver was only exceeded by his impact as an automotive designer, securing his legacy as an industry luminary through the many innovations and designs that have shaped and reshaped the cars we drive today. Some of the most beautiful and powerful cars ever made, including the Ford GT40, the Ford Shelby Mustangs, and the Dodge Viper, are the product of his vision and expertise.

Beyond his achievements in the automotive realm, Carroll Shelby has demonstrated his compassion through his commitment to the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation, a charity he established to help children in need of heart and kidney transplants. His work with this foundation has helped many families and has fueled research that will help save even more lives throughout the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and service of Carroll Shelby. His many contributions to the automotive industry and the country represent his commitment to excellence, and I wish congratulations for receiving this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHING
AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT COL-
LECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS
ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights Act. This legislation will restore the right of graduate assistants to organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions under the National Labor Relations Act, NLRA.

Graduate assistants across this country have seen their workloads dramatically increase in recent years. As many colleges and universities try to cut costs they have relied on graduate students to take on a larger role and more responsibility: They teach classes, develop course curriculum, grade student papers, and provide counseling. One reason for this trend is simple—graduate student teachers are paid a fraction of what faculty earn. Confronted with this economic reality, graduate assistants, many of whom have families to support, have sought to exercise their right to organize and bargain collectively for a better deal.

Right on cue, as it has done with millions of other workers, the Bush NLRB quickly stripped away the right of graduate teaching students to join a union and have a voice at the bargaining table. The National Labor Relations Board's, NLRB, 2004 decision in Brown University overturned prior precedent and found that graduate assistants are not employees under the NLRA and therefore not afforded the rights and protections of the Act. This decision has stripped away the right of over 51,000 teaching assistants, research assistants and proctors to bargain for better wages and working conditions at 1,561 private universities.

Thousands of graduate assistants continue to light for the right to join a union. At public universities in 14 States, graduate assistants are already afforded the right to join unions. According to the Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions, there are approximately 23 unions on more than 60 campuses in the United States, including the University of Michigan, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of California.

The Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights Act is simple. It will amend Section 2(3) of the NLRA to clarify that the term "employee" includes any graduate student who is performing work for compensation at the direction of the institution. As employees, these workers would have the right to organize and bargain collectively under the NLRA. This bill restores prior precedent. As the NLRA covers only private sector workers, State schools are not affected by the Brown University decision or this legislation.

The Teaching and Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Rights is about fundamental fairness and justice. It will restore the right to thousands of hardworking graduate employees to bargain for better wages and working conditions. I urge all of my colleagues to support this country's graduate teaching assistants and support this legislation.

HONORING 108 YEARS OF SILENT
SERVICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the honor of participating in a wreath laying ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial to mark the 108th anniversary of the submarine force. The ceremony, held in front of the memorial's "Lone Soldier," was a moving tribute to the proud heritage of our submarine force and the dedicated submariners who have silently protected our Nation for more than 100 years. And, over the last weekend, I was proud to attend Naval Submarine Base New London's annual submarine birthday ball.

For over a century, sailors have embarked on dangerous service in a place where human life was never meant to exist in order to silently protect our Nation. There is an irony to the fact that while our Nation owes much of its security over the past century to the submarine force, most Americans will never truly know all that the "silent service" has done to protect us.

2008 is an especially important year in the history of the submarine force, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the USS *Nautilus*' (SSN-571) journey across the North Pole in 1958, an unprecedented achievement by our sailors at a critical time for our Nation. The men aboard her on her historic journey set the pace for all those who followed in their footsteps.

Much has changed about our submarine force and the role of our submariners since the USS *Holland* (SS-1) first set sail in 1900. In World War I and World War II, our submarines were not much more than surface ships that could submerge for a short period before surfacing. Yet, in very dangerous conditions and with high casualty rates, submariners sank an estimated 6 million tons of enemy merchant ships and sank nearly one-third of the Japanese Navy's warships. The cost of their efforts were high: 52 submarines and over 3,600 men, at a rate of nearly one in four, were lost in the war. But their sacrifice helped bring us to victory and proved the submarine's role in the defense of our Nation.

In the Cold War, submariners played a key role as a critical strategic deterrent in our protracted struggle with the Soviet Union. Silently patrolling in waters across the world, our attack and ballistic missile submarine crews helped to secure an uneasy peace by ensuring that we were ready to respond at any moment. There were no victory medals when it was over, no parades for the countless young men who served on these critical yet silent front lines, but there is no doubt our Nation is forever indebted to them and the era they helped us overcome.

And, as the Cold War ended and new challenges emerged, the modern attack submarine fleet, consisting of the Los Angeles- and Virginia-class, emerged as our Nation's front line defense. Today, our submariners are no less critical than the eras preceding us. We use submarines extensively around the globe, using their stealth to covertly gather intelligence briefed at the highest levels of our government. They are adapting and growing

to meeting the security challenges of the 21st century, and every day they remind us that submarines are, and will remain, at the core of our Nation's defense.

From the *Holland*, to the *Nautilus*, and to the newest boats in the fleet, the USS *North Carolina* (SSN-777) and USS *New Hampshire* (SSN-778), the capabilities and technologies on board may have changed dramatically, but one thing has always stayed the same: The strength of any submarine has always come down to those who command and serve aboard her.

In my travels over the past year, I have met countless commanding officers and sailors—many of them young men doing some of the most important work on behalf of our security—who selflessly dedicate their lives in dangerous service.

Our sailors serve in the harshest of conditions around the globe, on long tours away from their families literally stacked on top of their crewmates, often cut off from the rest of the world. They make up the smallest portion of our Navy and their achievements are most often secret. But, there is no doubt that each and every one of them loves what they do on behalf of the security of our Nation.

Every submariner today serves upon the foundation built by those that came before them. At the core of their service over the past century has been a legacy is one of devotion, bravery and innovation. Without a doubt, today's submarine force is living up to that legacy and building one of their own for those who come after them to follow.

This is an exciting time for the submarine force. It is a time of great possibility and of new challenges. But, after spending time with sailors in the mess hall of a submarine submerged below the ice to building relationships with officers at the top of the chain of command, I am confident that our submariners will continue the proud legacy built by those who came before them.

I ask all my colleagues to join with me in extending our deep appreciation to those who have, and continue to, silently serve our Nation, their families, and to all our Armed Forces serving today around the globe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 200 yesterday, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, as I was attending to other business in the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "Yes" on motion that the Committee rise, H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today, as millions of Americans prepare to file their Federal

income tax returns by midnight, many will be confounded, confused and, yes, perhaps even cranky because of our unbelievably complicated tax code, and, I don't think there's a person in this body who will blame them.

Our tax code is a maze of complexity that creates confusion and, yes, unfairness. In fact, between 2001 and 2006—when our Republican colleagues controlled the Congress and the White House—they added more than 10,000 pages to the Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

It now takes people an average of 34 hours to complete a 1040 long form. It's no wonder that 62 percent of Americans rely on a tax professional to prepare their returns.

The Democratic majority has been focused for years on making our Tax Code fairer and simpler—and doing so in a fiscally responsible way, but this issue also demands Presidential leadership. We know that from experience.

The last real tax reform occurred 22 years ago when President Reagan and Dan Rostenkowski, then Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, came together to streamline our Tax Code.

When a new President takes office in January 2009, I believe that this should be an issue near the top of the agenda—particularly an effort to reform the dreaded alternative minimum tax.

Today, we will consider the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act," which makes small, but important reforms to our Tax Code.

Among other things, this bill will:

Strengthen taxpayer protections from identity theft and tax fraud;

Expand assistance for low-income taxpayers;

Close tax loopholes that allow Government contractors to set up sham companies in foreign jurisdictions to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes; and

End the private collection of Federal income taxes.

Just this morning, the Washington Post reported that the Internal Revenue Service expects to lose more than \$37 million by using private debt collectors to pursue tax scofflaws.

That's right—private companies hired to collect tax revenue that the IRS does not have the resources to pursue actually cost the Federal Government—i.e., taxpayers—more than they bring in.

Furthermore, let me say that there clearly is something wrong with our Tax Code when the costs of noncompliance—the so-called "tax gap"—is an estimated \$345 billion a year. The reality is, this tax gap is only going to be narrowed and closed when we get serious about real tax reform.

Until that day, Mr. Speaker, we must do what we can to make our tax laws fairer and simpler. This legislation is an important step in that regard.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this bill, and, in the months ahead, to come together—like we did in 1986—in support of real tax reform.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NORMAN M. WALKER IN CELEBRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Norman Walker. On Friday, April 18, 2008, Norman Walker will retire after thirty years of service on the City of Defiance's Police Department.

Over the last three decades, Norman Walker has certainly been an indispensable asset to the City of Defiance and to the northwest Ohio law enforcement community. His strong commitment to sound principles and honest leadership has guided his nearly fifteen years of service as Chief of Police. Mr. Walker's commitment to the law enforcement creed of "to serve and protect" was instilled in him as he worked his way through every rank in the Defiance Police Department. Without question, Mr. Walker has given unselfishly of his time and talents in order that the citizens of the City of Defiance might have a safe community in which to work and raise their families.

Norman Walker embodies the spirit of American public service and through his workman-style approach put his vision for a modern rural police department into action to establish the City of Defiance's police department as it model for the region. His dedication to community-oriented policing has empowered not only his fellow officers, but community residents as well, to play an active role in their own safety and have a voice in how their police department can continually provide better service to the residents of Defiance, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is evident that Mr. Walker has devoted himself to the preservation of a free and just society where the rule of law is respected by all who call this great land their home. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude that mere words cannot sufficiently express.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in honoring Norman Walker. On the occasion of his retirement as the City of Defiance's Chief of Police, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

SHUMET DEMIE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

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

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
ELIZABETH LIPPENCOTT FOR
WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Elizabeth Lippencott showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Lippencott was a supportive team player; and

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

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

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR
SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, while I was unfortunately absent for the vote on H.R. 5036 due to commitments in my home state of California, I would have voted in support of this legislation had I been present. I am deeply dismayed that the bill failed to pass by a wide margin.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act, I thank Congressman HOLT for his vigorous efforts to provide emergency support to states and counties that wish to ensure that all votes are accurately counted through the use of paper ballots. This bill would provide assistance to states and counties that voluntarily choose to use paper-based voting systems. States would be able to seek federal reimbursements for emergency paper ballots that are offered in the event of technological failures. The bill would make funding available for the development of procedures to conduct hand-counted audits or to hand-count the results of elections.

Free and fair elections are fundamental aspects of a representative democracy like the United States, and we must provide the necessary support to our state and local governments to strengthen the integrity of our democracy. In the 2004 election, while widespread usage of electronic voting machines helped standardize our nation's voting system and prevented some of the problems that occurred with punch-card ballots in the 2000 election, there were reports of voting irregularities, some of which were due to glitches in electronic voting machine software. This is why it is absolutely necessary to make available paper receipts that each voter can verify for themselves.

To this end, I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 811, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act. The legislation would require voting systems to produce a voter-verified paper record suitable for a manual audit equivalent or superior to that of a paper ballot box system.

A few years ago, I held a town hall meeting on electronic voting at Santa Clara University to expand my knowledge and public awareness of direct recording electronic (DRE) devices. The program provided much insight into the development of DREs but it also left many unanswered questions about their security and reliability. Since then, I have supported legislation that seeks to ensure a voter verifiable record and greater openness in the testing and certification process of DREs.

Even as secure technology is developed, voter verifiable records will sustain the high integrity of our voting processes. It is imperative that Congress helps support those states and counties that are willing to use paper ballots to strengthen our democracy until electronic systems that produce a paper trail are available, and to ensure that all American votes cast will be counted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on April 17, 2008, I missed votes because I was attending my daughter Bailey's equestrian event. Bailey is competing today at the 2008 Varsity Equestrian National Championship in Waco, Texas. She is a senior at Oklahoma State University and has been a member of the OSU equestrian team since her freshman year.

TRACY KRAUSE: PHYSICAL EDUCATION
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker. I want to congratulate Mr. Tracy Krause being recognized as the National Physical Education Teacher of the Year. The award was presented on April 11, 2008, at the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) Hall of Fame Banquet. The NASPE

is a non-profit professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport.

Mr. Krause is a Physical Education teacher at Mount Tahoma Senior High School. He has taught Physical Education for 15 years. His contributions to physical education were recognized because of his innovative approach to physical education and wellness. Rather than just focusing on activities students can do on the track and in the gym during that particular school day, Mr. Krause exposed students to a lifetime of physical activity such as biking, hiking and climbing with positive results and ever-increasing interest from students and administrators. Mr. Krause takes responsibility for the lifetime fitness of his students, not just the years they are enrolled in his class.

Apart from his work at Tahoma High, Mr. Krause is a National Board Certified Teacher who has presented numerous workshops and conferences and supervises pre-service teachers at regional universities throughout Washington State. The work he is doing to better the fitness level and overall wellness of young people is a wonderful anecdote for relieving pressure on an increasingly expensive health care system.

I again congratulate Mr. Tracy Krause for the recognition he received from the NASPE, encourage him to continue in his important work and thank him for the lives he has already permanently changed for the better.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for votes on April 3, 2008.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 159, a motion to recommend H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, with instructions to amend the bill (forthwith) to provide liability protection to firemen that provide inspection services or advice on the use of child safety seats to their communities.

I would also have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 160, final passage of H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2016) to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit for the Record portions of an article from the Tucson Weekly that was published on February 15, 2007.

FOLLOWING THE AMNESTY TRAIL

Leo W. Banks follows one of Arizona's most popular illegal alien crossing routes

and finds piles of garbage trampled public lands, angry residents and the suspected presence of a vicious gang.

In the coming weeks, as President Bush and the Democrat-controlled Congress take up immigration reform, and the political talk turns to amnesty, everyone living along border smuggling routes will hunker down to wait for the worst. They know their lives will get miserable in a hurry.

The word amnesty possesses remarkable power on the Mexican side of the line. It has the same effect as a starter's pistol.

Bang! Let the land rush begin.

It happened after Jan. 7, 2004, when Bush floated his idea for a temporary worker program. The idea was broadly viewed in Mexico as amnesty, and the Border Patrol's own survey proved it. In the weeks following the proposal, the agency quietly questioned crossers apprehended at the southern border and found the president's plan had caused a big spike in illegal crossings. Forty-five percent said they'd entered our country "to get Bush's amnesty."

Nowhere will the coming stampede be more evident than on the smuggling routes that begin at the border at Sasabe, 65 miles southwest of Tucson, curl up through the Altar Valley and continue all the way to the Ironwood Forest National Monument, a full 75 miles north of the border.

The 129,000-acre Ironwood, located west of Marana and south of Eloy, is a desert paradise of giant saguaros and spooky black-rock peaks worthy of a gothic novel. President Bill Clinton declared it a Federal monument in June 2000.

But the smugglers have turned this signature Arizona landscape into a criminals' playground. The land here is crisscrossed with trails so packed from use, they shine white under the sun. Another Monument resident, Cindy Coping, uses Google Earth to zoom in on the Amnesty Trail, which comes up clear as a bell on her monitor.

What's it like to live here?

If you're out on the land a lot, expect to find the corpses of those who've made the terrible decision to cross this desert. Including the three murders last week, seven bodies were found on the Ironwood in the three months prior to this writing.

One photo, taken sometime in 2000 by my anonymous photographer, shows the skull of a presumed illegal, with other human bones in the foreground. Next to the skull, not pictured, stands a saguaro-rib cross, probably built by companions after the deceased went down.

For those trying to keep cattle on their land, the smugglers have made living in the Ironwood a nightmare. At this writing, rancher Emilio Figueroa says he has 18 head of cattle, valued at \$800 each, on Tohono O'odham land immediately west of the monument. They got out when coyotes cut his fence. Now the tribe is refusing to let him onto Indian land to retrieve them. He's out \$14,000.

For Cindy's husband, Bob, a 58-year-old retired Raytheon engineer, one of the defining aspects of life on the Ironwood is a particular sound he can hear, literally, a mile away. "I'll be out working and I'll hear, 'wappa-wappa-wappa', and I know it's a load-out truck coming down the road with a flat tire," he says.

The smugglers keep driving on the flat until the rubber flies off. Even then, they don't stop. They keep driving on the tire's rim until that, too, falls off or disintegrates. Sometimes the drive train falls out first.

These smuggler vehicles, most stolen from Phoenix, often travel at night without headlights, with tape over the brake lights, and they've been clocked tearing through the monument's dirt roads at 89 mph. This en-

dangers the lives of residents and visitors alike.

It also ensures that many of these load vehicles—such as the tan truck pictured—never make it out of the monument. They smash into trees and saguaros, or run into ditches. The BLM has towed 300 vehicles a year out of the monument since 2000.

These load-outs, as well as the constant foot traffic, destroy habitat and threaten cultural sites and endangered species. The trash left behind requires pickup crews to have biohazard training and armed guards watching them as they work.

Even worse, Vic Brown says that MS-13, the notoriously vicious Salvadoran gang, might be operating on the monument, based on suspicious tattoos law enforcement has seen on smugglers arrested there. The Border Patrol's public information office in Tucson wouldn't return a call to talk about MS-13 in the monument.

Says Vic Brown: "We're trying to maintain some semblance of a national monument out there, and to be quite honest, we're not able to do it, because undocumented immigrants have targeted the area. I've watched it degrade from when I got there in 1992, and in the last 5 years, it has gotten progressively worse."

The Copings bought their land here in 1995, and since then, they've been eyewitnesses to the explosion of the smuggling trade. In the mid-'90s, it was mainly small family groups that crossed at Sasabe and walked the 75 miles north to the monument, then an additional 18-20 miles to their pickup at Eloy. They rarely used coyotes.

In 2000, the Copings began seeing vehicles, often Ford F-150 pickups, parked at the side of the road. They usually had dark windows, no license plates and the keys resting on a tire. The illegals would drive themselves out to I-10, then Phoenix.

The abandoned-truck phase gave way in about 2003 to the huge load-out phase. The Copings began seeing SUVs with five to eight illegals sitting on the roof, as Bob says, "like wasted college students," or on the hood, forming a narrow tunnel through which the driver can see.

Some of these illegals have told the Copings they already had jobs lined up in places such as North Carolina, and carried plane tickets out of Sky Harbor in Phoenix.

Cell phones revolutionized the smuggling racket, allowing illegals to call ahead to arrange a pickup in the Ironwood, often eliminating the longer walk to Eloy. Independent walkers are gone now. "Everybody we see now is somebody's customer," says Bob.

The business has become sophisticated, commercial and very dangerous. Cindy, 50, a former engineer at Hughes, used to check fences alone on horseback, but she quit, afraid of what she might encounter. "Sometimes I'll be at the house alone, and 20 illegals will walk down the road," she says. "It's intimidating. They sound like an army marching."

Bob says the number of load-outs in the Ironwood increased last spring before and after demonstrators took to the streets in Tucson and elsewhere to demand a rewrite of American law to accommodate illegal aliens and their corporate partners. The atmosphere, including talk of amnesty, created an explosion in traffic. In April, the Copings counted eight load-outs in one day.

When the National Guard was sent to the border, the free-for-all ended abruptly, if briefly. "We saw helicopters overhead, military-type aircraft, and we didn't see a load-out for two weeks," Bob says. "The traffic probably dropped 90 percent."

But the numbers have risen again significantly, and in recent e-mails, the Copings have told me the big load-outs have returned

with a vengeance. Cindy's e-mails have the tension and immediacy of dispatches written from a war zone—because, in fact, she and Bob live in one.

Last Thursday, three illegals were murdered in the Ironwood. Cindy and Bob learned of the trouble when a male illegal came to their house, his thigh covered in blood, evidently splattered from someone else's wound. In rapid Spanish, he repeated words like, "Pow! Pow!" and "911" and "muerta" and "mujer," while gesturing of blood pouring from someone's chest. Cindy grabbed her medical kit, and she and Bob and this man jumped into a pickup and raced to the scene.

Here is what she wrote next:

"I called 911 and attended to the woman, who was shot in the shoulder with a bullet wound coming out that soft spot at the bottom of her throat. The 911 dispatcher was simultaneously responding to a similar call from the Asarco Silverbell Mine, which is about a 10-mile drive south. As soon as I could see the woman was in stable condition. I crossed the street and assessed the motionless man on the other side.

"I felt no pulse on his still-warm throat. His eyes were closed. I grabbed his wrist, and it cold. Then I saw the back of his head was shot open. He was gone. There was no bleeding at the scene, so I assume this shooting took place earlier, and these four people were unloaded.

"The woman, Sebastiana, whom I later found out is 24 years old, began shivering in the morning's chill. I found no signs of continued bleeding. Her wound had been hurriedly dressed with someone's cotton coat stuffed up under her shirt. It was a gaping 2-inch-wide gash between the two bullet holes, but it had stopped bleeding. She was alert and breathing, even able to talk. She had a smaller wound to her abdomen. I elevated her feet, and Bob made two trips back to the house for wool blankets to keep her warm.

"A younger (undocumented) woman, Linda, at the scene had blood covering her cheek and circling one eye. She indicated no pain, so this was perhaps someone else's blood. She indicated that something had grazed her face, possibly a bullet. In the dark, it appeared she'd been punched in the eye, but after it got light, I could see it was just dried blood on her face. The first official to arrive on scene was a Pima County deputy who told us that someone had walked into Asarco with four fingers shot off."

The e-mail goes on. It ends with Cindy and Bob retreating to their house and locking the gate, another case of Arizona citizens sealing themselves off from the horrors this invasion has brought to our state.

But heartrending encounters are not unusual in the Ironwood. In November, a man in his mid-50s showed up at the Copings' corral and said he'd been drinking his urine for four days. Cindy made him macaroni and cheese and watched him gobble it down. As he ate, he broke down in retching sobs.

The man said he owned a small farm with 70 pigs in Colima, Mexico, and had seven sons living in Phoenix. Breaking her rule of not allowing strays to use the phone, Cindy allowed him to call them to pick him up. He waited and waited, but no one in his family came for him.

That night, he slept in the bed of one of the pickups. In the morning, he gave Cindy several necklaces—depicting Jesus, the Virgin of Guadalupe and other images—then left, and Cindy isn't sure in which direction he went. She never called the Border Patrol to pick him up.

"They usually don't come if it's one or two strays," she says. "But mostly I didn't have the heart. I couldn't do it after all he'd been through."

Cindy figures she and Bob have made six such "rescues" over the years. She has no

choice. "If I don't help them, they'll die," she says. "We're 75 miles from the border, No one gets here without walking, at least three days, and it's another 20-mile walk out."

But living in the Ironwood presents other tough choices.

In 1997, as a precaution, Cindy got shots to immunize her from contact with hepatitis A. At the time, she was working with Pima County Search and Rescue, and that agency recommended that its personnel get immunized for the more worrisome, and potentially fatal, hepatitis B. It is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person, and Cindy has had contact with bleeding Third World people.

She hasn't gotten the second shot yet. "If I were taking the best care of myself, I'd get the B shot, too," says Cindy. "I probably still will."

It's easy to understand her anxiety, and her belief that she is on her own against this invasion—because, in spite of what she calls the dedicated Border Patrol agents on the ground, Cindy knows that the American government has neither the will nor desire to control this border.

The same year she got the shots, a Border Patrol agent told Cindy that while traveling in Guatemala, he walked by a travel agency in Guatemala City and saw in its front window a map showing the 1,800-mile route to the United States—with her little house in the Ironwood as a landmark.

But Cindy just shrugged at that disturbing news. After so many years of living on the Amnesty Trail, she's no longer capable of surprise.

THE PASSING OF RINCON
CHAIRMAN VERNON WRIGHT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians Chairman Vernon Wright. Chairman Wright passed away on Thursday, April 10, 2008, of liver cancer at the age of 53—far too soon for a man that had so much left to give to his tribe and community.

Born in San Diego, California to Vernon Hollis Wright and Beverly Wright, Chairman Wright was a lifelong resident of the area. After graduating from San Diego High School and Palomar College, he studied at the Gemological Institute of America and operated a jewelry shop in Escondido, California until becoming politically active with the Rincon tribe in the 1990s.

In 2006, he was elected chairman of the 650-member tribe, after serving as a council member and vice-chairman for several years. As chairman, he did a number of good things for the tribe and surrounding community. He worked hard over the years to heal internal strife that dwelled within the tribe and helped to mend disagreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He also brought the community together through his leadership and helped to usher in the tribe's current economic success.

Not long before his passing, some tribal members had begun calling him "Chief," a title that hadn't been used on the reservation for decades. This informal honor was appropriate for Chairman Wright, because he worked tirelessly for the benefit of his tribe. Months before his passing, he devoted countless hours

and effort to helping tribal members recover from the Poomcha Fire, which devastated the Rincon reservation last year.

Chairman Wright was a good man, an honorable man, who was taken from the world too soon and with much left to accomplish. While his passing is a tragedy, he truly touched the lives of those around him, and the Rincon Tribe has been left much better because of his leadership and guidance. He will be remembered and missed.

CELEBRATING THE U.S.-KOREA
FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it has been my privilege to represent California's 33rd Congressional District with the largest number of Korean American constituents in the Nation. The Korean Americans who live in my district and other neighborhoods in Los Angeles—and, for that matter, across the country—have made incalculable contributions to American life and society.

My purpose in mentioning the Korean American community—which now numbers more than 2 million people nationwide—stems from the arrival this week of President Lee Myung-Bak of the Republic of Korea, who comes to Washington to meet with President Bush, our congressional leadership, senior government officials, business executives, and Korean American leaders. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome President Lee and wish him well as he makes his first official overseas trip.

The United States and the Republic of Korea have shared a long and successful alliance. South Korea is a key partner in the Six-Party Talks aimed at assuring that North Korea does not develop and deploy nuclear weapons that could create a strategic imbalance in northeast Asia. The people of South Korea know better than anyone what the consequences of a nuclear-armed North Korea could be.

South Korea and the United States have also been political, diplomatic, and economic partners since the founding of the alliance 125 years ago. While our two countries were brought dramatically together through the Korean War, which ended in an armistice 55 years ago, we have worked together consistently in a much less dramatic way since then.

For instance, South Korea and the United States are close business partners with over \$80 billion in annual bilateral trade volume. In fact, South Korea is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States. Goods and services move between our two countries on a daily basis.

The pending U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will not bring with it just economic benefits, many of which were described in a recent study released by the U.S. International Trade Commission, but also positive geopolitical and geostrategic consequences.

Approving the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will strengthen our relationship with one of our most important and indispensable allies in Asia and give the United States a permanent economic foothold in the most dynamic and fastest growing region in the world.

This agreement will also provide a counterbalance to China's emergence as a dominant market player in that region and worldwide.

The Free Trade Agreement will complement the likely admission of the Republic of Korea into the Visa Waiver Program, making it easier for Korean travelers to visit the United States as tourists or as students, or for business or family purposes. I can attest that many of my constituents are looking forward eagerly to Korea's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program, which will bring with it many economic benefits aside from—and in addition to—those benefits that will accrue from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

Madam Speaker, I have just barely touched on the many important issues that will be discussed this week while President Lee is in Washington. The South Korean President's visit gives us a special reason to address these topics, but it does not mean that the conversation will end when he returns home. I know from experience that my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment will be exploring these issues in depth in the weeks and months to come.

We welcome the opportunity to hear directly from President Lee his own views and the views of his government on these matters that affect both South Korea and the United States.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, last week's unprecedented vote to change the rules and delay considering the Colombia Free Trade Agreement was one of the most disappointing moments I have had as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I was disappointed that the Majority would so blatantly play election-year politics and cater to special interests at the expense of good economic policy.

I was disappointed that my Democratic colleagues in Washington State—the most trade-dependent State in the Nation—rejected my call for a united delegation effort to bring the FTA to the floor, and instead followed the Speaker at the expense of our region's needs. With our economy lagging, and in light of how important this agreement is to large employers in our State like Boeing and Microsoft, I cannot understand the thinking behind their position.

But more than anything, I was disappointed that the House was denied the opportunity to consider a trade measure of critical importance to our economy and to our workers.

I traveled to Colombia two weeks ago to see firsthand the progress the country is making, and it is remarkable. I met with union members who support and union members who oppose it. And let me say a word about that: The unions who oppose the FTA represent workers who are unaffected by it. The

unions who support the agreement are those whose workers will be affected. Let me repeat that: The unions in Colombia that will be affected by this trade agreement support it.

I also met with President Uribe, the Attorney General, and disarmed paramilitary combatants. I saw the broad support from the Colombian people for this agreement and the progress the country has made to protect and promote human rights. I returned even more convinced that we must pass this agreement to grow our economy, create jobs, and support a strategic ally.

The Colombia FTA would grow our economy by opening new markets for American businesses and farmers while bringing fairness to our existing trade relationship. Virtually all of Colombian goods enter America duty-free, while American goods face tariffs. With so many jobs tied to trade in Washington, common sense says we must level the playing field.

The FTA will also support democracy in an unstable region. It's imperative for Americans to view free trade agreements not just as a mutual economic benefit, but also as a core component of our country's diplomacy and security. Colombia stands tall as a beacon of democracy in the face of Hugo Chavez's anti-American policies. And Colombia remains a key ally in efforts to combat the illegal drug trade. What message does it send to our allies around the world if we ask so much of them, then turn our backs on them at a crucial moment? Why do so many Members come down here to talk about working together with other countries in foreign policy, but do not want to do so in trade? Trade is foreign policy.

Delaying the Colombia FTA signals to our allies that America is closed for trade, and encourages our rivals to exploit new markets. It also derails the consideration of other pending trade agreements like one with Korea, Washington State's fourth largest trading partner. This is absolutely the wrong message to send in this time of economic uncertainty.

Regardless of your views of the FTA, the House deserves to debate it under the rules of consideration this chamber agreed to when it approved trade promotion authority. Let's stop playing political games that cater to special interests, and let's start working together, as Democrats and Republicans, to pass the trade measures that are important to our economy and our workers.

XIA LANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Xia Laniel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Xia Laniel is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Xia Laniel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

CHARLES HITCHBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Chuck Hitchborn on the occasion of his retirement as Mayor of the City of Smithville, Missouri.

Chuck served four years as Mayor of Smithville. Before that, he served six years on the Smithville Board of Aldermen. In addition to his service in Smithville, Chuck also served eight years as a city council member in Arrowhead, Colorado. Chuck has been married to his wife, Joan, for 57 years. Together they have two children, five grandchildren, and ten grandchildren with two more on the way. In his spare time, he is an avid quilter and enjoys gardening. He gets his greatest enjoyment from working with kids and supporting Smithville's local student organizations and athletes.

Chuck has served the Smithville community in many other ways as well. He has been a member and past President of the Rotary Club and is also a current member of the Smithville R-II School District Foundation. Some of Chuck's accomplishments include the downtown sewer replacement project, the approval of Smithville Commons and the addition of the veterans memorial in downtown Smithville.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Chuck Hitchborn for his dedicated service to the people of Smithville, Missouri. I know Chuck's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JENNY HOSTETLER FOR WIN-
NING THE OHIO DIVISION IV
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-
SHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:
Whereas, Jenny Hostetler showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jenny Hostetler was a supportive team player; and

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

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jenny Hostetler on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous

hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD M.
CALABRESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Leonard M. Calabrese, who through his service to the Catholic Church of Cleveland has dedicated his life to serving as a community organizer on behalf of the poor, the vulnerable and the voiceless.

For over 20 years, Mr. Calabrese has served as executive director of the Commission on Catholic Community Action (CCCA), the Social Action Office for Catholic Charities Services, for the Diocese of Cleveland. Prior to his appointment as executive director, Len served as a volunteer board member for nine years. Founded in 1969, the CCCA works to protect and promote human dignity through empowering the poor and the often voiceless minority groups by promoting and ensuring their full participation in society. Through his leadership at the Commission, he is able to work with many other local organizations to educate, mobilize and raise the consciousness of the community, especially among Catholics.

Len Calabrese has a multifaceted background and a very impressive record in serving our community. He was an associate professor for several higher learning institutions such as John Carroll University, University of Akron, Northwestern University and St. Mary Seminary. He was also a consultant for several mayors and the Ohio Senate, and board member for several institutions such as Cuyahoga County Public Library, Immigrant Minority Business Alliance, The City Club of Cleveland and the greater Cleveland Round Table of Civic Leaders, Greater Cleveland Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America just to name a few.

I have had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Len Calabrese in a number of capacities. In the aftermath of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Len worked with the community at large to allay fears expressed against immigrants. He has helped many newcomers from abroad with his welcoming touch and his help with the necessary networking to succeed in business. He represented the CCCA in the Sustainable Communities Symposium and other collaborations with the inner city and suburbs of Cleveland.

Len's talent to mobilize the community and to advocate for the social welfare of others is manifested through his new position as president of Caritas Connection, a nonprofit organization that works to connect Catholic charities, health care, nursing homes and colleges. He will also serve as director of Ministering Together, a national umbrella of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Health Care, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, National Catholic Education Association and various organizations of the laity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Leonard M. Calabrese, who has dedicated his life to serving his church and the greater Cleveland community.

Let his advocacy on behalf of the welfare of others serve as inspiration for all those in pursuit of social change.

ACKNOWLEDGING MARY KATE
RIDGWAY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
TENNESSEE AGRICULTURE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of my friend Mary Kate Ridgway, who recently began an exciting new opportunity as director of the Henry County office of the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service. Her new position will allow Mary Kate to continue more than 30 years of service to family farmers in Henry County and across Tennessee.

Mary Kate is originally from Obion County. Her husband Don is deputy director of the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council. Don represented the 75th district in the Tennessee House of Representatives, where he served with distinction as the Democratic Caucus Chairman and Chairman of the House Transportation Committee. Their son, John Penn, who several years ago worked in our Washington office, and his wife Melissa have two children, Walker and Jackson.

With bachelor's and master's degrees in family and consumer science education from the University of Tennessee at Martin, Mary Kate is also active in other important organizations in our community, including as secretary of Helping Hand Incorporated and co-chair of the Lifeline blood board.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate you and our colleagues joining me as we thank Mary Kate Ridgway for her long service to the agricultural community in west Tennessee and congratulate her on her new position as county director for the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension program.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SKAGIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, on April 9th, 1958, Skagit Valley Hospital opened its doors and began a tradition of providing high-quality healthcare to the residents of Northwest Washington. I rise today to commend Skagit Valley Hospital on its 50th Anniversary and thank the more than 1,200 employees, 250 physicians, 450 volunteers and countless community supporters who continue to work to fulfill the hospital's goal of being "the best regional, community hospital in the Northwest."

Over the last fifty years, Skagit Valley Hospital has grown dramatically and expanded the services it offers to patients. After opening a 220,000 square foot expansion in June of 2007, the hospital now boasts 137 beds, a Level III Trauma Center, and cutting-edge Kidney, Diagnostic Imaging and Comprehensive Cancer Care Centers.

Most of Skagit Valley Hospital's facilities are located in Mount Vernon, Washington, but in recent years the hospital has expanded geographically to serve more families in rural and underserved areas. Its Community Health Centers in Stanwood, Washington and Camano Island, Washington bring healthcare services closer to patients who need them.

The fine work of Skagit Valley Hospital has been supported by the generosity of both the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation and the Skagit Hospice Foundation. Together, these organizations have raised and donated over \$9 million to improve Skagit Valley Hospital and support patients and their families.

For fifty years, Skagit Valley Hospital has been a pillar of our community and the Northwest Washington healthcare system. Please join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Skagit Valley Hospital and thanking its dedicated staff for their tireless efforts.

VALENTINA BROWN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

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

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

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Valentina Brown for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN P.
MINTZ, M.D.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add to my tribute to Alan P. Mintz, whose life I honored on June 27, 2007. Dr. Mintz, M.D. passed away on June 3, 2007.

Born in Chicago, Alan P. Mintz graduated from the University of Chicago and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois—School of Medicine. Prior to his postgraduate training in radiology, in which he later specialized, Dr. Mintz served as a physician in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Mintz was a highly respected professional in the field of radiology and served as a Diplomat of the American Board of Radiology, was board certified in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy, and was also appointed chairman of the Department of Radiology for several Chicago-area hospitals.

Motivated by his passion for health and wellness, Dr. Mintz pioneered a new medical specialty with his work in age management medicine. He became famous within that field for his innovative ideas about the relationship between declining levels of certain hormones and chronic diseases associated with aging. Dr. Mintz pioneered the idea that maintaining certain hormones within physiological ranges in combination with exercise and a healthy diet can optimize wellness as people age.

Dr. Mintz cofounded and served as CEO and President of Medicon, Inc., the world's largest radiology management company. His inventive thinking stimulated the creation of CeneGenics Medical Institute, the largest age management medicine organization in the world. Although headquartered in Las Vegas, CeneGenics Medical Institute has offices in South Carolina, Florida, Hong Kong, and South Korea with service reaching more than 12,000 patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. Dr. Mintz lived his life according to his favorite maxim by Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams . . . Live the life you have imagined." Dr. Mintz clearly fulfilled this statement and will be missed by the many lives he touched.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF
ISRAEL ON ITS UPCOMING 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State of Israel on the upcoming 60th anniversary of its founding and condemn former President Carter's meetings with the terrorist leaders of Hamas.

It is odd that former President Carter would defend his meeting with this terrorist organization as an opportunity to measure their willingness to accept peace overtures. The founding charter of Hamas calls for the destruction of Israel; this should be answer enough for the former President. By acknowledging these leaders the former President provides legitimacy to the terrorist actions committed against the State of Israel.

For decades Israel and the United States have shared a strategic partnership in developing technologies that save lives both on the battlefield and in our hospitals.

Madam Speaker, for the past 60 years, Israel has been a bastion of democracy in a region dominated by authoritarian regimes. As the only country in the Middle East with free elections, free press, freedom of religion, and the protection of minority rights, Israel continues to uphold the values that make it a true Western-style democracy.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the State of Israel on its upcoming 60th anniversary and I look forward to the continued partnership between our two great nations. I hope our colleagues will join me in offering our best wishes to our ally in the Middle East for 60 more years of prosperity.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ALLISON ROTH FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

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

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

CONGRATULATING DAWN DALLAIRE

HON. LYNN C. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dawn Dallaire from Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Small Business Person of the Year for Georgia.

Just five years ago, Dallaire started a specialty-soap business in the garage of her Fayetteville home and produced \$47,000 in revenues. Today, her business, Clearly Fun Soap,

has created local jobs and projects annual revenues to reach near \$3 million.

Like many inventors, Dallaire didn't start out intending to become CEO of a company: she was simply making gifts for friends. She perfected her "goldfish in a bag"—which has become her signature product in the U.S. gift market—and then branched out with new designs.

Dallaire's fortunes took a fateful turn when she took her soap products to a gift show in Florida. There, she took \$5,000 worth of orders and happy customers started coming back.

By 2005, Dallaire's soap business had bubbled beyond the garage. With the help of a Small Business Administration Community Express Loan, she opened a 5,000-square-foot facility in Griffin, another city in the 3rd District. But the growth continued. Two years later, Clearly Fun Soap upgraded to a 10,000-square-foot facility with 15 full-time employees, with up to 35 part-time employees.

Clearly Fun Soap now dots the shelves at Bath & Body Works. Linens N Things, Marshall's and TJ Maxx with accounts pending at other major retailers. Soon, Dallaire will publish her book "Being a Woman in Business in a Man's World" which chronicles both her business and personal accomplishments—including losing 120 pounds.

Our small businesses are the economic engine of our economy and they create over 75 percent of new jobs. Small business people such as Dallaire are helping others as they help themselves. I want to congratulate Dawn Dallaire on this distinguished award. It's truly a great honor that reflects her truly great accomplishments. Georgia's 3rd District is proud to call her one of our own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I again congratulate Dawn Dallaire, the Georgia Small Business Person of the Year for 2008, and wish her and Clearly Fun Soap continued success at "cleaning up."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. ABE MUNFAKH

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Abe Munfakh upon his receipt of the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee's 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his career, Mr. Munfakh has dedicated himself to bettering our community. He served on the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees for 12 years, Plymouth Community United Way Board for 8 years, and was a member of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments for 8 years.

Since 1984, Abe has been actively involved in promoting the conservative principles of the Republican Party in Michigan. He represented the State of Michigan at the 1992 National Republican Convention as an Alternate Delegate. He has served on the Michigan Republican State Committee since 2005 and is a member of the Outreach and Diversity subcommittee and Budget subcommittee. He currently serves on the Eleventh District and Wayne 11th Republican Committees.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Munfakh's legendary dedication to the founding principles of our great democracy and his tireless efforts to perpetuate America's revolutionary experiment in human freedom are an inspiration to all. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Abe Munfakh upon his receipt of the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award and in recognizing his selfless service to our community and our country.