

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