

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KELSEY TEMPLE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelsey Temple on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Temple's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Kelsey Temple educated elementary aged children about bicycle safety. Miss Temple stressed the importance of wearing a helmet, learning and obeying traffic rules regarding cyclists, and bicycle maintenance.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Kelsey Temple in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

KAILEY FORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kailey Ford who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kailey Ford 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 Kailey Ford 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 Kailey Ford 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.

HAZEL BUCKLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hazel Buckley, of Tarkio, Missouri. On April 8, 2008, after 20 years of service, Hazel retired as the Tarkio City Collector.

Hazel began her city collector position when the city had just started doing taxes on the computer instead of on paper. Through the 20 years that Hazel has been the city collector, she has worked under four mayors. Hazel is also the treasurer of the Tarkio Business and Professional Women, and is a member of the Atchison County Health Board and the Tarkio Community Garden Club.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Hazel Buckley, whose service to the Tarkio community has been truly exceptional. I wish Hazel the best in her retirement and it is an honor to serve her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DAN LONG

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Long of Boise, Idaho. Dan will be representing Idaho in the 2008 National Small Businessman of the Year competition.

The Small Business person of the Year Award is given annually by the United States Small Business Administration, SBA. Any individual who owns and operates or who bears principal responsibility for operating a small business may be nominated. A winner from each State has been selected and they will gather in Washington, DC, this week for the announcement of National Small Business Person of the Year. This event coincides with National Small Business Week.

Criteria for selecting the Small Business Persons of the Year include substantiated history as an established business, growth in the number of employees, increase in sales and response to adversity, among other factors.

Dan is an ideal candidate to represent Idaho for this award. He started A-1 Plumbing Service, Inc., in 1984 with one truck and one employee, himself. Dan had a vision of adding one truck per year for the first 10 years and using them to deliver exceptional service.

Dan's vision has become reality. A-1 Plumbing has grown from one truck and one employee to offices in Boise and Nampa, 25 trucks and 36 employees. In addition, the company has enjoyed a booming rate in sales and profits of 10 to 20 percent annually since its inception. Particularly impressive is the repeat customer percentage of 87 percent.

I also commend Dan for his practice of donating a minimum of one percent of revenues to local charities. His actions are exemplary. He is much deserving of the title National Small Businessman of the Year.

Thank you, Dan, for your quality work. It is my honor to recognize you today.

HONORING YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to honor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who served as a Representative of California's 37th Congressional District from 1973 to 1979, and is retiring at the end of this year, after an impressive five-decade career as a public servant in the State of California.

On the occasion of Mrs. Burke's retirement from public office, we wish to extend to her, sincere congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that she has given to her Nation, her State, and her county, most recently as chair of the county of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the largest county in the Nation with a population of over 10 million. For the past 15 years, she has served with distinction as the supervisor of the second district, representing nearly 2.5 million residents.

During her tenure, Mrs. Burke has focused on improving the lives of children, encouraging economic development, and improving transportation throughout Los Angeles, as well as promoting public social services, health care for the uninsured, and affirmative action for women and the economically disadvantaged.

While Mrs. Burke has innumerable accomplishments over the past 15 years, these are some significant highlights of her service in the Second Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County:

Currently chairs the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council that is regarded as the most influential forum for advocating reform of children's service systems in a major metropolitan area.

Helped to establish the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services "Family to Family" program, which advocates the placement of foster children in homes near their original communities.

Established the Second District Education and Policy Foundation that awards scholarships to deserving local students.

Encouraged private businesses and organizations to make computer laboratories available in areas such as public housing, and encouraged constituents to make use of computer research facilities in the county library system.

Promoted the establishment of businesses in areas of the county that have been underserved, providing on-going services to small businesses and establishing the county's website that lists available contracts for small businesses.

Pushed for the establishment of a multi-modal public transportation system, as a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, and continues to labor for the development of the Crenshaw Corridor and for a light and heavy rail system.

• 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.

Served as Past President and currently serves as a Board member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), where she focused on major regional concerns, including the establishment of a multi-modal public transportation system for the Los Angeles area.

Implemented the La Brea Green Belt as a major transportation artery in Los Angeles, as well as providing fire, flood, and landslide abatement.

Led on many environmental issues, including joining the City of San Francisco, calling on residents to turn off lights for an hour to conserve energy; urged the use of paper, rather than plastic bags; and pushed for the observance of America Recycle Day in Los Angeles County.

Spearheaded an effort in the County that resulted in a voluntary program for restaurants to eliminate trans fat.

On behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, the State of California, and the County of Los Angeles, I want to thank Yvonne Brathwaite Burke for sharing her tremendous gifts with us for so many years. We believe Mrs. Burke is an impeccable inspiration to all young women who aspire to posts of leadership and public service. We offer our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Burke for her countless contributions throughout her phenomenal career. We join with her many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune.

HONORING LENAPE MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker. I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Lenape Middle School in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. This school has a long and notable history of educating Bucks County's youth as well as helping the greater community.

Lenape Middle School began its service to Bucks County when it opened on September 4, 1957. Originally serving all of Central Bucks School District, Lenape Middle School now educates students living in Doylestown, Doylestown Township, and parts of New Britain Township. Despite being the smallest of the Central Bucks School District's middle schools, Lenape Middle School is proudly one of the most diverse schools in the district.

Lenape Middle School is also home to several important scholastic programs. Lenape serves as the regional school for various district special education programs as well as serving as the host school for all English as a Second Language students. In honor of its notable academic work, Lenape Middle School was named a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in April 2007.

In addition, Lenape Middle School boasts distinguished participation in community service and outreach. Lenape is deeply involved in the 40 Assets project. This program seeks to recognize students for making a difference in the lives of one of their peers, teachers, or

neighbors. Also, Lenape students actively participate in various community service organizations such as Ponds for Kids, the Relay for Life, and Recycle 4 Relay Campaign.

Lenape Middle School is an exceptional example of an outstanding academic institution. The outstanding work of both Lenape's students and teachers significantly improves the Bucks County community. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Lenape Middle School and grateful for the opportunity to recognize Lenape's 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING SYDNEY SHRUM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sydney Shrum on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Shrum's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Sydney Shrum designed and painted a map of the United State of America on the sidewalk of Rockenbaugh Elementary School in Southlake, Texas.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Sydney Shrum in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
HARLEM COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL
AS THEY CELEBRATE 41
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
HARLEM COMMUNITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Since 1967, The Harlem Commonwealth Council has been dedicated to empowering the Harlem community through job creation and ownership of local commerce, industry and real estate. From the time of its humble beginnings, they have embarked in a mission to stimulate the overall economic development of Harlem through the creation of enterprises, generation of jobs, and improvement of services; and

Whereas, Today, The Harlem Commonwealth Council has continued to hold firm on its pledge to serve the Harlem community by implementing successful ventures and programs through the years that promote self-sufficiency amongst its citizenry and create stability in Harlem through economic development projects, academic empowerment, and entrepreneurial support; and

Whereas, Harlem Commonwealth Council has the distinction of having made historically significant contributions to its vibrant multicultural community in many instances without the financial support of governmental agencies or outside entities. Through a team of Harlem

professionals, community and business leaders, it continues to engineer new initiatives that will foster and sustain economic prosperity to Harlem's residents and businesses; and

Whereas, Leading the way towards the future of the Harlem Commonwealth Council is none other than the distinguished Harlem veterinarian Dr. Joseph L. Tait. While pursuing Veterinary goals, he became a Director in the Commonwealth Holding Company, Inc. Board. Through hard work and perseverance he gained the confidence of his peers who elevated him to the position of Chairman of The Council and ultimately the President and CEO. As President, Dr. Tait has shifted the focus to include reaching out to the young people of our community to offer opportunities for growth professionally and educationally; and

Whereas, As the Harlem Commonwealth Council celebrates forty-one years of service to the Harlem community, it is important to note that when the world had given up on Harlem and urban communities like it nationwide, HCC and other community based organizations, business owners and residents did not. They continue to serve as a shining example of what people can accomplish when they are dedicated to a vision and work together to realize it; and

Resolved, That along with all the residents in the 15th Congressional District of New York, I congratulate The Harlem Commonwealth Council on their forty-first anniversary. Through their unwavering efforts to secure the future of the Harlem community, The Harlem Commonwealth Council has contributed to the effervescent Harlem of today.

TRIBUTE TO ANZELLA K. NELMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a dedicated public servant, Anzella K. Nelms who is retiring from the position of State District Deputy Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools. Ms. Nelms' journey to this post encompassed many levels including classroom teacher, vice principal and principal. As a result of these experiences. Ms. Nelms was definitely in a position to make a difference in the lives of our most precious resources, our children.

An accomplished student herself, having attended school in her native Raleigh, North Carolina, Anzella Nelms sought to ensure that Newark's school children received a quality education. Her dramatic influence can be seen at Camden Middle School where she served as principal from 1979 to 1989 and helped to develop a national model for school effectiveness. It can also be seen in the 16 "Theme Schools" she began within her School Leadership Team while serving as Assistant Superintendent. Fortunately, for those who had the opportunity to work with her, Ms. Nelms was generous with sharing her knowledge and her significant leadership skills.

As Ms. Nelms retires, she will be remembered for her belief in the needs of the total child along with her other accomplishments. She started a tennis program and encouraged fine arts within the schools. She is an excellent role model as well as the consummate professional. Her elegance and charm are as integral to her being as her love for learning. Ms. Nelms has touched the lives of countless students, parents and administrators.

Quite appropriately, Ms. Nelms has received many awards, accolades and honors for her work in the Newark Public School System. I am truly grateful that she chose Newark as her system of choice because I know she had other options. As a former teacher, I know that to be in an educational environment is to serve with one's heart. Ms. Anzella Nelms has served with her heart since 1964 and in the process has created a memorable legacy.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Ms. Anzella Nelms deserves to be feted at a party in her honor on Friday, April 18, 2008, for her many years of dedicated service to the Newark community. I am proud to have had her in my Congressional district and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTIAN ALBERT
MCGRAIN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Albert McGrain, the first baby born in New Jersey in 2008. Christian was born 26 seconds after midnight on January 1, 2008 at St. Peters University Hospital in New Brunswick. NJ to proud parents Jacqueline Dempsey McGrain and Michael McGrain. Christian is the pride and joy of his grandparents Albert and Carol McGrain, Thomas K. and Gail Dempsey, and great-grandparents, Tom and Phyllis Dempsey.

Madam Speaker, the birth of Christian Albert McGrain, mere seconds after midnight on New Year's Day, is a cause for celebration. With Christian's timely birth, this is a year his family will always remember. I wish Christian and his family the very best in 2008.

RECOGNIZING SHANNON MICHAEL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shannon Michael on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Michael's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Shannon Michael organized volunteers from her church, Girl Scouts, and a senior center to donate baby supplies and materials to make baby blankets. Miss Michael then taught younger girls how to sew and knit the blankets which

were given to Metrocrest Social Services to distribute to needy families with babies.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Shannon Michael in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

JARED BRYAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Jared Bryan 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 Jared Bryan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING TARAN RAY WINNIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taran Ray Winnie of Kearney, Missouri. Taran is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taran has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taran has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taran Ray Winnie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL
T. LILLY

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Michael T. Lilly of Boise,

Idaho. Sergeant Lilly was killed on April 7, 2008 in Sadr City, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when a rocket propelled grenade caused an explosion near Sergeant Lilly's position.

While serving the United States, Sergeant Lilly distinguished himself amongst fellow soldiers as an enthusiastic, patriotic soldier, passionately dedicated to serving his country and defending freedom abroad. Sgt. Lilly embodied high caliber leadership in keeping with the highest traditions and customs of the United States Army, and his guidance will be sorely missed by all of those with whom he served.

Sgt. Lilly was a graduate of Borah High School, a "Borah Lion." At the memorial service held in his honor, one of the speakers, former Boise Airport police chief and Borah grad Mike Johnson said, "Lilly had the heart of a Lion. Tonight, the Lion sleeps." There can be no finer tribute to this sterling young man.

I extend to his wonderful family my most sincere condolences and express my heartfelt appreciation for the brave men and women like Sgt. Lilly who have borne the hardships of battle and perished in the line of fire.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to Equal Pay Day.

This is the day when the average wages of a female worker catch up to the average wages of a male worker during the previous year.

That's right, the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, yet here we are in 2008 and women still earn only 77 cents to every dollar a man earns.

When women earn less, their entire family suffers. When we allow women to be paid unequal wages for equal work, we as a society are tolerating discrimination. That is why we must take action to close the wage gap, and treat all workers equally.

Further compounding the difficulties that are faced by women and their families due to pay inequity, is the Supreme Court decision last year in Ledbetter v. Goodyear. The Court rules that a worker must file a charge of pay discrimination within 180 days of an employer's initial decision to pay someone less for discriminatory reasons. This clearly went against the intent of the Civil Rights Act and I was so proud that the House acted quickly to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which provides more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work.

This week, the Senate will consider this important legislation—how fitting that it occurs during the same week as Equal Pay Day?

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act immediately and urge the President to sign it into law.

HONORING THE NOTTINGHAM FIRE
DEPARTMENT

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Nottingham Fire Department in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. This fire department has a long and notable history of protecting the residents of Bucks County.

In 1956, sensing the need for another fire company in Bensalem Township, a group of concerned Bensalem residents filed an application with the Bucks County Courthouse to establish an additional fire department. Despite facing strong opposition, the Nottingham Fire Department was formally established on April 25, 1958, following a lengthy legal battle. The original members of the Nottingham Fire Department were instrumental in setting up the company and creating the framework the department still maintains today. At personal cost and sacrifice, the founding members established the department's first station, purchased its first tanker, and elected officers to run the company's business.

Since its beginning, the Nottingham Fire Department has used cutting edge technology and practices to improve its service to the community. The fire department was the first in the county to initiate pre-designated fire fighter bucket assignments. To accommodate the growing demands on its firefighters, the department also took the initiative to start an organized bunk-in-program, a live-in-program and duty crew nights. In addition, the fire department was the first to establish formal Standard Operating Procedures and have them compiled into a training manual, and the first in the area to institute a first responders unit.

The Nottingham Fire Department is proof that a group of concerned citizens can truly make a difference in the lives of those in their community. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Nottingham Fire Department and grateful for the opportunity to recognize their significant 50th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia University on its newly announced initiatives to restructure their financial aid policies, in order to provide those students from lower- and middle-income families with an affordable solution to skyrocketing tuition costs.

Columbia University has long held the reputation of inclusion, attracting the most socioeconomically diverse undergraduate student populations among Ivy League universities. The University has recently gone a step further announcing that the College will replace loans for students qualifying for financial aid with University grants. The University is expected to spend upwards of \$1 million an-

nually to ensure that income disparities do not prevent capable students from attending a top university. As the price of college increases more and more every year, Columbia's actions display their understanding of the importance of a good education to underprivileged children in escaping poverty and opening the door to opportunities in life.

It is my sincere hope that other colleges and universities across the Nation will join Columbia in providing those students from lower- and middle-income families with a feasible way to pay for college.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP
OF DR. LYN BEHRENS OF LOMA
LINDA UNIVERSITY AND MED-
ICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Dr. B. Lyn Behrens, who is retiring after nearly two decades of guiding Loma Linda University Medical Center into a regional, national and international role in modern medical technology, trauma care and cancer research.

An innovator and pioneer throughout her career, Dr. Behrens became the first pediatric resident at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 1966, just 2 years after completing her medical degree at the Sydney University School of Medicine. She became the first female dean of the medical school in 1986, and in 1990 she became the university's first female president.

Over the next 10 years, Dr. Behrens became the CEO of Adventist Health System, and then president of Loma Linda University Medical Center, making her the top leader of all of the institutions affiliated with the university in San Bernardino County. Loma Linda now has a staff of 13,000, with 4,000 students from 80 countries.

I first became closely acquainted with Dr. Behrens when we joined Dr. James Slater of Loma Linda in the quest to create the Nation's first proton beam treatment center in the late 1980s. That facility, which has treated more than 12,000 cancer patients, has become a model for Federal/local cooperation in research and medical technology. Although Dr. Slater was the driving force behind this medical breakthrough, Dr. Behrens marshaled the resources and staff of the medical center to provide crucial support for the effort.

Following her first love of pediatrics, Dr. Behrens led the creation of the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, the only dedicated children's hospital in the Inland Empire—one of the fastest growing major urban areas in the United States. As with all of Loma Linda's institutions, this is a true teaching hospital, and will soon have a state-of-the-art pediatric and maternal health sciences campus.

As an outgrowth of the children's hospital, Dr. Behrens led Loma Linda in creating the Rehabilitation, Orthopedic and Neurosciences Institute, which provides innovative rehabilitation for those who have lost limbs, and is an international leader in research on the development of longer lasting artificial joints. The institute includes a park and playground with 26

different play features designed for interaction between able-bodied children and disabled children.

Growing in many other ways under Dr. Behrens' leadership, the university has added a Behavioral Medicine Center, a school of pharmacy and a school of science and technology. The university and medical school have reached out to the community and region in many ways, creating clinics to serve low-income patients and counseling programs for after-school children and at-risk teenagers.

Loma Linda has also established an international reputation for excellence under Dr. Behrens' leadership. Adventist Health International provides administrative support to hospitals and clinics in 12 developing nations, and provides medical support in 48 other countries. The most prominent efforts are in Kabul, Afghanistan, where Loma Linda provides direct support for that nation's only teaching hospital, and in Hangzhou, China, where the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital is the first in China to receive endorsement of quality care by the Joint Commission for International Accreditation.

It goes without saying that Dr. Behrens has taken a leadership role in many medical societies in California and across the nation. Her accomplishments have recently been recognized by the California Hospital Association, which awarded her the Ritz E. Heerman Memorial Award for outstanding contribution in the improvement of patient care in California.

Madam Speaker, after more than 40 years as a leader in medicine and health education, Dr. Behrens is retiring next month. Please join me in thanking her for a lifetime of public service and congratulating her on the many accomplishments that have helped make Loma Linda University Medical Center one of the nation's finest institutions of medical research and education.

ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH
TREES ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Energy Conservation through Trees Act. On this Earth Day in 2008, my legislation builds on an innovative program developed in my hometown of Sacramento that will help Americans lower their energy bills while increasing energy conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Through the targeted and strategic planting of specific species of shade trees around residences, homeowners and utilities can conserve significant amounts of energy.

Planting shade trees in strategic locations is a proven method to help homeowners manage the amount of electricity they need to run their air conditioners and heaters. For more than a decade, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District has partnered with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to offer their customers free shade trees to help reduce energy consumption.

This program has succeeded in planting more than 400,000 trees, which will help conserve enough energy to cool 9,000 homes in Sacramento. In addition, these trees will contribute to the fight against global warming by

absorbing an estimated 2 billion pounds of carbon dioxide. They will absorb 5 billion gallons of rainwater as well, and will eliminate or avoid the production of about 61 million pounds of air pollutants. Most important, they will save my constituents millions of dollars in energy costs, and will relieve SMUD from having to purchase expensive and dirty power during periods when demand is at its peak.

Madam Speaker, the benefits of strategically planted trees to the environment, to energy conservation, and even to public health are many, and the Federal Government certainly has a role to play in helping to encourage more utilities to utilize them. With this in mind, the Energy Conservation through Trees Act creates a grant program at the Department of Energy to help residential power providers institute targeted tree-planting initiatives dedicated to reducing residential energy consumption.

In order to qualify for financial assistance under this legislation, utilities must partner with local tree-planting organizations to serve as experts in the siting, planting, and care of the shade trees provided to homeowners. These tree-planting organizations must employ science-based guidelines to ensure that planted trees do not interfere with pre-existing solar panels, wind turbines, septic systems, building foundations, and other essential infrastructure. These guidelines are also meant to ensure that ecologically appropriate trees are distributed to homeowners.

Madam Speaker, the American people are concerned about our Nation's energy policy. They want us to take action to combat global warming. They are demanding relief from energy bills that continually rise year after year. Utilizing strategic planting of trees to increase energy conservation is a proven and reliable way for Congress to take action to address these concerns. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Energy Conservation through Trees Act. Doing so will send a strong signal to our constituents that we are taking steps today to create a more affordable and energy-conscious future for them.

RECOGNIZING SARAI INGRAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarai Ingram on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Ingram's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Sarai Ingram designed and provided a library of books for the Children's Room at the Battered Women's Foundation in Hurst, Texas. In addition, Miss Ingram helped care for the children while their mothers were receiving support at the center for themselves and their families.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Sarai Ingram in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

MADDIE HOLMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Maddie 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 Maddie 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.

HONORING ANDREW FORTIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Fortin of Kansas City, Missouri. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Fortin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GARDEN CITY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share an inspirational story about a community coming together in a time of need. Like Americans across the country, Kansas families are burdened with the rising cost of fuel, healthcare, and other basic needs.

The Bible Christian Church of Garden City raised funds to help reduce the pain many Kansas families are facing at the pump by

lowering the price \$0.40 a gallon at a local Shell gas station. They allowed as many residents to participate in the event in 1 hour as possible. The turnout was so great that the hour was extended for those who waited in line throughout the hour and didn't make it through.

In addition to giving a discount on gas, Bible Christian Church held its third annual Community Day of Service. Many free services were provided in the church's Family Life Center, such as hair cuts for children; hearing, dental, and vision screenings; cancer screenings and bone marrow registry, along with free clothing.

I would like to recognize members of the Bible Christian Church, community physicians, and local residents for their time and efforts in their act of services to the Garden City community.

While Washington remains divided on ways to help the needy, it is small acts of generosity like this that our Nation can be proud of and encourage. Even the smallest deeds are a step in the right direction.

HONORING NORMAN MOORHEAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary achievements of Mr. Norman Moorhead. Mr. Moorhead is being recognized by the Newtown Township Police Department, honoring his retirement from the force after 40 years of hard work and dedication to his community.

A longtime resident of Bucks County, Mr. Moorhead began his exceptional service to others in 1963. After graduating from Council Rock High School, Mr. Moorhead enlisted in the Air Force and began basic training that following September. During his time in the United States Air Force, Mr. Moorhead was trained as a Power Production Specialist. He used his specialized skills and knowledge and served for 18 months as part of a Vietnam support base in Okinawa, Japan.

Mr. Moorhead was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1967. After, he returned to Bucks County he continued his work on behalf of our community. Mr. Moorhead joined the Newtown Township Police Department in 1968, beginning his decades-long commitment to improving the safety of Bucks County. Over the years, Mr. Moorhead established himself as an outstanding public servant, undertaking various special tasks necessary to keep the police department running.

Years later, as a sergeant for the Newtown Township Police, he worked to establish the Newtown Youth Aid Panel. The Youth Aid Panel is a volunteer organization established to help police officers with juvenile offenders and other related problems. In 1989, Mr. Moorhead was promoted to Captain and, in addition to his other responsibilities, he undertook the duties of planning various special events in Newtown, such as First Night, First Fourth, and local parades.

As his outstanding work and achievements show, Norman Moorhead dedicated his life to helping those in his community and beyond. Through his extensive efforts, Mr. Moorhead

has worked hard to make Bucks County a safer place. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Moorhead for his extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding service to his community.

HONORING OUR NATION'S IMMIGRANTS WITH MORE THAN JUST WORDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, this week New York City does what many in our country should be doing everyday. Across 7 days and more than 100 events, the Big Apple celebrates the culture and achievements of the countless numbers of immigrants—past and present—who have come to our great country.

They come from numerous continents, and countries, in a variety of hues, each with their own distinct histories, descendants of cultures that pre-date our society sometimes four or five times over. Despite the obstacles, they manage to quickly prove themselves and contribute to their communities in a number of ways. They and their children, their lives now woven into the fabric of this Nation, find success and across a number of fields including academia, business, law, music, sports and politics.

Contrary to the hateful and divisive anti-immigration rhetoric that so open poisons our public discussion of the issue, the vast majority of immigrants are not a drain on our government or on our economy. They are in our military, in the reserves and on the battlefield, some even paying the ultimate price for their sacrifice of service. They more than hold their own weight economically by paying, according to the non-partisan Immigration Policy Center (IPC), more than 300 billion in federal, state and local taxes. They fuel our economy as both laborers and employers, locally generating more than 229 billion in New York State alone. That is a figure that represents more than 22 percent of the State's overall GDP, even though they represent a small percentage of the overall population.

I see it every time I walk in my district, every day I am visiting another town or city in our vast land. That their contributions have and continue to positively shape our lives should not come as a surprise. What should be the ways that we continue to treat them, many of them like second-class citizens.

Congress must lead the way in honoring this country's immigrant history by rewarding their hard efforts and their faith in the American Dream. The fact that it can take up to 20 years for a mother to see her brother or her child of more than 21 years is shameful. It's disrespectful to the generations who laid the foundation for American democracy at home and abroad that you could have more than a quarter million people shut out from voting this November, despite increased fees and promises of improved service. And it's an outrage that those who work hard to provide a stepping stone for their children to succeed can be easily deported because notices to appear in court get lost in the mail or because of a long ago misdemeanor that wouldn't even land a citizen behind bars.

The debate over the millions of undocumented immigrants who reside here should not confuse our support of those that we have agreed to welcome with open arms. If we can't do right by those who follow the current broken system, what expectation should we have that anyone would or should follow a reformed one, no matter how liberal or conservative a plan that is devised?

Soaring food prices, unattainable affordable housing, stagnant job opportunities, substandard and unaffordable education—these are issues that every family living in this Nation is facing. Whether they have been here for five generations or one, whether they speak one language or two, or whether it was man's cruelty or economic misfortune that forced them here in the first place.

There are no easy answers or perfect solutions. Yet, if we can remember our past and remember the values that bind us all together, we can overcome these challenges and position this Nation for renewed success. The strength of any nation lies not just in the might of its military, but in the spirit and ingenuity of its people. All of its people.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to rise in honor of a proud and long-serving institution of my district—on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Smithtown Fire Department.

I am privileged to represent the Town of Smithtown, along the western part of New York's first congressional district. Since 1908, this historic town was home to a small but very effective fire department, "The Smithtown Volunteer Hook and Ladder Company". Toward the end of its first year in service, it acquired two fire trucks, a chemical engine, and a hook and ladder truck. This began a century of protecting the people of Smithtown during which their outstanding service record has been defined time and again by bravery and efficiency.

From those humble beginnings grew a proud volunteer fire department that has expanded to its current 168 committed members. The single old firehouse on Bellemeade Avenue has expanded to a much larger main fire station headquarters on Elm Avenue and two satellite stations located on Plymouth Boulevard and Plaisted Avenue that respond to emergencies and keep the township safe.

During the fire department's century of service, Long Island's booming population has intensified the demands on the Smithtown Fire Department members. Still, they remain an all-volunteer and highly skilled force which frequently proves itself capable of heroism and selfless dedication to our community.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me once again in thanking those firefighters who continue to protect our families and communities and to extend our deepest gratitude to volunteers, like those intrepid men and women of the Smithtown Fire Department, on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING MR. DALE JIEH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dale Jieh the Congressional affairs chief at Taiwan's Embassy here in Washington.

Dale, like so many others at Taiwan's missions around the world, is among the hardest working diplomats in the world. Given Taiwan's unique position in the international community and the relentless efforts of China to shrink Taipei's diplomatic space, Taiwan's public officials face challenges that their counterparts from other countries do not, making their jobs more difficult.

Dale has been serving his country for nearly 20 years. His service has taken him to Belgium, Thailand, Chicago, and here to Washington, DC. And he will be leaving Washington soon for Taiwan's consulate in Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I wish Dale and his family the best of luck in Kansas City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLUE SHOE PROJECT UPON ITS GRAMMY AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blue Shoe Project, which recently won the best traditional blues album at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards Ceremony held on February 10, 2008. The Blue Shoe Project, dedicated to the preservation and advocacy of jazz music in the schools, deserves our congratulations for the Grammy Award and also for passing on the rich history of blues music to future generations.

A Colleyville, Texas based non-profit; the Blue Shoe Project was founded in 2005 by Jeff Dyson and his son, Michael Dyson. The Dyson's shared credit for recording the winning Grammy record, Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesman: Live in Dallas, performed by four legendary blues musicians: Henry James Townsend, Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, Robert Lockwood, Jr. and David "Honeyboy" Edwards. The album was distributed by the Blue Shoe Project and Jeff and Michael served as executive producers.

The Blue Shoe Project helps spread the history, message and enjoyment of jazz to the schools and community at large. Jeff and Michael have dedicated themselves to the distribution of this uniquely American art form. To date, more than 20,000 students have experienced Blue Shoe Project presentations thus gaining countless followers of jazz music.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Blue Shoe Project. It is with great pride I offer my congratulations to the Blue Shoe Project for its deserved award and preservation of our nation's heritage and culture.

AMBER JOHNSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Johnson 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 Amber Johnson 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.

HONORING ZACHARY WEBSTER
GLAZER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Webster Glazer of Kansas City, Missouri. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Webster Glazer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF T.C. MARSH
MIDDLE SCHOOL'S JUNIOR RE-
SERVE OFFICER TRAINING
CORPS AND DAVID BATES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T.C. Marsh Middle School's Army Junior Reserve Officer Training

Corps (JROTC) and Corporal David Bates on their winning the title of National Champions for the second consecutive year.

Led by teacher David Bates, the students competed against units from all over the country on March 29, 2008 at Forrester Field in Dallas, Texas. These students' hard work and dedication was evident in the skill and precision they demonstrated in order to capture the national championship. Under Bates leadership and guidance, the members of the JROTC have developed a strong sense of teamwork and their coordination shows in their drills.

Members of the JROTC include Hayden Adair, Abigail Aguilar, Rocio Aguilera, Maridenia Ambrocio, Yomira Cardenas, Adrian Casados, Madeline Cedilla, Victor Celestino, Manuel Cervantez, Austin Christensen, Truy Duelm, Karen Fonseca, Juliana Garcia, Luis Garcia, Yessica Garcia, Domini Gomez, Juan Guevara, Christopher Hernandez, Jennifer Hernandez, James Herrada, Haley Hubler, Karen Irigoyen, Yoni Luviano, Miles Mcnutt, Marvin Melendez, Lilian Moz, Mayra Moz, Arely Oaxaca, Jesus Otero, Artura Perez, David Perez, Randy Portillo, Antonio Ramirez, Andres Reyes, Jose Reyes, Ruben Rios, Ulyses Rodriguez, Andrew Royalty, Evelyn Sanchez, Brenda Segovia, Ashley Valle, Jose Vallejo, Colin Wagner, and Austin Wortham.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the well deserved victory of the members of the JROTC and David Bates.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
LIVERPOOL, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial celebration of the town of Liverpool, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1808, Liverpool is a beautiful town which resides along the Susquehanna River and possesses a rich and colorful history.

In 1808, Mr. John Staily warranted the plot of land upon which the foundation of Liverpool was originally set. The land was later deeded to John Huggins, who surveyed, plotted and extended Liverpool over time. On May 4, 1832 through acts of legislature, Liverpool became incorporated, and soon flourished into a bustling, vibrant town. An 1894 Liverpool Business Directory, supplied by the Liverpool Historians, holds a description of a town of thirty-seven businesses which supplied the bustling towns along the canal route. Liverpool continued to thrive over the past hundred years and continues to be an important place of commerce and community for the people of western and central Pennsylvania.

A celebration in honor of the town's history will be held between May 16, 2008 through May 18, 2008. The events will begin with a banquet at the Liverpool Legion Banquet Hall. Saturday morning the lively history of Liverpool will be retold by historic reenactors. There will be a multitude of arts and crafts, along with a presentation given by the 47th

Regiment Band. It is a celebration which is certain to bring the strong community of Liverpool together. Led by dedicated elected officials, including President Walter S. Teats III, Vice President Stephen Drew, and Mayor John Mark, and the Liverpool Historians, adults and children who have made their homes in Liverpool are eager to celebrate the birth of the community which has supported and uplifted them throughout their lives. It is a town which is always willing to offer as much as they can to their community and whose community in turn gives back.

The town of Liverpool, Pennsylvania has provided a trustworthy atmosphere which has worked to help generations of men, women, and children throughout its history. I look forward to celebrating the 200th anniversary of such a wonderful town, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the state of Pennsylvania. I would like to wish all residents of Liverpool all the best in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. AND MRS.
THOMAS AND KAREN LOOME'S
WORK WITH THE CATHOLIC
WORKER MOVEMENT OF STILL-
WATER

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Thomas and Karen Loome of Stillwater, Minnesota for their steadfast and selfless sacrifices in honoring the God-given dignity of every human person. Through their work with the Catholic Worker Movement, Dr. and Mrs. Loome are symbols of Christ's love and devotion for all of God's children.

Founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker Movement is rooted in a firm commitment to nonviolence, voluntary poverty, prayer, and hospitality for the downtrodden. In seeing Christ's face in all human beings, Catholic Worker communities value lives above all else by serving Christ through works of mercy.

Working as a Catholic theologian and anti-quarian bookseller, Dr. Loome is co-founder of the Stillwater Catholic Worker Community, with three "houses of hospitality" for women and children. Along with his wife, Karen, who works as a nurse manager of Stillwater's crisis pregnancy center, the Loomes' faith in Christ is exemplified best through their righteous service and countless good deeds.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Thomas and Karen Loome's unwavering faith in service of Christ and constant commitment to their fellow man. To quote Charles Dickens, "Ours is the old firm, going about business with the old way." The Catholic Worker Movement is a steady hand in a society swept up in selfishness, and Dr. and Mrs. Loome provide great inspiration to us all by asking for nothing in return.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE CLASS 5A FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Dillard High School Boy's Basketball Team for winning the Class 5A Florida State Championship. The Panthers won a hard fought victory against St. Petersburg's Lakewood High School. I would like to call the attention of my distinguished colleagues to this historic win for Fort Lauderdale's Dillard High School, located in my Congressional District.

Few would have expected the championship game to be won easily. But with determination and grit, Dillard prevailed. With the score tied 26–26 at the half, it really was anyone's game. Dillard fell behind in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, through the leadership of their coach, Darryl Burrows, they were able to stage a comeback to win the game 61–55.

No one can deny the accomplishments of these young men, and they should not go unnoticed. It is a testament to their character that they were able to overcome such stiff competition. Only through countless hours of practice, both on and off the court, could they have gained such a victory. Prior to Dillard's State Championship win, no Broward County high school had won a class 5A state title since 2001.

Certainly, the Panthers can be proud of the prestige they brought to their high school. Similarly, Dillard High School can be proud that it produced such outstanding young men. The school's faculty helped cultivate and instill within the players the values of determination and sportsmanship that sharpened their skills. The names of the players, coaches, assistants, and administrators are: Kore White, Nigel Spikes, Xiandger Reliford, Ben Dinkins, Fred Landers, Javier Frazier, Sherman Gammage, Alen Hardy, Robert Burger, Rubyne Burrows, Courtney Ojeda, Jabari Caldwell, Jarrett Dieudonne, Eric Francis, Derek Foster, John Jackson, Clarence Doe, Darryl Burrows, Kanshea Jackson, Jamal DuBose, Junior Wade, DeAna'e DeSadier, Dwayne Nelson, Louis Wright, William Heastie, Marty Seidlin, Fred Battle, Juan Urbina, Zeb Wright, Quinton Williams, Tracie Latimer, Mr. Harrison, and Willie Kelly.

At this time of the year when America's basketball frenzy is at a fever pitch, it is easy to focus only on the accomplishments of college and professional players. However, we must remember the contributions of young people to our society. Certainly, as the Panthers' victory proves, young people can, and often do, accomplish great things. This victory belongs not only to the players, but also to their coaches, family, and friends. We need to continue to invest in our local communities to support the institutions that improve the lives of our Nation's youth. In doing this, we will see winning results that will lead our young people to accomplish great things.

Madam Speaker, we in Congress can learn a lot from the young men of Dillard High School. We need only recall their state cham-

ionship victory to remind us of the value of investing in our Nation's educational system and youth programs. The Panther's commitment should be honored within the halls of Congress, and these young men should know how much pride their victory has given to their school, Florida's 23rd Congressional District, and this institution.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY JARREL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Molly Jarrell on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Jarrell's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Molly Jarrell made 30 fleece blankets for the Project Linus Foundation to distribute to sick and traumatized children. These blankets give children comfort and help them cope with difficult situations.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Molly Jarrell in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

MISHA TRUJILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Misha Trujillo 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 Misha Trujillo 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.

HONORING DERICK BONNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derick Ray Bonner of

Kearney, Missouri. Derick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Derick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derick Ray Bonner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LES CLARK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Les Clark, a resident and community leader from Kern County, California, for his exemplary leadership and commitment to the oil patch in Kern County and on receiving the 2008 Ray Bradley/Tom Woodward Lifetime Achievement Award from the Independent Oil Producers' Agency, IOPA.

Les has been a resident of Taft, California, which I represent, for most of his life. He attended local schools and then graduated from Fresno State University. While at Fresno State, he worked for the Atlantic Richfield Oil Company and Petrotherm, Inc., which provided Les his first experience working in the oil industry. After graduating from college, he worked at Belridge Oil Company and Shell Oil Company, thereby continuing his lifelong commitment to the oil patch. Today, Les is the Executive Vice President at IOPA, which is an association comprised of independent oil companies that operate mainly in the San Joaquin Valley. At IOPA, with his industry knowledge and depth of experience, Les is responsible for analyzing all regulatory issues impacting San Joaquin independent oil producers, as well as being their principal contact with various government officials and regulators in the Valley. Les served as vice president of IOPA from 1980 to 1999 prior to serving there in his current capacity.

Active on the state and national level, Les is a board member on the American Petroleum Institute API, and has been honored with API's 2004 Oil Baron Award, the Desk & Derrick 1994 Oil Man of the Year Award, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Annual 1991 State Director's Award—Oil & Gas Program. Les has also been inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Kern County Officials Association in 1993.

Les also is a leading proponent and catalyst for oil industry innovation, spurring technological advances. In addition, recognizing the importance of keeping our environment clean for future generations to enjoy, he has devoted much time and taken leadership roles on many important environmental issues, particularly air quality; Les always takes a compelling and all-inclusive approach to addressing environmental issues. To that end, he has

been active in various Cal-EPA and San Joaquin Valley air pollution control initiatives.

In addition to his service in the Kern oil patch, Les is an active member of the communities in Bakersfield, Taft, and Kern County. To mention just a few of his endeavors, Les is a past president of the Taft Chamber of Commerce, past trustee of the Taft Union High School District, and a past chairman of the Water Association of Kern County and the West Side District Hospital Foundation. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and the Petroleum Club of Bakersfield, a trustee of the Kern County Museum Foundation, and a member of the Greater Valley Center/Regional Economic Alliance for Leadership, the San Joaquin Valley Air Study Policy Committee, and of Governor Schwarzenegger's California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Les and his wife, June, have been married for 41 years and have raised two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, and one son, Les III. They have nine grandchildren: Tanisha, Ayana, Darius, Arizona, Keelan, Sierra, Logun, Willow and Cash.

Receiving the IOPA 2008 Ray Bradley/Tom Woodward Lifetime Achievement Award is a fitting recognition of Les' lifelong commitment to advancing innovation and environmental issues among oil producers. With his dedication and larger-than-life personality, I know that Les will continue to be an effective leader in the Kern oil patch and a prominent community leader in my district. I commend his leadership and hope that Kern County continues to benefit from his experience and wisdom.

HONORING LYDIA PORUBSKY AND PORUBSKY GROCERY AND MEATS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in remembrance of the late Lydia Porubsky who passed away February 11th at the age of 83. Mrs. Porubsky was known across Topeka, Kansas, for a chili recipe and her 6-day-a-week presence at Porubsky's Grocery and Meats.

Lydia, alongside her husband of 49 years, Charles, Sr., operated Porubsky's until Charles' death in 1998. Lydia, however, continued to be a fixture in the deli. She was the person every customer remembered thanks to her positions behind the counter and at the cash register. An amazing thing about Lydia is that she remembered you as well. The conversations and the small-talk she would engage in only enhanced the experience of eating at Porubsky's.

Porubsky's is also known for their great food. Not the least of which is the chili. Porubsky's developed a reputation over the years as having some of the most delicious chili in the area. According The Topeka Capital-Journal, Porubsky's was featured in Gourmet Magazine. This publication's editors discovered what the people of Kansas had been enjoying for over 60 years. Gourmet Magazine summed it up as well as anyone when it stated, "Porubsky's is not just a place to eat. It is a destination in itself." While the magazine was referring specifically to the food, people

familiar with Porubsky's knew that Lydia was also a star attraction.

My personal experience with the Porubskys dates back to my time in the Kansas legislature. Several of my fellow legislators and I would make the trip to Porubsky's during our breaks. Meeting from January through June meant that we had at least 3 full months to truly enjoy Porubsky's hot chili and spicy pickles. With meat and cheese trays displayed, the restaurant was a warm respite from the cold and a welcome break from our political and governmental dealings.

But in a city with many dining options, it was Lydia's genuine interest in us that kept us coming back. Even today, as I travel Kansas, I will alter my plans so that I can have a ham salad sandwich at Porubsky's and enjoy this family's warm welcome and hospitality.

While Porubsky's and many family-owned establishments like it lack the bells and whistles of nationwide chains, the underlying quality that truly matters is the collection of people it takes to make it work. Charles Sr. and Lydia provided us with a model of small business ownership. My home State of Kansas is no stranger to family-owned and -operated undertakings. Our economy was built by people like the Porubskys, who knew that if they did not work for it, it was not going to be given to them. Their love of family and the city of Topeka will never be forgotten.

This staple of Topeka enterprise will continue through the efforts of the Porubskys' sons, Matthew, Charlie, Jr., Mark, alongside the Porubsky's daughters Cecelia Pierson and Teresa Thomas who have all made their homes in Topeka. This restaurant, this way of life must be remembered and admired, Madam Speaker. We all know a "Lydia Porubsky" in our lives. Every one of us has someone who reminds us of what is really important as our lives and our jobs continue to speed up. I am sorry that my Lydia Porubsky has passed on. I am thankful for having had the chance to know her and her family. This woman, this business, will remain a part of our greater Kansas community and will enjoy a special place in my heart.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Lydia Porubsky, offering our sympathy to her family, and praying for the continued success of Porubsky's Grocery and Meats.

IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, in 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law to grant the right to equal pay to women who worked full-time, year-round, women made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men doing the same level of work. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. While that is progress, it is slow progress and it means that the wage gap between men and women has narrowed by less than half a cent per year since passage of that law. At the same time, African-American women today earn only 63 cents and Hispanic women bring home just 52 cents for each dollar earned by men.

In my State of Wisconsin, women with a college degree still make considerably less than men with the same amount of education. With rising gas prices, higher health insurance, and a disproportionate amount of single-family homes headed by women, it is of the utmost importance that workers receive fair and equal pay for equal work. This is not just a civil rights issue: it's a survival issue for women workers providing for their family's food, rent, and heat.

But a right to equal pay is no right at all unless it can be enforced.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. For example women would be able to seek full compensatory and punitive damages because the bill would put gender-based discrimination on an equal footing with wage discrimination based on race or ethnicity for which full compensation is already available. The bill would also prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers, require the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities, and create a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

This week, in honor of Equal Pay Day, the Senate plans to consider another bill, H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which is necessary to ensure that victims of work-force discrimination can seek effective remedies. A recent Supreme Court decision last spring made it extremely difficult for workers who suffer from workplace wage discrimination to seek justice in court. Instead of allowing workers who suffer wage discrimination to bring a case within 180 days of the last time they were illegally underpaid, the Supreme Court decision would require that the case be brought within 180 days of the first time that an employer first started to discriminate by paying lower wages.

This decision overturned precedent and made it much more difficult for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. H.R. 2831 would simply restore the longstanding interpretation of title VII and other discrimination statutes, thereby protecting women and other workers.

Madam Speaker, equal work deserves equal pay, no matter your gender, skin color, national origin, age or disability. That's the law of the land. But we need to make sure that we have the measures in place to ensure that these rights can be strongly enforced.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CREDIT UNIONS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of credit unions. As a member of a credit union, I am a true believer that people should help people; which are the credit unions' mission. Members know that during the economic downturn that we are currently facing right now, credit unions will always be there to serve their members to the best of their ability.

Members who have accounts in a credit union are owners of the financial institution and they elect the board of directors in a one person-one vote system regardless of the amount of money invested in the institution. That means that credit unions are in fact an economic democracy; every customer is both a member and a shareholder.

While this Nation is painfully suffering the current mortgage crisis, credit unions have displayed an outstanding record of service to both minority and low- to moderate-income mortgage applicants and have a long history of responsible mortgage lending. What is impressive to me, Madam Speaker, is that in 2006, credit unions approved an overwhelming 71 percent of applications from low- to moderate-income mortgage applicants.

Furthermore, as a member of the House Committee on Small Business, these non-profit, member-owned banking alternatives are attractive to many entrepreneurs because of the great lending rates and services they provide to them. For individual members, credit unions generally pay higher interest rates on deposits and charge lower interest rates on loans than banks while offering the same services such as savings accounts, checking accounts, credit cards, certificates of deposits, and online banking. So the fact that they provide competitive interest rates, fewer or no fees, and convenience makes so many members hold credit unions in such a high regard.

Madam Speaker, credit unions are extremely vital to my hometown, New York City. Credit unions serve more New Yorkers living in low-income and underserved areas that are continually being abandoned by big corporate banks. I must point out that there are about 43,697 credit union members living in my district. In fact, there are 6 credit unions in the New York 11th Congressional District, which has 3,662 members and an asset value totaling more than \$13 million dollars.

Madam Speaker, I must note that what many people do not know is that more than 1/3 of all credit union CEOs nationwide are women.

Therefore Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions credit unions provide to so many communities throughout the country and provide any continued support to these financial institutions.

RECOGNIZING ALEXA POLASKI

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexa Polaski on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Polaski's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Alexa Polaski cleared and redesigned a garden courtyard at the Mimosa Manor Nursing Home in Keller, Texas. Miss Polaski secured donations from various companies, individuals and garden clubs so she could plant new perennials, annuals and trees. She also provided benches, bird feeders, and garden art. This transformation now allows the nursing home residents an outdoor area to enjoy.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Alexa Polaski in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

SASHA VANHEESCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Sasha VanHeesch 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.

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.

HONORING IAN MICAH WRIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Micah Wright of Kearney, Missouri. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Micah Wright for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BRENDA VERNATTI

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a heroic educator who saved the life of one of her students a few weeks ago.

In the blink of an eye, a moment of levity and fun became a moment of terror, as fifth grader Kelci Ottwell, who had been at the lunch table, laughing at a friend's joke, suddenly found herself choking and unable to breathe. Gasping for air, Kelci moved toward her principal, Brenda Vernatti for help. Unable to speak, Kelci reached out for Ms. Vernatti's arm to get her attention.

Immediately sensing Kelci's distress, Ms. Vernatti swung into action and began to perform the Heimlich maneuver, trying in vain four times to dislodge the small piece of pizza that was by now causing Kelci's face to turn purple. Finally, on her fifth attempt, Kelci coughed up the pizza and began to breathe again.

Kelci's mother, Melissa, told the local newspaper, "She's my hero. I want the world to know she saved my baby's life."

Brenda Vernatti has served the Alton School District for 22 years, touching hundreds if not thousands of young lives. But just a few weeks ago, she went above and beyond the already lofty call of duty of an educator to become a life-saving hero.

Every day, our Nation is blessed to have heroic citizens ready to spring into action to help another in distress. Today, I have the honor of recognizing Brenda Vernatti, who has dedicated her life to helping others attain their goals through education, and who, in that blink of an eye, reminded us all of the heroes in our midst.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 5819

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I submit the following CBO cost estimate for the bill H.R. 5819.

H.R. 5819—SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act

Summary: H.R. 5819 would extend programs that require certain agencies to set aside portions of their research and development budgets for small businesses. The bill also would authorize appropriations to improve efforts to develop products funded through those programs that can be sold commercially. Finally, the bill would require participating agencies to develop new databases for program evaluation and business development.

Based on information from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other agencies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5819 would cost \$263 million over the 2009–2013 period, subject to appropriation of the specified and necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5819 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (national defense), 250 (general science, space, and technology), 270 (energy), 300 (natural resources and environment), 350 (agriculture), 370 (commerce and housing credit), 400 (transportation), 500 (education, training, employment, and social services), 550 (health), and 750 (administration of justice).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
SBIR/STTR Spending Under Current Law:						
Estimated Budget Authority ^a	30	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	23	5	2	0	0	0
Proposed Changes:						
Reauthorize SBIR/STTR Programs:						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	27	33	25	13	13
Estimated Outlays	0	21	30	27	16	14
Increase R&D Budget Set-asides:						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	8	9	7	3	3
Estimated Outlays	0	7	8	7	4	3
Commercialization Program:						
Budget Authority	0	28	28	28	28	28
Estimated Outlays	0	4	16	24	28	28
FAST Program Reauthorization:						
Budget Authority	0	10	10	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	5	7	5	1
Additional Agency Activities:						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	6	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	3	3	0	0	0
Total Proposed Changes:						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	79	80	60	44	44
Estimated Outlays	0	37	62	65	53	46
Total SBIR/STTR Spending Under H.R. 5819:						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	30	79	80	60	44	44
Estimated Outlays	23	42	64	65	53	46

^a The 2008 level is the total amount CBO estimates was appropriated for that year for the SBIR and STTR programs.
 Notes: SBIR = Small Business Innovation Research. STTR = Small Business Technology Transfer; FAST = Federal and State Technology Partnership.

Basis of estimate: Under current law, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program requires federal agencies with extramural budgets for research and development (R&D) that exceed \$100 million to set aside 2.5 percent of that budget for contracts with small businesses. (Extramural expenditures are expenditures for activities not performed by agency employees.) Likewise, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program requires federal agencies with extramural budgets for research and development that exceed \$1 billion to set aside 0.3 percent of that budget for cooperative research between small businesses and a federal laboratory or nonprofit research institution. SBA is authorized to coordinate and monitor activities under both programs. Eleven agencies currently participate in one or both programs, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The cost of these programs to the participating agencies consists primarily of personnel and associated overhead costs to solicit applications, prepare reports, and track outcomes. The organizational structures of such program offices vary. Some agencies have a full-time staff member devoted to the SBIR and STTR programs, with other staff assisting as part of their other duties; some have employees working part-time on the program.

Under current law, the SBIR program is scheduled to terminate at the end of fiscal year 2008, and the STTR program is scheduled to terminate at the end of fiscal year 2009.

Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5819 would cost \$41 million in 2009 and \$263 million over the 2009–2013 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and necessary amounts.

Reauthorization of the SBIR and STTR programs

The bill would extend both the SBIR and the STTR programs through fiscal year 2010. Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO estimates that administering the two programs will cost about \$30 million this year (about \$2 million of that amount will be for SBA). CBO expects that

federal agencies would continue to make extramural research expenditures under current law regardless of the SBIR and STTR programs and that participating agencies would continue to incur costs to administer existing contracts with small businesses for several years after the programs expire. CBO estimates that extending the current SBIR and STTR programs through 2010 would cost \$108 million over the 2009–2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Increase in R&D budget set-asides for small businesses

The bill also would increase the amount of each agency's R&D budget to be set aside for the programs starting in fiscal year 2009: for SBIR, the set-aside would be increased to 3 percent; for STTR, the amount reserved for small businesses would be increased to 0.6 percent. Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO expects that the expansion would lead to an increase in the number of applications received under both programs by more than a third. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that processing the additional applications would cost \$29 million over the 2009–2013 period.

Commercialization program

H.R. 5819 would authorize appropriations of \$28 million a year for a program to support agency efforts to assist small businesses participating in the SBIR program in developing products or services that could be sold to the government or in commercial markets. SBA would oversee this commercialization program—each agency participating in the SBIR program would be required to request funds from SBA to support its commercialization activities. Based on information from SBA and participating agencies, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$100 million over the 2009–2013 period, subject to appropriation of the specified amounts.

FAST program reauthorization

H.R. 5819 would reauthorize the Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership program to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance so as to increase the number small businesses participating in the SBIR program. The outreach activities would be directed to geographic areas that are under-represented in the SBIR program and to small businesses owned by women,

veterans, and minorities. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to implement the program. Based on historical spending patterns of SBA's other business assistance programs, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$20 million over the 2009–2013 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

Additional agency activities

H.R. 5819 would require each agency participating in the SBIR or STTR program to develop two databases, one to be used by the agency for program evaluation, the other, which would be available to the public, to be used to help businesses participating in the SBIR or STTR program to attract customers for the products or services created under the program. Based on information from the participating agencies, CBO estimates that developing new databases for each participating agency would cost about \$6 million over the 2009–2013 period.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 5819 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would reauthorize the FAST program, a matching-grant program to encourage states to assist in the development of high-technology small businesses. Any costs to state governments of providing matching funds to participate in the FAST program would be incurred voluntarily.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Susan Willie; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elizabeth Cove; and Impact on the Private Sector: Jacob Kuipers.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.
 APRIL 22, 2008.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Susan Willie.

Sincerely,
 PETER R. ORSZAG.

Enclosure.

INTRODUCING THE "FAMILY
LEAVE INSURANCE ACT OF 2008"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representatives GEORGE MILLER, LYNN WOOLSEY, and CAROLYN MALONEY to introduce a bill that will bring our Nation up to date with the rest of the world. One hundred and sixty-nine countries guarantee some form of paid family leave. The U.S. is part of an illustrious four-member club of nations—including Liberia, Papua New Guinea, and Swaziland—that fail to provide security for new parents or those caring for a loved one. The "Family Leave Insurance Act" will guarantee that workers will no longer have to choose between their jobs and their families.

Since becoming law 15 years ago, the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA, has provided job protection and guaranteed leave for millions of workers. Unfortunately, the FMLA is limited to workers employed by large employers—only 45 percent of the private sector workforce—and, because the leave is unpaid, lower income workers can seldom afford to take it. Recent studies have found that 78 percent of FMLA eligible workers who wanted to take leave did not do so because they could not afford it. At a time of recession and tightening family budgets, this predicament is only getting worse.

A few years ago, my home State of California enacted the first paid family leave law in the country. The law has proven to be wildly popular. Despite the protests of business groups at the time the law was passed, most employers have come to embrace the law and realize that it facilitates continuity, productivity, and job satisfaction. Paid leave helps workers to strike a balance between work and family. Such a balance has real benefits for children. A Harvard School of Public Health study found that the education and health of children improves substantially when parents have work flexibility and paid leave. When parents are able to act as caregivers for a sick child, hospital stays are reduced by 31 percent. Parental involvement is also associated with higher achievement in language and math, improved behavior, and lower dropout rates.

The "Family Leave Insurance Act" takes the next logical and necessary step by implementing a comprehensive paid leave program that will cover all workers. The middle class is getting squeezed: hours are longer, job security is lower, and families have less time together. A report by the President's Council of Economic Advisers found that between 1969 and 1999 children lost 22 hours per week with their parents. Workers and their families need greater flexibility and support. Yet, according to the Department of Labor, only 8 percent of private employers provide paid leave. Clearly, there is room for improvement. This bill will:

Provide all workers with 12 weeks of paid leave over a 12-month period to care for a new child, provide for an ill family member, treat their own illness, or deal with an exigency caused by the deployment of a member of the military;

Provide these benefits through a new trust fund that is financed equally by employers and employees, who will each contribute 0.2 percent of the employee's pay;

Progressively tier the benefits so that a low-wage worker (earning less than \$30,000) will receive full or near full salary replacement, middle-income workers (\$30,000–\$60,000) receive 55 percent wage replacement, and higher earners (over \$60,000) receive 40–45 percent, with the benefit capped at approximately \$800 per week;

Administer the program through the Department of Labor which will contract with states to administer the program (similar to how the Unemployment Insurance program is run);

Allow states and businesses with materially equivalent or better benefits to opt-out of the program.

The "Family Leave Insurance Act" is endorsed by the National Partnership for Women and Families, the AFL–CIO, the California Labor Federation, Voices for America's Children, First Focus, and the National Employment Law Project.

Members of Congress are constantly talking about family values. Let's go beyond talk and take action that families will actually value. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the "Family Leave Insurance Act." We can strengthen families, make business more competitive, and create a better future for our country. The time to act is now.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLORIA K.
BELL ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gloria K. Bell.

Saturday, March 29, marked the retirement of Gloria K. Bell, a dedicated employee of the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. Ms. Bell's Federal service spans 40 plus years, and her retirement provides a golden opportunity to reflect upon her service to her agency and to Capitol Hill as a liaison between HHS and congressional staffs.

Gloria Bell entered public service while working on her bachelors of science degree at American University in Washington, DC. Upon graduation, she joined HHS as a program analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation where her portfolio included the Head Start and Developmental Disabilities programs.

In January 1987, Gloria continued her illustrious career at HHS in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, Office of Budget, as a budget analyst. For over 20 years since, she has worked tirelessly through all phases of the process to develop and present the Department's budget and has progressed to an effective team leader in the office. She managed one of the largest budget databases in the Department, consisting of over 1,300 programs, project activities, and historical budget numbers from FY 1981 through FY 2005. Gloria also created a database that is used to produce the current All Purpose Tables, APTs. She wrote the operations manual and trained other staff in the APT system's operation.

Along with the budget and APT databases, Gloria's legacy encompasses years of service as the Budget Office's Congressional Liaison, ensuring that the myriad Senate and House

reports requested of HHS are responsive, complete, and received on Capitol Hill in a timely manner. Through the years, Gloria's industrious service has been commended by 20 Excellent Performance, 9 Outstanding Performance, 4 Special Act of Service, and 2 Employee of the Month Awards.

I ask that you join me in applauding Gloria Bell as she closes a chapter on many years of excellent service to her agency and the Federal Government.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE GAITHER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Gaither on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Gaither's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Nicole Gaither developed an outdoor volunteer program for children ages 11–14 called Outdoor Action Kids. O.A.K.S. provides children the opportunity to perform basic outdoor conservation tasks while helping the staff and adult volunteers maintain Bob Jones Nature Center, a 76-acre park. Miss Gaither developed a coordinator's manual, application, training manual, and training video to ensure her program will continue well into the future.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Nicole Gaither in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

HONORING THOMAS EDWARD
PRICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Edward Price of Kearney, Missouri. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Edward Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 193. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 193—"yes"—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2634, Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Collection Act.

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY SENDS TEAM TO SUSTAINABLE DESIGN EXPO

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a team of college students making a difference in Africa. A student team from Gonzaga University has been selected to present their project, "West African Technology, Education, and Reciprocity, WATER, for Benin," at the 4th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on April 20–22, 2008.

The goal of the WATER for Benin project is to address the clean water shortage that many developing nations are currently facing. Through their participation, students learn about contemporary health problems in Africa and their contributing factors; the relationship between water, sanitation, and causes of morbidity and mortality in Africa; and communication skills for providing culturally appropriate health education.

In August of 2007, 17 students from eight academic programs, and three faculty members, traveled to Benin. At the Songhai Center in Porto-Novo, this group trained staff to make inexpensive, effective drinking water filters. Through leadership, community building, and personal sacrifice, these students created innovative ways to solve the water crisis. Their exhibit, on display at the National Sustainable Design Expo, chronicles the research and development the students implemented in order to find the best technology to provide clean water to the people of Benin.

Madam Speaker, many of us take something as simple as having clean water every day for granted. I commend these students for responding to the needs of the developing world and helping them to move toward sustainability. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gonzaga University team on this great accomplishment, and for being chosen to compete for the EPA's prestigious P³—People, Prosperity, and Planet—Award.

HONORING CAROLDYNE AND HERSHEL SWEDLOVE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on June 14th, 2008, the Congregation Emanu El of San

Bernardino, California, will present to Caroldyne and Hershel Swedlove the prestigious Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award. The Rabbi Norman Feldheim award was established in 1983 to pay tribute to those members of the Congregation Emanu El that reflect the Rabbi's qualities of love and loyalty to the synagogue, service to their community, and the personal traits of humility and kindness.

The Swedloves have been members of the Congregation Emanu El since 1966. They have long been active in supporting the congregation's endeavors, most notably their annual sponsorship of the Rosh Hashanah congregational luncheon. Caroldyne has been especially active in the community, as a member of the Sisterhood of Congregation Emanu El. She has taught in the Religious School there, while also volunteering in the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Hershel was a regular volunteer in the congregation's major fund raising activities, an effort that enabled the synagogue to pay off its mortgage.

I am sure that the Swedloves are most proud of their family's involvement in the synagogue as well. Their four sons Jerome, Sheldon, Randall, and David all attended the religious school, were Bar Mitzvahed and confirmed in the synagogue and are now all active members of the Congregation as well.

The Swedloves have been an important part of the Jewish community in the Inland Empire for years, as members of Paradise B'Nai B'rith and the Redlands Jewish Club, and as supporters of Jewish homes for the Aging and the Western States Jewish Historical Society. As owner-operators of Morris Automotive Supply in Fontana since 1962, they have been prominent members of the business community as well. Well known for their family traditions and unquestioned integrity, the Swedloves have been honored by the Fontana Chamber of Commerce for their excellence.

I am honored to recognize Caroldyne and Hershel Swedlove for their commitment to our community. I congratulate them on an honor well deserved on the 117th anniversary of the chartering of the congregation in San Bernardino. May both the Congregation Emanu El and the Swedloves continue to serve San Bernardino for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO RODNEY D. HUDSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Rodney D. Hudson, founder and president of QuickSilver Analytics. Graduating with a bachelors degree in chemistry from Cameron University in 1974, Rodney went on to earn a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1982. QuickSilver Analytics is a registered service-disabled veteran-owned small business, specializing in chemical and biological warfare-related services and products. Rodney Hudson has been named the SBA's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for 2008.

Mr. Hudson was an Army Chemical Officer for over 21 years. He managed numerous chemical warfare materials (CWM) sampling and analysis (S&A) projects. Mr. Hudson has

been directly involved with all aspects of chemical warfare agents for over twenty years, including CWM storage, laboratory procedures for environmental S&A, the operation of equipment for air monitoring, quality assurance/control, and major project management.

Mr. Hudson is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. While in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm, Mr. Hudson evaluated and briefed the Army Headquarters Staff on the potential chemical downwind hazards from destroyed Iraqi chemical storage igloos. He managed the collection, reporting and deployment of the only remote chemical monitoring and biological detection teams in the theater of operation and coordinated the transportation of all suspect chemical and biological samples to U.S. laboratories.

President of the Maryland Chapter of Elite Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) Network, Rodney is also a member of the American Chemical Society, the Association of the United States Army, the National Defense Industrial Association, and the Society of American Military Engineers. Rodney has been a strong advocate for service-disabled veterans, lobbying the Maryland State Legislature to award three percent of all Maryland state contracts to service-disabled veterans. He has counseled several business owners on techniques and opportunities currently available to SDVOB owners and on ways to improve their business volume.

Mr. Hudson has worked tirelessly taking from his personal time to offer counsel to veterans who are considering starting a business. He has garnered the support of the MD Secretary of Veterans Affairs for his efforts and has provided a conduit for information flow to state legislators and the governor on issues important to Maryland SDVOB owners. Mr. Hudson has reached out to county government procurement personnel and introduced the Maryland Chapter of the Elite SDVOB network at last year's Maryland Association of Counties Conference.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Rodney Hudson. His legacy as a successful business owner in the defense industry is surpassed only by his tireless advocacy for service disabled veterans. It is with great pride that I congratulate Rodney Hudson on his being awarded the SBA's Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year.

RECOGNIZING REBECCA SIMPSON

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rebecca Simpson on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Simpson's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Rebecca Simpson assisted 400 families from Gainesville, Texas who were displaced by the floods in the summer of 2007. Miss Simpson collected necessary household items and personal toiletries and delivered them to the Gainesville Relief Center for distribution. The local Girl Scout Council had specifically called for Girl Scouts

to help in this crisis, and Miss Simpson responded wholeheartedly. Additionally, Miss Simpson painted cabinets for Angel's Attic, a resale and outreach ministry of the Whites Chapel United Methodist Church.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Rebecca Simpson in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

HONORING JASON BAUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Michael Baur of Kearney, Missouri. Jason is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Michael Baur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize Tuesday, April 22, 2008, as Equal Pay Day. National and community organizations alike make this a national day of action to promote equal pay for women and minorities. It is a day to recognize the wage gap that exists between men and women and offer solutions that will address and remedy this economic injustice.

It is no accident that a Tuesday in April is chosen as the day in which we recognize income inequality. April symbolizes the month when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year and Tuesday represents the day on which women's wages equal men's wages from the previous week. According to 2007 statistics by the United States Census Bureau, on average women are paid 77 cents for every dollar that their male counterparts earn. For a country where 46 percent of its workforce is female, this is unacceptable.

It is clear that we are not moving fast enough in promoting pay equality. Some reports estimate that if we continue at the current pace, the wage gap will not be closed until 2057. That is far too long for this discrimination to continue. We must promote all efforts to encourage employers to pay women

fairly, educate women on negotiating appropriate salaries, and enforce current equal pay legislation.

It is imperative that we protect every American's right to earn a fair wage based solely on qualifications and performance. There is no room in the American workforce for perpetuating gender and race stereotypes. By eliminating pay discrimination we will be ensuring that we will have the best and most productive workforce.

I applaud all Americans who participate in and support Equal Pay Day. The first step in correcting this inequity is by alerting others it exists. It is my hope that together we can do this and ultimately be the catalyst for change.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 886 which expresses sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, CO and Arvada, CO.

The events last year in Colorado Springs, CO and Arvada, CO were another sad example of gun violence in this country. The nation is still mourning the loss of life at Northern Illinois University, Virginia Tech, the mall in St. Lake City, the Red Lake Indian Reservation, and in countless other communities. On December 9, 2007, Tiffany Johnson, Philip Crouse, Stephanie Works, and Rachel Works were tragically killed and David Works, Judy Purcell, Larry Bourbonnais, Dan Griebenow, and Charlie Blanch injured by bullets fired from an assault rifle and one of two handguns wielded by the assailant.

Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of this tragedy is not enough. Far too many people are the victims of gun violence in our nation, including the hundreds who are killed and thousands injured in unintentional shootings. The Federal Government has an obligation and moral responsibility to prevent this type of violence, including mandatory background checks at gun stores and gun shows and requiring safety devices that prevent guns from being used by someone other than the owner.

Congress must reinstate the ban on assault style weapons and broaden it to include enhanced restrictions on many different assault-style guns that were not previously covered. A new ban should also direct the Attorney General to maintain a weapon database system of guns that have been used in violent crimes and submit the record to Congress each year. This is a necessary public safety measure that will allow law enforcement to do their job and combat crime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the victims of gun violence in Colorado Springs, CO and Arvada, CO and working together on common-sense gun laws that help to prevent tragedies like these from recurring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, on April 16th and 17th, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to an injury, and missed rollcall votes 192, 193, 194, 200, 203, and 204. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 192, 193, 194, 200, 203, and 204.

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN KULIG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kulig on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Kulig's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Carolyn Kulig decorated the library at the Easter Seals facility in Carrollton, Texas. Miss Temple painted book shelves in lively colors and added color to the walls. She also collected books and videos through donations that will be given to low-income families that have children being treated at the facility. Her efforts will live the spirit of all that use the library at Easter Seals.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Carolyn Kulig in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, today I rise to support H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Federal Student Loans Act of 2008. As current turmoil in the U.S. financial markets make obtaining and affording student loans more and more difficult, today we take an affirmative step to relieve that pressure on students and families by providing greater access to Federal loans. This legislation: reduces borrowers' reliance on costlier private college loans and encourage responsible borrowing; gives parent borrowers more time to begin paying off their Federal PLUS college loans; helps struggling homeowners pay for college; provides the U.S. Secretary of Education additional tools to safeguard access to

student loans; and encourages Federal financial institutions to exercise their existing authorities to ensure borrowers have access to Federal loan funds in the upcoming academic year.

Here in Congress, we must ensure that access to higher education is as unfettered as possible. As our economy goes more and more global we have to assure that our future generation will be able to effectively compete on the world stage.

I strongly support this bi-partisan legislation that makes access to college more affordable thereby giving greater opportunities to many more to pursue the American dream. The Ensuring Continued Access to Federal Students Loans Act will achieve its goal at no additional cost to the government and with so much money being spent on building infrastructure in Iraq by the Executive branch it is encouraging to see the Congress show fiscal restraint and responsibility.

I would like to commend Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for their work and leadership in bringing this bill to the floor so families can receive relief before this coming August.

RECOGNIZING MAYA ANGELOU ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of Dr. Maya Angelou, one of the great voices of contemporary literature and a remarkable Renaissance woman.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Angelou when I attended Yale University. She was a mentor to me then, not for her literary works, which were inspiring, but for her love for the least of us. She maintains a passion for all people regardless of race, gender, or class.

Dr. Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928, and attended public schools in Arkansas and California. Dr. Angelou is truly a woman of great vision, grace, and intellect. She speaks French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, West African Fanti, and English.

In addition to written and spoken word, for which she is most known, she has other accomplishments that have not received as much attention. She taught modern dance at the Rome Opera House and the Hambina Theatre in Tel Aviv. She has been a civil and human rights activist for many years, and in fact was the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, in 1959, appointed at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HONORARY DEGREES AND AWARDS

Maya Angelou has been honored by several universities, Howard University to Spellman College, from Columbia University to the University of Southern California giving her over 30 honorary degrees.

She has received Tony Awards, Grammy Awards, Woman of the Year Awards, a Congressional Tribute by Former Congressman Kweisi Mfume, and even a Presidential Medal of Arts from President Bill Clinton.

BOOKS, POEMS, AND SHORT STORIES

Maya Angelou is known for her stirring poems and storytelling abilities. "On the Pulse of the Morning" and "Phenomenal Women" were two of the poems that helped her become only the second poet in U.S. history to have the honor of writing and reciting original work at the Presidential inauguration.

Dr. Angelou has authored 12 bestselling books including "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "A Song Flung Up to Heaven," and "Even the Stars Look Lonesome." She has the unique ability to shatter the opaque prisms of race, class, and gender between the reader and the subject. She captivates her audience, be they children in Tel Aviv, Civil Rights Leaders, or even Presidents.

CONCLUSION

I would have had us sing to Maya Angelou on her 80th birthday, but I would rather say thank you. Thank you, Dr. Angelou, for your dedication to civil and human rights, thank you for your activism, your perceptive stories and poems, thank you for your wisdom, and thank you for reminding us how powerful language can be. For Maya Angelou has moved hearts and minds with her lyric and prose.

I thank Maya Angelou for being a Phenomenal Woman, for now we understand "Just why [your] head is not bowed. Why you don't shout or jump about, or have to talk real loud. Why when we see you pass by, we are so proud, Some say, It's in the click of your heels, the bend of your hair, the palm of your hand, the need of your care, But its because you are a woman, Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman . . . that, Dr. Angelou, is you.

Happy 80th Birthday, Maya Angelou.

PHENOMENAL WOMAN

(By Maya Angelou)

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size

But when I start to tell them, They think I'm telling lies.

I say, It's in the reach of my arms The span of my hips, The stride of my step, The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me.

I walk into a room Just as cool as you please, And to a man, The fellows stand or Fall down on their knees. Then they swarm around me, A hive of honey bees.

I say, It's the fire in my eyes, And the flash of my teeth, The swing in my waist, And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me.

Men themselves have wondered What they see in me.

They try so much But they can't touch My inner mystery. When I try to show them They say they still can't see.

I say, It's in the arch of my back,

The sun of my smile, The ride of my breasts, The grace of my style.

I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me.

Now you understand Just why my head's not bowed. I don't shout or jump about Or have to talk real loud.

When you see me passing It ought to make you proud. I say,

It's in the click of my heels, The bend of my hair, The palm of my hand, The need of my care, 'Cause I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LEROY R. CLINK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I wish to celebrate the accomplishments of Mr. Leroy R. Clink, Sr. for his 30 years of service. Below is a brief description of his accomplishments.

Leroy Clink comes from humble origins, attending a two room schoolhouse in West Granville, MA. After graduating from Westfield High School, he went on to New England College to receive his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. He also obtained a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Western New England College.

Mr. Clink was an impressively well-rounded college student. During his time at New England College, Mr. Clink ascended to the presidency of the Sigma Alpha Beta Fraternity, in addition to becoming Chairman of the Inter-Fraternity Council, Mr. Clink displayed his leadership skills in the Student Senate. He was also the First New England college student to be a voting member of the College Admissions Committee. Mr. Clink was able to find time in his busy schedule to become a student guide, dormitory proctor, and a student member of ASCE.

Mr. Clink began his professional career in 1978 at Westover Air Reserve Base as a Pavements Engineer. From there he became the Project Engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served as a Base Civil Engineer at the Westover ARB, where he coordinated construction projects. Mr. Clink has played an imperative role in runway overlays, east ramp improvements, water distribution, and base operations. He also played an active role as a security police officer. In addition, he was involved in control tower, base civil engineering, and Marines site support element.

Before his retirement, he was working on the New BRAC projects Armed Forces Reserve Center and the Navy Sea Bee Battalion Facility. On this occasion, I am proud to mark 30 years of Mr. Clink's service and to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE
LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT
CANCELLATION OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

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. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008. This is extremely important legislation that will have no budgetary impact on the United States Federal budget but stands to have a lasting and life changing impact for up to 24 additional poor countries. The Jubilee Act is one of the most humanitarian efforts this Congress could undertake.

Poverty is one of the greatest ills to plague mankind. We have recent evidence of the impact of poverty in the demonstration of desperately hungry people for food no longer affordable because of economic forces beyond their control. Those who survive in poverty are under constant threat of death. The debt forgiveness offered by the Jubilee Act will enable poor countries to address the issues of poverty, create opportunities for economic growth and establish sound governing practices. The Jubilee Act also promotes responsible development assistance by prioritizing grants over loans, which is an important measure to prevent these countries from falling back into debt.

It is inconceivable for the United States not to act immediately in passing this legislation; there are many poor countries desperately awaiting our assistance. By granting authorization for the U.S. Treasury Department to begin negotiations within the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral creditors is the first step towards improving the lives of so many impoverished people. Above all other reasons, we are morally obligated to help those less fortunate, therefore I urge my colleagues to support the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID
BRELAND

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of Judge David Breland.

On April 12, Judge Breland was honored with the Newton B. Powell Loyalty Award by the Democratic Party of Morgan County, AL.

Judge Breland has served the people of the State of Alabama for over 25 years as a District Judge in Morgan County. Judge Breland

is best known as a tireless advocate for the children of the Tennessee Valley. During his judicial career, Judge Breland established over 35 programs throughout the State of Alabama designed to assist at-risk youth.

Additionally, Judge Breland was the Chairman of Northwest Alabama Corrections for Youth, the Co-Chairman of the Morgan County Children's Policy Council, and a member of the President's Summit on Youth. His efforts have helped countless young people throughout Alabama become successful and responsible adults.

Judge Breland's civic involvement has inspired many in North Alabama. He has received commendations from organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the NAACP, and the Rotary Club. In 2008, Judge Breland was named as the Citizen of the Year by the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce.

I commend Judge David Breland's work on behalf of North Alabama and, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate him on a distinguished career.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT AND
CAROLYN CRAWFORD FOR RE-
CEIVING THE MOTHERS AGAINST
DRUNK DRIVING (MADD) HERO
AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert and Carolyn Crawford for receiving the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Hero Award. The Lewisville couple received the award on Saturday April 19th, 2008, for their commitment to educating others about the dangers of drunk driving while volunteering for MADD.

The Crawfords' mission began back in 1993 when their daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and another unborn grandchild were killed in a car wreck by a drunken driver. From that moment the couple has made it a priority to inform others of the dangers involved with drunk driving.

Since 2007, Robert Crawford has traveled all across the country participating in the MADD speaker's tour. He has spoken to over 10,000 people, and in these first few months of 2008, Robert has talked to almost 400 convicted drunk drivers at Victim Impact Panel meetings at the Denton County courthouse. Robert has also attended court trials to provide moral support to victims' families affected by drunk driving.

MADD was founded in 1980 and has more than 2 million members and supporters nationwide. Like Robert and Carolyn, the organization's goal is to stop drunken driving. The Crawfords' avid participation in MADD can be attributed to their passionate aspiration of trying to ensure that no other families endure the pain and devastation they suffered as a result of a drunken driver's poor decision.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor two worthy citizens who strive every day to make this world a better place. Robert and Carolyn Crawford are truly deserving of the honor MADD has bestowed upon them. I am proud to represent them in the 26th District of

Texas and greatly appreciative for their ongoing service to their local community and the Nation. Their passion and devotion to such a worthy cause is admirable.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS
KAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF 2008
SHELLEY ARTS ADVOCACY
AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dennis Kavanaugh, recipient of 2008 Shelley Arts Advocacy Award from the Arizona Citizens Action of the Arts. As a member of the Mesa City Council and a leader within numerous boards and organizations, Dennis has been a tireless advocate for the arts in Arizona. Dennis recognizes the importance that the arts have on strengthening communities and enhancing our quality of life.

Dennis currently serves as Chair of both the Mesa Arts Center Foundation board and the Development Committee of the National Association of State Arts Assemblies. Through his work on the National Association of the State Arts Assemblies, Dennis has been a champion for efforts to increase federal funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.

Dennis was also instrumental in building the new Mesa Arts Center which has become a point of pride for the entire community. Dennis served for more than 6 years on the Center's Architect Selection and Design Committee. The center now serves as a place to showcase world-class performances and exhibits but also houses studio space for art education.

I commend the Arizona Action of the Art's for selecting such a deserving arts advocate. Dennis truly understands the tremendous impact that the arts have in achieving educational excellence and a greater sense of community. Dennis was recently elected to the Mesa City Council where he has displayed his leadership skills previously and where I am sure he will continue to support public policy that will advance the arts in Arizona.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dennis Kavanaugh's continued work and advocacy for the arts in Arizona.

JUAN SEGUIN—TEXAS FREEDOM
FIGHTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as Texans we are proud of our fight for independence. We often celebrate the courage and sacrifice made by the Alamo defenders. We boast of the cunning and valor displayed by the victorious troops at the Battle of San Jacinto. When celebrating these two historic events, I would be remiss not to mention the vital role that Juan Seguin played in both of those battles.

Juan Seguin was born in 1806 at San Antonio, in what was then Mexico. He soon grew

tired of President Santa Anna's policies and in 1835, he responded to a call for support by raising a company of Tejanos, Texans of Hispanic descent, to aid in the revolution. In October of 1835, following a battle in Bexar, Stephen F. Austin granted a captain's commission to Seguin.

Seguin's company would soon arrive at the Alamo with other Revolutionary heroes such as, Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, and William Barrett Travis, who were taking shelter as General Santa Anna's army was advancing on San Antonio.

As the Alamo came under constant bombardment, Colonel Travis sent out messengers to get help. The last messenger sent out was Juan Seguin on a mission to seek reinforcements from Colonel James Fannin to send troops from nearby Goliad to help the defenders at the Alamo. After his failed attempts to persuade Fannin, he journeyed to the ranches along the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers to recruit more Tejanos.

His company then met up with General Sam Houston at the town of Gonzales. There, the tragic news that the Alamo had fallen was delivered. A decision was made to burn the town of Gonzales in order to deny shelter to Santa Anna's troops.

As General Houston's armies retreated, he gave Seguin's company the task of riding into the frontier and warning the settlers of the coming danger. Because of this great service to the Texas Revolution, he has been dubbed "The Paul Revere of Texas."

Later, Seguin commanded the only Tejano unit to fight in the Battle of San Jacinto. None of the Texans at San Jacinto wore uniforms on the battlefield. In order to distinguish themselves from the Mexican soldiers, only Mexican officers wore uniforms, Seguin's Tejanos wore playing cards in their hats to avoid friendly fire. After the battle, Seguin personally accepted the surrender of a number of Mexican officers. After his company's valiant effort in the battle, Seguin was promoted to Lt. Colonel. Texas liberty would not be secure without the help of the native Tejanos in this and other battles during the fight for Texas independence.

Each year, approximately 220,000 people visit the World's tallest war memorial, The San Jacinto Monument. The monument, which stands 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument, has two roads leading to the park. In honor of the contributions made by Seguin and his Tejanos one of those roads is named Juan Seguin Boulevard.

One of the oldest towns in Texas, Seguin was originally founded in 1838 near the Guadalupe River. In 1853, it was incorporated and named Walnut Springs. Six months later the name was permanently changed to Seguin. Today, the city nicknamed the "Pecan Capital of Texas" is home to the Texas Lutheran University. In October of 2000, the city of Seguin unveiled a 17-foot statue of its namesake in the town square. The statue depicts this Texas hero valiantly leading the charge atop a horse with his saber in hand. As I stand here one day after we celebrated the historic battle of San Jacinto that gave Texas its independence, I want to acknowledge this Texas legend that played such an instrumental role in the victory.

And that's just the way it is.

HONOR THE TRUTH OF THE PAST:
COMMEMORATION OF THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the survivors and their descendants of the Armenian Genocide. On Sunday, April 20th, a service in remembrance of the 93rd Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide took place at the Armenian Church of Our Savior in Worcester, Massachusetts. The message of the generations gathered there is simple: "Honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again."

Each year we mark the anniversary of the cataclysmic events that occurred in the Ottoman Empire from 1915–1923, when 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over half a million survivors were exiled.

I would like to enter into the RECORD the letter I sent to the parishioners of the Armenian Church of Our Savior on this solemn and special occasion, as well as the April 21st article that appeared in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette describing the commemorative event.

Memory is a precious commodity. I urge all my colleagues to support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution before we lose the last survivors of this terrible period of genocide against the Armenian people.

OPEN LETTER FROM REP. JAMES P. MCGOVERN TO THE PARISHIONERS OF THE ARME-
NIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

APRIL 20, 2008.

DEAR FRIENDS: As you know, this year marks the 93rd anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th Century, the Armenian Genocide. Carried out between 1915 and 1923, the Armenian Genocide was a systematic and deliberate campaign by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to destroy its Armenian minority, which resulted in 1.5 million Armenian deaths and the exile of nearly all Armenians from their ancestral homeland.

The Armenian Genocide is officially recognized and commemorated in 40 States, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and by nearly two dozen nations, including 11 of our NATO allies. The federal government must follow suit.

I believe adopting the Armenian Genocide Resolution is the right thing to do:

As a matter of morality—and in the name of humanity—the United States should recognize and condemn all genocides.

In the name of historic truth—and in honor of the historic role so many American diplomatic personnel and humanitarian and relief workers played in saving lives and condemning the genocide as it was taking place—the U.S. especially should recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And in the hope of preventing future genocides—we have to recognize and honor the truth of the past. Denial of the Armenian Genocide—just like denial of the Holocaust—makes future genocides more likely, not less.

No nation, not Turkey, or any other country, should be allowed to block the official recognition or commemoration or the teaching of historic truth about the Armenian Genocide.

I am disappointed that the Federal government has not yet taken the necessary and courageous steps to recognize the Armenian Genocide. I will continue to work to change that reality.

It's ironic that the current Turkish government doesn't seem to realize that the more it denies the Armenian Genocide, the more people begin to think that there really is a connection between the Turks who carried out the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th Century and today's 21st Century democratic government.

By denying the truth, Turkey undermines its own standing throughout the world, blocks its own acceptance into the European family, and increases regional tensions, especially with neighboring Armenia. Turkey's recognition of the Genocide, its reconciliation with the past, would widely be viewed as the act of a mature democracy, which the world would rush to embrace and reward.

This is why America must also officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Some will always argue that the timing is not right to act on this bill. But when will the timing be right? After the last surviving witnesses of the Armenian Genocide are gone?

In April of last year, I was in eastern Chad. And the reality of genocide was right before my eyes. There are over 250,000 refugees from Darfur, Sudan living in camps just inside Chad. I met with individuals and families who had been forced to flee their villages in Darfur. Each had a story about loved ones murdered, homes destroyed, people and family left behind. Many didn't know if some of their family or children were even alive.

So 93 years after the Armenian Genocide, I struggle to find meaning in the words, "Never Again."

I am thankful I can turn to Worcester's Armenian-American community for inspiration, one of the oldest in the United States and the first to establish a church in America. They have worked tirelessly for nearly a century to keep alive the historic memory of the Armenian Genocide and to speak out, condemn and organize against the genocides—too many—that mark the past nine decades of human history. They were among the very first to bring to my attention the events unfolding in Darfur.

The least we can do is honor and recognize this selfless community by passing the Armenian Genocide Resolution, so that their history and heritage will be remembered for all time, even after the last survivor passes away.

With warmest respect and friendship,
CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN.

[From the Telegram & Gazette, Worcester,
MA, Apr. 21, 2008].

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBERED

(By Lisa D. Welsh)

WORCESTER.—Three generations of Armenians—a 99-year-old woman, a three time—Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a high school essayist—spoke from differing perspectives but shared one message during the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide recognition yesterday at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour: "Honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again."

Heghine Minassian was 6 years old the day Turkish soldiers went house to house and emptied all the buildings in her village. She said most Armenians were marched into the desert, where they were left to starve to death; but some of the women, like her aunt, were kept as slaves.

"My grandparents were in the attic hiding," Mrs. Minassian said in Armenian through an English interpreter, Van Aroian. "My grandmother's sister yelled, 'Don't open

the door. Don't go out.' But the (soldiers) gave the order to come down and they came down."

Within three years Mrs. Minassian would be an orphan, the same age of many of the children in church who participated in a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of their family members who had died in the genocide. Looking out at the young faces in the front pews, Mrs. Minassian said, "Don't forget our struggle."

Stephen A. Kurkjian, a reporter for the Boston Globe for 38 years, has written about many high-profile events. However, sharing the story of his father's family was not one of them.

"I was not an appreciating Armenian until 1992, when I accompanied my 83-year-old father to the village where he was born," Mr. Kurkjian said at the Martyrs' Day commemoration. "The sadness hit me like a sledgehammer. I started asking, 'How could this happen?'"

"I came back and wrote an article called 'Roots of Sorrow.' But now I'd add to that title, 'Seeds of Hope.'"

Mr. Kurkjian's father lost his father, brother and sister in the genocide of 1915; he survived after making the 300-mile trek to Syria with his mother, and later to America.

"My father would say out of tragedy there was opportunity for liberty and religious freedom. There was education and economic opportunity in America. I would have never had the successes I've had. Instead I would have worked at a small weekly in a mountain village."

"I asked my Der Hayr (priest), 'How this could happen?'" Mr. Kurkjian said. "He said, 'God would not have allowed the first Christian church to not have survived.' That's as good an answer as you are going to get."

With the internal awakening about his heritage Mr. Kurkjian has traveled to Turkey and watched pressure build on the Turkish government to reassess its position that downplays references to the genocide.

Robin Garabedian, a junior at Doherty Memorial High School whose family has been with the Armenian Church of Our Saviour since her grandmother's family immigrated to Worcester, said she was 7 years old when her father told her about the genocide. In reading her award-winning essay, "Why Remembrance of the Genocide is Important," she quoted Adolf Hitler as saying, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" as rationalization for the Holocaust.

"How does someone hate someone else so much?" Robin asked in anger. "If the world had stood up (against) the Armenian genocide, there wouldn't have been genocide of the Jews, or in Cambodia in the '70s, or in Darfur today."

H.R. 1374—FLORIDA NATIONAL FOREST LAND

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, today the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee considered S. 934, a companion bill to H.R. 1374, which passed the House of Representatives on December 17, 2007. This legislation provides the Forestry Service the flexibility they need to properly manage their assets. This legislation modifies the Florida National Forest Land Management Act in two simple ways which will provide the

Forest Service essential authority to manage the national forests in Florida effectively.

The first provision simply adds an unmanageable tract of land located in Tallahassee, FL to the list of lands the Secretary of Agriculture is currently authorized to sell. This specific property, tract W-1979, is approximately 114 acres of land that has evolved into an unmanageable, problem area for the Apalachicola National Forest. Due to the configuration and surrounding development, the vegetation cannot be managed through prescribed fire. Although a very valuable tract from a real estate/commercial aspect, this tract has lost its national forest character. The sale of this land will allow the Forest Service to purchase other lands located within the Forest that are more manageable and will enhance national forests in Florida.

Secondly, this legislation would allow the Forest Service to use proceeds from the sale of other "non-green land" to be used for construction and improvements to administrative facilities essential to the proper management of the Forest. These "non-green land" tracts of land are owned by the Forest Service, but have urban improvements like fairgrounds or sporting complexes and are not conducive to the overall purpose of protecting our national forests.

This legislation would allow the Service to use the proceeds from the sale of improved lands to build critical infrastructure they need to manage the forests in Florida, while allowing the forest service to continue its practice of using receipts from all non-developed "green land" tracts for the acquisition of other "green land" tracts to enhance the national forests in Florida. I am pleased that this legislation is moving forward and the Forest Service will have the ability to efficiently and effectively manage our Nation's precious resources.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EARTH DAY COALITION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Earth Day Coalition of Cleveland, as they celebrate EarthFest 2008 on April 20, 2008—a date that also commemorates the 19th annual celebration of EarthFest in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland's Earth Day Coalition was formed in 1990 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in Ohio. EarthFest is now Ohio's largest environmental educational event and one of the most successful Earth Day events in the country. I stand in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Earth Day Coalition for all their effort and dedication in creating such an innovative, exciting and educational event for the Great Cleveland community to enjoy. This year, EarthFest 2008 will be entirely wind powered, signifying the ability of the Earth Day Coalition in effectively demonstrating the need and possibilities of alternative forms of energy. The event features over 160 environmental exhibits and displays, all focused on educating the community about sustainability efforts and solutions to climate change. EarthFest is just one of Earth Day Coalition's many nationally-recognized pro-

grams and promises once again to be a significant aspect of the world celebration of Earth Day.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognitions of the staff, volunteer and members of the Earth Day Coalition as we celebrate EarthFest 2008 on April 20, 2008. EarthFest 2008 promises to educate, inspire and motivate all of us to join together as a community and work toward maintaining a more healthy earth for future generations.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my views on H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act.

As both a Member of the Committee on House Administration which has considered this issue for many months and a former mayor who was responsible for overseeing elections for many years, I know how important it is that people have confidence in their votes. This bill is part of an effort to ensure that we improve that confidence, which has waned in recent years.

There are good provisions in this bill. I believe firmly that the best way to ensure that votes are cast as intended and counted accurately, is to provide paper ballots that the voters themselves mark. This bill helps move the Nation in that direction by providing optional funding for many localities that wish to switch to paper ballots. For this reason, I support it.

However, there are some shortcomings in this legislation that I feel must be stated for the record. I do not personally believe that it is the most effective use of Federal resources to give states funding in order for them to add on printers to Direct Recording Electronic devices (DREs). I don't believe that "paper trails" are an adequate substitute for real paper ballots and for this reason, I have concerns about giving states the funding to retrofit their DREs rather than simply incentivizing the switch to real paper ballots.

Similarly, I am discouraged that the bill does not allow jurisdictions with DREs that produce a paper trail access to Federal funds to switch to real paper ballots. Many jurisdictions across the country have come to the conclusion that paper ballots, not electronic voting machines with paper trails, are the most reliable type of voting system. By denying some jurisdictions the Federal resources to make that positive switch, the bill fails to reward those who are making the commitment to switch to what many believe is the best system.

However, I am supporting this bill. Because it is not overly prescriptive, I hope that many jurisdictions consider utilizing its positive provisions, should it become law. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the committee and in the full House toward a better and more trustworthy vote.

TRIBUTE TO MORLEY NELSON

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Idahoan and a place in my beautiful home State.

Today, the House is voting on renaming the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area—right outside my hometown of Kuna, ID—after a man named Morley Nelson. Morlan W. Nelson—everyone called him “Morley”—was born in North Dakota. Morley was fascinated by raptors from a young age as he grew up on a ranch in his native State. He earned a degree in soil science, engineering and nuclear chemistry from North Dakota State in 1938 and went on to serve with great valor as a captain in the 10th Mountain Division during the Second World War, the same outfit where our esteemed former colleague Bob Dole served with such distinction. Morley won a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Silver Star for his courage and indomitable spirit.

Morley moved to Idaho after the War. In 1948, he made his home in Boise and began serving as the Columbia Basin’s Snow Survey Supervisor and pursued his groundbreaking work with such raptors as the golden eagle.

To give a fuller account of Morley’s remarkable life, allow me to quote from a biography of Morley drafted for the Morley Nelson Elementary School in Boise:

Morley continued his work with raptors and, after relocating to Idaho, became interested in the golden eagle. In 1958 he influenced the State Legislature to enact a law protecting raptors in Idaho. In the early 1960s Morley began working for Walt Disney Production’s True Life Adventure Series training falcons, eagles, and hawks. He worked on numerous films with Walt Disney and Paramount Pictures as well as working with Marlin Perkins on the Wild Kingdom television series, and television programs for PBS and other networks. In the 1980s and 1990s Morley participated in many documentaries and videos featuring his birds. In the 1970s and 1980s Morley was instrumental in recognizing the importance of the Snake River Canyon as a haven for birds of prey and with the help of Governor Cecil Andrus, who was then Secretary of the Interior, and others, they establishing the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. He also influenced the establishment of the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Morley had a long and productive association with the Idaho Power Company and the Edison Electric Institute to help solve the electrocution of eagles problem. He designed nesting platforms that attach to large transmission lines which have helped to expand the nesting areas of Raptors. His power line corrections and nesting platform designs are now used worldwide.

Idaho’s rich natural heritage is exemplified by the raptors that make their homes in the Gem State. Thanks largely to Morley’s efforts, “Idaho hosts the densest population of nesting raptors in North America, and possibly on planet Earth,” according to writer Lee Foster.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my great home State, let me say that we will remember this wonderful man, exemplary patriot and outstanding naturalist.

I also commend and thank my friend and colleague, MIKE SIMPSON, for introducing H.R.

3651, which renames the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area the “Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.” It’s a fitting tribute to a great Idahoan and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE EDWARDS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katie Edwards who will be inducted into the Dade County Farm Bureau’s distinguished Hall of Fame on Saturday April 26, 2008.

For more than four years, Katie has served as the Executive Director of the Dade County Farm Bureau. In that capacity, she has been a solid and steady voice advocating for the more than 4,000 members she represents. Under Katie’s exceptional leadership, the Dade County Farm Bureau received the President’s Award from the Florida Farm Bureau Federation in 2004 and 2007.

Katie has focused her efforts on a variety of issues facing South Florida’s diverse agricultural industry. She has consistently promoted and supported the economic viability of agriculture, the competitiveness for specialty crops, the need for agricultural disaster following numerous hurricanes, and increased funding for mitigating the risks associated with invasive pests and diseases.

This fall, Katie will start law school at Florida International University, where she plans to stay true to her passion and concentrate on agricultural law. Though her shoes will be difficult to fill, I know she has made a lasting impact on the Dade County Farm Bureau.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Katie Edwards on her induction into the Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Township of West Bloomfield, in Oakland County, MI, which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary on April 22, 2008. The township’s many beautiful lakes show why it continues to rank among Michigan’s loveliest communities.

In the early 19th century, a group of mainly Scottish Presbyterian settlers migrated to Bloomfield Township from New York, New England, and the United Kingdom. These settlers were attracted to the picturesque lakes that covered nearly 20 percent of the area, and many settled in and built sheep farms. By 1850, sheep by far outnumbered residents, with over 16,000 sheep contributing to the booming farm industry compared to only 940 people.

On April 22, 1833, West Bloomfield Township was formally established as a General Law Township by an act of the legislative

council which carved out 30 square miles from the western part of Bloomfield Township. Then on April 1, 1882, the council passed a resolution establishing West Bloomfield as a Charter Township.

Today, West Bloomfield, known as the “lake township of Oakland County,” is one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse townships in the country. Home to a large and active Jewish community, West Bloomfield opened the first Holocaust Memorial Center of its kind in 1981. It has since expanded and been moved to Farmington Hills, something I was proud to assist and support, but its roots are firmly planted with the residents of West Bloomfield. In addition, there is a growing Chaldean community that has worked to integrate fellow Arab immigrants into life in the United States.

Madam Speaker, today West Bloomfield is a vibrant, diverse community in Oakland County that is home to over 64,000 residents and 25 beautiful lakes. I congratulate them on their 175th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE STARKS ROBERTS, SR. AND HIS RUN ACROSS AMERICA FOR JESUS

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome to our nation’s capital a special guest and great American hero named Eugene Starks Roberts, Sr. A former Marine, Vietnam veteran, and double amputee, Mr. Roberts joins us near the conclusion of his long and inspiring mission to run across America for Jesus. Mr. Roberts has run over 3,500 miles during the last nine months—miles that represent his commitment to Jesus Christ and the ideals central to his strong Christian faith.

Throughout his journey, Mr. Roberts has sought to raise awareness and money for the less fortunate and for medical research for diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Making the cross-country trek on prosthetic legs, Mr. Roberts has also made it his goal to inspire wounded warriors in their recoveries. Indeed, his endurance of both body and spirit should be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Roberts has run through more than 80 different U.S. cities, including two in my district—Shallotte and Wilmington, North Carolina. Southeastern North Carolina is honored to have been included along the way. Mr. Roberts has reminded my constituents and countless other Americans, both those with and without disabilities, of the importance of perseverance. He serves as a testament to the phenomenal strengths and great characters of our men and women in uniform. Finally, he has reminded us of what it means to give of oneself in order to help others in need.

His wife of 40 years, Marian Alicia, his three daughters, one son, and 11 grandchildren should be extremely proud of the man they call husband, father, and “Poppop”.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor Mr. Roberts’ achievements not only over the last nine months, but also over his entire life, as

he approaches the end of his run across our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on April 15, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

(1) Frank Amendment to H.R. 2634, rollcall No. 196—I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING E. YVONNE LEWIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to E. Yvonne Lewis as she is elevated to Supervisor of Women for the Michigan Southeast Jurisdiction of the Churches of God in Christ. A banquet will be held in her honor on April 28th in Flint Michigan.

E. Yvonne Lewis grew up in Saginaw Michigan. Her parents, the late Drs. Hurlley J. and Martha Coleman founded the Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ in Saginaw. As the 5th of 11 children, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Ferris State University, and from the University of Michigan-Flint a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Community Psychology degree and a Masters of Health Education degree. She is the mother of 3: Tiffanie, Tanya and Maurice.

She is now a member of the Greater Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. After receiving her license as an Evangelist of the Church of God in Christ in 1978, E. Yvonne became the Coordinator of the National Church of God in Christ Young Ladies for Scholastic Motivations, of the Auxiliaries in Ministry Convention. She also served as an active member of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan under the leadership of Bishop Earl J. Wright Sr. and Mother Francis Curtis.

Bishop Roger L. Jones selected her in 2007 to become the Supervisor-Elect for Women in the Michigan Southeast Jurisdiction. In this role she will serve as the leader of women and work closely with Bishop Jones guiding the Church through the coming year.

E. Yvonne Lewis is the Executive Director of Faith Access to Community Economic Development. She serves on the boards of the Greater Flint Health Coalition, the Michigan Cancer Consortium, Co-Founder and Past Chair of the National Community Committee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevention Research Centers, founding member and Past Chair of the Caucus of Public Health and the Faith Community of the American Public Health Association, and the Advisory Board for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating E. Yvonne Lewis as she is elevated to the posi-

tion of Supervisor of Women. May Christ continue to bless her in her work and leadership for many, many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE AAA STATE
CHAMPION KENDRICK LADY
CHEROKEES BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first girls' State championship basketball team from the city of Columbus, Georgia, the Kendrick High School Lady Cherokees.

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the Lady Cherokees finished a perfect season with a 79–67 win over Carrolton High School. The victory followed three years of close calls for the Lady Cherokees—in 2005, 2006, and again last year in 2007—during which they found themselves in the finals or semifinals of the state basketball tournament, only to lose by slight margins.

However, 2008 proved to be the year of the Lady Cherokees. Their victory in this year's AAA State championship embodied 3 years of frustration, hard work, and determination bursting forth into a singular moment of athletic perfection and teamwork.

With a 32–0 record, the Lady Cherokees became only the third girls' basketball team in the last decade to complete a perfect season. Additionally, the team's seniors completed their high school career with an astonishing 121–5 record.

I cannot put into words the amount of pride that everyone in Columbus, and indeed in the Second Congressional District, has in being able to call this outstanding group of young women its own. They have accomplished a special goal, one that could not have been possible without the unrelenting support and encouragement from their coach, Sterling Hicks, as well as their families, schoolmates, and everyone in the community who believed in their ability to bring home a State championship trophy.

Madam Speaker, these special young women have worked hard, persevered, made sacrifices, and developed the character that will help them to succeed in other aspects of life.

I am proud to represent them and once again congratulate them on their history-making achievement.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today, on Equal Pay Day, Americans are reminded of how far we have to go in order to eliminate pay inequity between men and women in the United States. While our Nation has made many strides in the fight against discrimination, the struggle for equal

pay for equal work continues. On this day, we remind ourselves that much more work needs to be done.

Women have seen recent success shattering a number of glass ceilings within the ranks of corporate and government leadership. Yet the fact is that American women are still only being paid 77 cents for every dollar that their male counterparts earn with the same education, training, and experience. Any wage gap based on sex is unacceptable. The current one is staggering. As pay equity advocate Evelyn Murphy has calculated, the current wage gap means a woman with a high school education will lose \$700,000 over her lifetime. A woman with a college education will lose \$1.2 million over her lifetime. And a woman with a professional degree will lose \$2 million over her lifetime.

But unequal pay not only surfaces in workers' weekly paychecks, it also harms workers' retirement and health care security. Its sheer irrationality hinders the American economy as a whole. In the new global economy, those who stand in the way of equal pay are tying one hand behind America's back. Holding women back not only hurts workers, it's bad for business.

And even where progress is made on the most insidious forms of intentional discrimination, reactionaries are still trying to roll back these protections. Just last year, the Supreme Court did precisely that in the case of Ledbetter v. Goodyear. Lilly Ledbetter worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company plant in Alabama. She sued the company soon after learning that she was paid less than her male counterparts. A jury found that her employer had unlawfully discriminated against her on the basis of sex.

But, five members of the United States Supreme Court rejected longstanding law and said that Lilly Ledbetter did not file a complaint quickly enough, nullifying the jury's verdict. In fact, Ms. Ledbetter filed her complaint as soon as she learned of the pay discrepancy through an anonymous note in her mailbox.

However, the Supreme Court ruled that the clock on filing started to run when the employer made its discriminatory pay decisions, decisions which the employer effectively hid by explicitly forbidding anyone to discuss their pay. So despite finding that Ms. Ledbetter was unlawfully paid less than her male counterparts, she could not recover anything. The company that paid her less just because she was a woman owed her nothing. A slim majority of the Supreme Court shunned reason in order to satisfy its own narrow ideological agenda.

I am proud to say that just months after the ruling the House of Representatives repudiated the Supreme Court's decision by passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which would restore workers' right to challenge discriminatory paychecks.

Today should serve as a call to action to end the pay inequity that half of our country's workforce continues to endure. The Senate should pass and the President should sign the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. And the Congress should take up additional legislation to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.

I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to the fight for equal pay. The wage gap between men and women must disappear. And the Congress has a very clear role to play in that effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUSTICE SUE
BELL COBB

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb.

On April 12th, Justice Cobb was honored with the Albert P. Brewer Award for outstanding public service to the State of Alabama.

Chief Justice Cobb has dedicated over 27 years of her life to serving the people of the State of Alabama. She began her service as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2007.

Throughout her career, Justice Cobb has made protecting our Nation's children one of her highest priorities. She has served as the President of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Chairwoman of the Children First Foundation. For her efforts, Justice Cobb has been recognized by the Child Welfare League of America and the National Juvenile Detention Association.

Additionally, Justice Cobb has been an advocate for the American Cancer Society. She has served as the Chairwoman of the Alabama Division of the American Cancer Society and has been named as the Volunteer of the Year by that organization. Additionally, she has been awarded the St. George Medal, the highest national award given by the American Cancer Society.

I applaud Justice Sue Bell Cobb on her outstanding judicial career and I thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of the men and women of the State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE TEXAS WOMAN'S
UNIVERSITY GYMNASTICS
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Woman's Uni-

versity Pioneers gymnastics team on winning first place at the 2008 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championship in Shreveport, Louisiana. Through a show of dedication, passion and solidarity, the Pioneers secured the USAG National Title on Friday, April 18, 2008.

The Texas Woman's University Pioneers rallied dramatically to come from behind and win the National Title. Their score of 194.700 was not only sufficient to clinch first place, but was also the team's highest score of the season. Additionally, many members of the team met or exceeded their personal best scores in the individual events.

The Pioneers seized their first USAG National Title in 1993, with additional wins in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2006. Their success at the 2008 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championship gives them a total of nine National Titles in the last 16 years.

Many titles and awards have been awarded to the team as a result of their hard work and dedication, as well as the support and guidance of head coach Frank Kudlac, Assistant Coaches Lisa Klein and Tim Rivera, Graduate Assistant Gretchen Goerlitz, and Trainer Kris Ring.

TWU team members Courtney Arno-Temple, Jennifer Kingsbury, Nicole Poling, Michelle Graves, Alexa Brennan, Keri Miller, Leslie Pladson, Amie Boles, Amy Hulbert, Brista Michael, Kelsey Nixon, Brittany Parker, Tonya Pipkorn, Abbi Thomas, Mollie Blessing, Kristie Costa, Caroline Hilpisch, Jennifer Liberato, Lauren Sizemore, and Amanda Walker have carried on the Pioneer's legacy of excellence, and are outstanding representatives of their school and the community.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to heartily applaud the efforts and success of the Texas Woman's University gymnastics team. Their legacy of hard work and excellence shall continue to inspire others to go after their dreams. I am extremely honored to represent these fine young individuals in the 26th District of Texas, and I am confident that they will continue to achieve greatness in future endeavors.

OBSERVANCE OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today, as we observe Equal Pay Day, I rise with my colleagues and professional women everywhere to say: Women are the face of pay equity.

The Census Bureau reports that, on average, a woman earns 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. More simply, I would have been working since the beginning of the year to earn the same annual salary as a man who started today, April 22.

Equal pay is not solely a women's issue, it's a family issue; when women aren't paid equally, their families pay the price. There are long-term consequences too: lower pay means less Social Security and less saved for retirement.

We have talked for years about closing the wage gap, now we must act. Today I was added as the 227th cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, joining more than half of this body who believes it is time to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination once and for all.

Congresswoman DELAURO's bill, which she has introduced for the last eight years, strengthens enforcement of the Equal Pay Act while providing businesses with training and resources to ensure they're in compliance.

Madam Speaker, since the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963, we have made great strides. Wages for women are up, and the pay gap has narrowed, but the gap is still far too wide, and women and their families are paying a terrible price.

This is my first year, and my first Equal Pay Day, as a member of this House. I genuinely look forward to a time when I don't need to remind Americans that Women are the face of pay equity.