

Power Association, the Large Public Power Council, the California Municipal Utilities Association and the National Business Council for Sustainable Energy. In addition, she has been a tireless advocate for clean energy and is on the board of the California Climate Action Registry and the National Alliance to Save Energy.

Under her leadership, SMUD has made many significant improvements in lowering their rates, improving their reliability, increasing their renewable energy programs and their overall customer satisfaction. Ms. Schori helped keep rates 20 to 30 percent below private energy companies, and earned bond rating upgrades from the major credit rating agencies. During her tenure, Ms. Schori worked to establish and expand SMUD solar programs, new energy efficiency goals, and a Greenergy program that has become one of the largest in the nation. SMUD is now a leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Due to these efforts, SMUD has been ranked by JD Power and Associates as one of the top providers in California for residential customers and one of the top in the nation for commercial customers.

Ms. Schori's 14 years as general manager of SMUD is the longest of any general manager in SMUD's 61 year history. Her dedication to our community is apparent through her work both with SMUD and with other local non-profits. She serves on the board and is treasurer of Valley Vision. She also actively supports the United Way California Capitol Region's Foster Youth Initiative and was the 2006 recipient of the DeTocqueville philanthropy award. Personally, Ms. Schori has been a pleasure to work with. Her thoughtfulness and intelligence has empowered employees to work diligently with an open door policy. She has also routinely testified in front of Congressional committees on energy issues.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jan Schori's distinguished commitment to Sacramento and our energy needs. Ms. Schori's outstanding leadership and dedication to SMUD, has helped promote the use of clean, renewable energy resources that not only benefits our community, but also sets an example for other providers across the state nation. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Ms. Schori's husband Case Buttermann, colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker on rollcall No. 244, motion to adjourn, had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

IN MEMORIAL OF SGT. STEPHEN LICZBINSKI

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On Saturday May 3, 2008, Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski, a 12-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and a constituent of the 13th Congressional District, was shot and killed while responding to a bank robbery.

Sgt. Liczbinski, who would have turned 40 today, left behind a wife, Michelle, and three children, Matt, Steven, and Amber. He was known to his friends and colleagues as "the real deal," "a great family man," and "a hero."

Sgt. Liczbinski spent most of his career working South Philadelphia as a beat cop in the Fourth District. In November 2007, he moved to the 24th District where he was promoted to Sergeant and became a valuable asset to his fellow officers. He was known as a great supervisor who treated all of his colleagues equally.

When he wasn't on the clock, Sgt. Liczbinski was known as a dedicated father who would bring his entire family with him to police barbecues.

His last words, according to the brave Northeast Philadelphia residents who ran out of their homes to provide him with comfort and assistance was "Tell my wife I'll miss her."

Like many in Philadelphia, I'm hurt and shocked that we've lost yet another courageous, outstanding officer. Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. The lack of respect for our law enforcement officers and the failure to respect the life of any human is appalling and intolerable.

Our city owes Sgt. Liczbinski its eternal gratitude for the sacrifice he made to protect the public from these heinous criminals.

In respect of that sacrifice, I ask that the whole House of Representatives extend its condolences to Michelle Liczbinski, her family, and the Philadelphia Police Department for their loss.

May our thoughts and prayers ease their grief and help sustain the dedicated men and women of the Philadelphia Police Department who put themselves in harms way every day to protect the safety of our families and communities.

THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Cinco de Mayo, the historic celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

On May 5th, 1862, Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin led 4,000 Mexican troops into battle against the French in the Battle of Puebla, just 100 miles from Mexico City. General Seguin led his brave troops to a spirited victory in spite of being badly outnumbered and lacking the modern weaponry possessed by the French.

The Mexican effort in the Battle of Puebla epitomized courage, as the outmanned troops survived three bloody French assaults and finally achieved resounding success. Numerous Mexicans gave their lives not solely for their country, but also for the timeless values of freedom and justice. The tremendous fight put up by the Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla also had a substantial impact on the United States' history, as the French defeat provided President Lincoln with crucial support as the Civil War descended into chaos.

There can be no doubting the bravery, spirit or patriotism of the thousands of Mexican troops who fought and, all too frequently, gave their lives at the Battle of Puebla. In the spirit of remembering the sacrifices of those troops, Cinco de Mayo provides us with a perfect opportunity to recognize the sacrifice for sovereignty, the importance of courage and, above all, the universal yearning for freedom.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout Mexico and the United States with a joyous mixture of food, music and dancing. It has also taken on great significance in the United States as a day to celebrate broadly the culture and ancestry of Americans of Mexican heritage.

The Mexican forces who won the Battle of Puebla should not and will not ever be forgotten, nor will the values for which they fought. I commend those forces for their spirit and courage and I wish all those celebrating the holiday across Mexico and the United States a happy Cinco de Mayo.

ON THE PASSING OF YOSSI HAREL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to note the recent passing of Yossi Harel, the legendary Haganah commander responsible for shepherding thousands of Jewish refugees through British blockades and to safety in the nascent Jewish homeland.

Harel was perhaps best known for commanding the ship Exodus 1947, which was intercepted off the coast of Haifa by British warships in July 1947, carrying 4,553 Jewish refugees from Europe.

The unconscionable decision by the British authorities to send these Holocaust survivors aboard the Exodus back to Germany focused the world's attention on the plight of Jewish refugees and their desire to leave the fetid displaced persons camps in Europe for a new life in soon to be sovereign Israel.

Members of the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine saw first hand as these refugees, with their meager possessions, were unloaded from the ramshackle Exodus 1947 in the port of Haifa and prepared for their return to Europe—all just precious feet away from the land they had so desperately yearned to reach.

Incredibly these refugees—just two years removed from the horrors of the Holocaust—were held by the British in a former S.S. concentration camp after their return to Germany. This shocked the conscious of much of the world and further galvanized opinion against the British blockage and in favor of the establishment of a Jewish state in Mandate-era Palestine.

The story of those aboard the Exodus 1947 and their harrowing journey to Haifa was immortalized in Leon Uris's novel *Exodus* and subsequent film featuring the character Ari Ben-Canaan based on Harel himself and played by Paul Newman.

Though Harel is best known for commanding Exodus 1947, he also led three other ships to the shores of Israel, helping 24,000 refugees find safe harbor in the Promised Land—all by the time he was 28.

Today we mourn the loss of a great hero, who not only touched the lives of these 24,000 refugees and won the admiration of millions of people worldwide, but also came to symbolize the determination and pluck of the modern state of Israel.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES
MEADERS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, A man name Charles Meaders from Newton, Mississippi had a soldier's heart, a soldier's honor, and responded to our Nation's call with a soldier's duty. He passed away last month but due to a twist of fate, he did not receive soldier's burial.

Mr. Meaders was in the United States Armed Forces during the Korean conflict. However, he contracted a serious case of pneumonia and was shipped home and discharged, short of the time required to be recognized for veterans' benefits. I've known the Meaders family for a long time and they are educators, soldiers, and hard working Mississippians. Mrs. Bobbie Meaders, who dearly loved her husband Charles, is an active and feisty 72-year-old former nurse.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the memory of Charles Meaders and for my office to deliver to his wife her only request, a proper American flag that memorializes her husband's service to the American armed forces. I hope Congress joins me and remembering this patriot and will hold Mrs. Bobbie Meaders in your thoughts during her time of grief.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, May 5, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 952, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 952, H. Res. 1011, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1011, and the motion to adjourn and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall #240 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 952, to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #241 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 952, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #242 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1011, Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #243 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 1011, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #244 on the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the 2008 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District. The following individuals have accepted academy appointments:

Harrison Michael Green, Believers Academy, Air Force Academy; Blair William Kessler, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Robert Francis Belz, Health Careers High School, Air Force Academy; Lucas Samuel Johnson, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Philip Nicholas Valenzo, MacArthur High School, Air Force Academy; David Kirby Ford, Antonian College Preparatory High School, Military Academy; Nicholas Enrique Ocegueda, New Braunfels High School/US Military Prep School, Military Academy; Thomas Reagan Schiller, Vista Ridge High School, Military Academy; Raymond Anthony Gonzales II, Reagan High School, Military Academy; Karen Elaine Gilkey, MacArthur High School, Merchant Marine Academy; and Padraig G. O'Hara, Fredericksburg High School, Merchant Marine Academy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 240, H. Res. 952—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THOMAS S. CONLEY,
SR. OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who was wounded in service

to our Nation during the conflict in Vietnam. Mr. Thomas S. Conley, Sr. is a Marine who served with honor and distinction on the battlefield. It is truly an honor to present this brave patriot with his long overdue Purple Heart Medal.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, Mr. Conley's family moved to Pittsburgh when he was in ninth grade. Enlisting in the Marine Corps at the age of eighteen, Mr. Conley was one of about seventy-eight enlistees dubbed the "Pittsburgh Pirate Platoon" when, all gathered around home plate for the ceremony, they were sworn into the Marines in the 7th inning of a baseball game at Forbes Field.

After completing his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Mr. Conley went on to attend radio operator school in California and then served as the 2531 Field Radio Operator with the 9th Marines in Vietnam. Near the end of his tour of duty, his unit was near the Rock Pile in the Northern Eye Core of Vietnam when a mortar round landed between Mr. Conley and another soldier. The other man was thrown twenty-three feet and killed, while Mr. Conley ended up with shrapnel throughout his body.

A third generation soldier whose grandfather served in World War I and his father in World War II, Mr. Conley's wounds sadly forced him to leave the military. He had planned to make a career in the Marines, but after the blast injured him in Vietnam he returned to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he remained for thirteen months prior to being discharged. Continuing the tradition of military service, Mr. Conley's three sons have all served in the Marine Corps, and one has had four tours of duty in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Thomas S. Conley, Sr. who joined the military to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men like Mr. Conley were wounded fighting for freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
DONALD L. ROBINSON

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity today to pay tribute to a great American who just recently and unexpectedly passed away.

Donald Robinson worked in the Office of Naval Intelligence and as a Chief of Staff and Staff Director on Capitol Hill in his younger years, but he is perhaps remembered best as a mentor to the hundreds of young people who came to Washington, DC to pursue an internship on Capitol Hill or with the Federal Government.

For 25 years, Donald L. Robinson worked with his wife, Sara Robinson, as a Director of the Boston University Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to the contribution he and his wife Sara made to enrich the lives of young people in who came to Washington to try out public service. He will be missed greatly. I would like to take the opportunity to submit his obituary in the Congressional Record today and to thank him for