

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR AGAIN RECOMMENDING THAT VIETNAM BE DESIGNATED A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN THEIR RECENT ANNUAL REPORT

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to commend the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for again recommending that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) in their recent annual report.

The State Department removed this designation in November 2006, and since then, human rights conditions in Vietnam have steadily deteriorated. According to the Commission, "removing the CPC designation suspended the diplomatic framework that had led to a productive bilateral engagement on religious freedom and other human rights concerns and therefore removed the potential incentives and leverage needed to urge the Vietnamese government to continue to improve its human rights record."

Since the removal of CPC status and Vietnam's subsequent accession to the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese Government has continued to detain and imprison those whose only crimes were speaking out against the government or exercising their freedom of religion. In addition to violating Article 69 of the Constitution of Vietnam, which guarantees the "freedom of opinion and speech, freedom of the press, the right to be informed and the right to assemble, form associations and hold demonstrations in accordance with the provisions of the law," these detentions are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Commission has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001. It is time for the State Department to heed this advice and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAGS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE USA RESOLUTION

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a resolution that I have just introduced that expresses the sense of the Congress that all American

flags flown over Federal Government buildings and on federal property should be made in the United States.

The U.S. Census bureau estimates that \$5.3 million worth of American flags were imported from other countries in 2006, mostly from China. Even though U.S. law requires every flag be labeled with its "country of origin," the figure of foreign-made American flags has steadily grown over the past few years. This is an absolute shame!

The American flag is much more than our national symbol. It embodies our courage, liberty, and justice. The flag reminds us each and every day of the blood that was shed so that we may enjoy our freedoms. So as we proudly fly the Stars and Stripes, we must be sure that they are homespun in the United States!

So as we approach the few months where we celebrate Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, I invite my colleagues and fellow patriots to join with me in honoring our American flag every day! Please join me in supporting H. Res. 1182

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1074

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1074, located in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania for celebrating their 75th anniversary this year. They will be acknowledging this great milestone on May 10, 2008 at a banquet to be held at the Spring Mill Firehouse. The Post has a proud tradition of public service and volunteerism and represents all the great works that our Nation's VFWs perform each year.

I am sure each of us in the House of Representatives has had the privilege to meet with constituents who are members of local VFWs, or perhaps fortunate to visit a local Post. The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Their work soon shifted to not only helping the brave men and women who served their country, but local neighbors and communities who also needed their help.

As their inspiring mission states: "Honor the dead by helping the living." VFWs support countless activities, through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.3 million members in approximately 8,400 Posts worldwide.

Post 1074 is led by Post Commander Andrew Duncan, and continues to make a dif-

ference in our community, including maintaining the beautiful War Memorial Statue located at Second Avenue and Fayette Street in Conshohocken, PA. The VFW proudly notes that its members and its auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism in our area each year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the honorable work, dedication and service of the men and women in VFW Post 1074. They continue to improve our local communities through their volunteer efforts, and show why members of the United States armed services are not only the best on the battlefield, but also when they return home.

TRIBUTE TO CARL MONTANTE, THE CANISIUS COLLEGE 2008 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENT

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carl Montante on receiving the Canisius College 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award. Carl will be honored at the Canisius College Board of Regents Scholarship Ball on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Carl is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellowman.

A devoted Western New York native, Carl and his four siblings were born and raised in Buffalo, NY where he continues to give back to his community. He attended Canisius College and, in 1967, he earned his law degree from the University of Buffalo Law School. After practicing law in Buffalo, Carl founded the Uniland Development Company in 1974. As President and Managing Director of Uniland, he oversees the company's operations and property developments in Buffalo-Rochester corridor.

Carl is involved in several organizations in his community including the Holy Angels Academy, The BISON Scholarship Fund, and the Foundation of the Diocese of Buffalo. He is former Chairman of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Fund and National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and serves on the Boards of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and Catholic Health System.

Perhaps most notable is Carl's service and contribution to his alma mater, Canisius College. Carl has served in numerous leadership capacities including as chair of the Canisius College Board of Trustees from 1997-2001. Carl and his wife, Carol Ann, recently committed \$5.1 million to the college for the development of an interdisciplinary science center. The Montante family's donation is the largest in the Canisius' history. I applaud his desire to give back to his community and believe his contributions to education and science will

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

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

have a great impact on the future of Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Carl J. Montante for this great honor and applaud him for his service and dedication to the Western New York community. I wish Carl and his family the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MULTIPLE  
SCLEROSIS SOCIETY AND THEIR  
NOBLE CAUSE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, every hour in the United States someone new is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It is a lasting disease which attacks the central nervous system, and can be extremely disabling. This week the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is in town to promote awareness of people living with MS—approximately 400,000 Americans and 2.5 million people worldwide.

Many Americans know a person living with multiple sclerosis, a mother or father, a son or daughter, another family member or friend, or maybe even a colleague. For me, it was a member of my staff. This brave and strong woman inspired me to get more involved in the battle to live in a world free of multiple sclerosis.

As a medical doctor prior to coming to Congress, I'm working to find sensible solutions for the health care challenges that Americans face. As the co-chair of the newly formed Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus, I intend to bring the needs of those individuals into the larger discussion of quality health care.

Madam Speaker, we must work together to improve access to quality health services, to break down barriers, and to make MS therapies more affordable. I ask other Members of the House to join me in this noble cause. We must always remember that behind every statistic is the face of a family member or friend. We have a shared responsibility to offer help and hope. There is no better time than now to begin offering it.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN JAQUETTE  
AND SUE WILSON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize high school athletic trainers Brian Jaquette of Fort Dodge High School and Sue Wilson of Johnston High School, for their quick thinking in treating a football player who suffered serious internal injuries during a football game last fall.

The injured football player was tended to by Jaquette and Johnston, who decided that his abdominal pain was serious enough to call for an ambulance. It turned out that the injured player was suffering from a ruptured gall bladder, which would have caused blood poisoning and possibly death if left untreated. Were it not for Jaquette and Johnston's accurate initial examination and determination, it is unlikely

that his injury would have been treated in time.

The quick thinking and calm demeanor displayed by these two athletic trainers serves as a wonderful example to all those who care for others. I commend Sue Wilson and Brian Jaquette for their outstanding professional work and dedication to the young athletes they serve. I am honored to represent each of them in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best in their careers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND  
JUDY ALVAREZ

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Judy Alvarez by entering their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez for being awarded with the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2008 Home-Based Business of the Year, sponsored by the SBA's Nevada District Office.

RJ Communications Concepts, LLC was established by Bob and Judy Alvarez in 1995. The company began as a home based business and represents a culmination of the couple's combined 60-plus years of work within the telecommunications industry. Their experience, hard work, and dedication quickly resulted in the company expanding beyond the walls of the Alvarez's home.

Today, the company covers a wide range of services. The distribution of electronic components and testing equipment comprises over half of the company's business. The company also provides services for multiple fields, including information technology supplies, consulting, training equipment and business provisions.

In addition to the professional accomplishments, Bob and Judy have been good community partners to a variety of local non-profit organizations in Southern Nevada. Through their company, Bob and Judy helped organizations including the North Las Vegas Boys and Girls Club, the Nathan Adelson Hospice and the Sunrise Children's Foundation, among others. According to Judy Alvarez, "We feel a level of social responsibility . . . Even if you're small you can still do something." Additionally, as a former member of the U.S. Air Force, Bob and his wife, Judy has also provided assistance to Nellis Air Force Base.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Judy Alvarez for their accomplishments as small business owners, their contributions to the Southern Nevada community, and for their recognition by the SBA as the 2008 Home-Based Business of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE DON BOSCO  
WRESTLING TEAM

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Don Bosco wrestling team at the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines this past winter.

Don Bosco rolled to its third straight Class 1A title with a stunning 81 point win over New London/WMU. This win set a new class record with 175.5 points. Also celebrating his third straight win was Bart Reiter, a junior, who became a three-time state champion and joins only 13 other three-time winners this decade.

I congratulate Don Bosco for winning the Iowa Class 1A state championship. The last team to win three in a row was Lisbon from 1988–1990.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Don Bosco wrestling team, both on and off the mat, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

HONOR POLICE OFFICERS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. In a few days, thousands of police officers from around the country will travel to Washington, DC for National Police Week.

This occasion provides Congress with the opportunity to honor those who have given their lives to protect our families, constituents, and communities.

In my district, "The Memorial Wall" stands in the San Antonio Police Academy's courtyard and lists the names of those forty-eight officers who have sacrificed their lives while fighting to keep San Antonio's neighborhoods safe and crime-free for our children.

We can honor their legacies and the lives of other police officers by bringing legislation to the floor that will help Federal, State and local law enforcement officials combat crime.

For example, the bill Congressman FORBES and I introduced, H.R. 3156, the "Violent Crime Control Act of 2007," would do just that.

Why is the Democratic leadership in Congress stalling crime legislation?

KEEP STARRETT CITY  
AFFORDABLE

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the need for additional affordable housing across the nation. Financial planners suggest that families devote 30 percent of their income to paying for housing costs. But for many families across the country such a rule of thumb sounds more like a pipe dream. According to the 2006 American Community Survey, twenty-five percent of renters across the

nation spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent. Nationwide, there are 9 million extremely low-income households but only 6 million units renting at affordable prices, leaving a shortage of 3 million affordable housing units.

In my hometown of New York City, 28 percent of renters are paying more than half of their income for rent. Keeping the Starrett City development in Brooklyn affordable is critical. Starrett City is the Nation's largest government-subsidized rental housing complex. It was designed in the 1970s as a subsidized, middle-class co-operative under New York State's Mitchell-Lama program. It is home to 12,000 residents in nearly 6,000 housing units. Most of the residents of Starrett City live on annual gross incomes of about \$20,000 to \$40,000 and the average subsidized rent is \$200–\$400.

I, along with my colleague from New York, Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS, requested that the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity hold a field hearing in New York City following an attempt to sell Starrett City that jeopardized the complex's affordability. The hearing was held in July 2007 and investigated the impact of affordable housing sales on housing costs in New York City.

Mr. TOWNS' legislation before the House today will allow owners and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to convert the current subsidy contracts that are in place at Starrett City into a new, 20-year Section 8 contract. This will ensure that a new owner can secure the long-term financing necessary to keep Starrett City affordable and its tenants in their homes.

Without this legislation, Starrett City's owners would likely opt out of their Section 8 contract and convert Starrett City to market-rate housing, further contributing to the lack of affordable housing in New York City.

I thank my colleague, Mr. TOWNS and support his legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 294.

#### PASS A CLEAN AND HONEST SUPPLEMENTAL

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, American men and women are on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism defeating our enemies abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. Unfortunately, at home, Democrats are threatening to push through an emergency war supplemental spending bill, without committee consideration, that includes unrelated spending.

Funding for our troops should be priority number one. However, it is not the time nor the place to add additional spending on top of what our military has requested in an effort to push it through on the coattails of our bravest and brightest. If the majority wishes to increase spending on other programs unrelated to the Global War on Terrorism, then they should bring those requests up under regular order—not hidden in an emergency troop funding bill.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen has made it clear, this supplement spending bill is vital to our security. Without passage of the supplemental, our soldiers will stop getting their paychecks and our ability to equip our troops will be undermined.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

#### IN HONOR OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SULLIVAN'S NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOSPITALITY STUDIES

##### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Sullivan University's National Center for Hospitality Studies, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Nearly four thousand students have graduated from NCHS and gone on to impact the culinary, travel, and hospitality fields. The impact of Sullivan's exceptional program can be felt throughout the nation, from Las Vegas to New Orleans and many lucky cities in between, but nowhere—I am pleased to say—has NCHS and its alumni had a greater influence than in my hometown of Louisville.

On any given weekend night, there are over 600 Sullivan students working in our community's hotels and restaurants. Alumni include many of our city's finest chefs and restaurateurs, who have helped ensure that Derby week, when our town becomes the nation's top tourist destination, visitors will leave raving about more than just horse races.

But while I certainly recommend it, one does not need to come to Louisville to recognize the excellence of the program. President and CEO A.R. Sullivan has assembled an award winning faculty, including program director Chef Tom Hickey, a Culinary Olympics medal winner who has overseen culinary operations for presidential inaugurations; catering department chair chef Kimberly Jones, who has developed nationally renowned recipes and catered some of the world's highest profile events; chef John Castro, our local celebrity chef who bested the competition on the TV Food Network's Throw Down with Bobby Flay and has been featured on the Travel Channel; and baking and pastry department chef, the nationally ranked Derek Spendlove, who won a gold medal in the 1988 Culinary Olympics.

That faculty and leadership has helped Sullivan's Culinary Competition team win 291 medals, including Southeast Regional Pastry Chef of the Year in 2008 and Southeast Regional Champions in 2001, 2004 and 2005. The school was the first culinary school in America to be invited to cook at New York's prestigious James Beard House.

The alumni list of four-star chefs has the length of a school celebrating its centennial. Still for all that has been accomplished through NCHS in a quarter century, the promise for the future is equally bright. The program now builds on a proud tradition where students and alumni never cease to exceed our highest expectations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Sullivan University's National Center for Hospitality Studies on the last twenty five years of distinction and to wish the center the best as it continues to satisfy our taste for excellence in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING NANCY BRINKER, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, ON HER BEING NAMED ONE OF THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

##### HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Brinker for the recognition she has received from Time Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Nancy grew up in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois, and all of us are extremely proud of her many accomplishments in diplomacy and in the health care arena.

As White House Chief of Protocol and previously as President Bush's Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary, Nancy has fostered meaningful, positive relationships for the United States around the world and advanced a broad range of U.S. security and economic interests.

But Peorians know her best for her role as founder of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure after promising her sister, Susan, that she would fight to end breast cancer forever. Named after Susan, who died from breast cancer in 1980, the foundation is now recognized as the Nation's leading catalyst in the fight against breast cancer. It all began with a race in Dallas, followed by one in Peoria, and now there are over 112 races with over a million participants. Research is the key to finding a cure for this disease, and with the financial assistance of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, much progress has been made. The success of this foundation and its mission is known throughout the world.

In the words of Cokie Roberts' tribute in the Times article, "When Nancy Brinker meets up with her sister, Susan G. Komen, on the other side of the pearly gates, she will be able to say, "I did what you asked." And, in the process, she will have helped millions who suffer from this dreaded disease.

PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION  
TO STATES INCARCERATING UN-  
DOCUMENTED ALIENS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which will help State and local governments in Colorado by reimbursing them for the costs of holding aliens charged with crimes.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP, was originally created to provide financial assistance to States and localities for costs they incur as a result of incarcerating criminal aliens. However, now they are only reimbursed for a portion of these expenditures.

H.R. 1512 amends the law to reflect the original intent of Congress, namely to provide financial assistance to States and localities for costs they incur as a result of incarcerating aliens who are either charged with or convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors.

The SCAAP program was created in 1994. It is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, BJA, part of the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs OJP. The Department of Homeland Security aids BJA in administering the program by verifying the immigration status (or lack of status) of those for whom States seek reimbursement.

Current law authorizes the appropriation of \$950 million annually over the 2008–2011 period for SCAAP. For fiscal year 2007, the authorization level for the program was \$850 million, and the Congress appropriated about \$400 million. In 2007, however, States and localities applied to SCAAP for reimbursements totaling over \$950 million.

In 2003, the Department of Justice reinterpreted the statute establishing SCAAP so that reimbursement is made only if: (1) the criminal alien is convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors; and (2) the arrest and conviction occurred in the same fiscal year. The result has been a drastic reduction in the amount of reimbursements received by Colorado and other States.

H.R. 1512 restores SCAAP as it was originally intended by permitting States and localities to be reimbursed for the costs of incarcerating aliens who are either "charged with or convicted" of a felony or two misdemeanors, regardless of the fiscal year of the incarceration and conviction.

I have long supported making this overdue change, which will help many Colorado jurisdictions, and I urge approval of this essential measure.

MACOMB COUNTY SCHOOLS EARN  
BLUE RIBBON STATUS

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this week the Michigan Board of Education designated five schools across the entire State as Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools. You might

ask why this is significant. Well, I will tell you why.

The Blue Ribbon is the most prestigious education award in the state and it distinguishes schools for their excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement and community support.

Well, I am proud to inform you that 2 of these schools reside in the 10th Congressional District.

Powell Middle School Bulldogs in Romeo and Malow Junior High Mustangs in Shelby Township rightfully earned this prestigious distinction. The Bulldogs and Mustangs under went a rigorous examination process which even included on site visits from state education officials.

Under the leadership of Principal Jeffrey LaPerriere, Powell became the first school in the Rome Community School District to receive this honor. On the other hand, Malow Principal Robert Hock continued Utica Community School District's strong Blue Ribbon tradition by becoming the 22nd school to get the award.

I commend all the teachers, parents and students for their steadfast commitment and dedication to achieve such a remarkable accomplishment! This is a great day for all Macomb County schools so congratulations on a job well done!

LAWRENCE SUMMERS EXPLAINS  
WHY "A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE  
HEALTHY GLOBALISATION MUST  
RELY ON STRENGTHENING EF-  
FORTS TO REDUCE INEQUALITY  
AND INSECURITY"

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it has been common for those who support increased trade without any accompanying policies to address the impact on foreign and domestic workers to dismiss arguments for such policies as mere protectionism, lacking any economic justification.

In the Financial Times, Monday May 5th, one of the leading economists in the country, former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, refutes this effort to dismiss our concerns. As former Secretary Summers says, some of the "opposition to trade agreements and economic internationalism more generally, reflect a growing recognition by workers that what is good for the global economy and its business champions was not necessarily good for them, and that there were reasonable grounds for this belief."

Lawrence Summers has been and is a strong supporter of increased trade. But unlike many others who have stuck with a far less sophisticated analysis, ignoring contemporary reality, Secretary Summers explains why the current globalized economy means that trade can have a negative impact on some workers in higher wage countries. As he notes, "in an open economy, where investments in innovation, brands, a strong corporate culture or even in certain kinds of equipment can be combined with labour from anywhere in the world, workers no longer have the same stake

in productive investment by companies as it becomes easier for corporations to combine their capital with lower priced labour overseas. . . . Moreover businesses can use the threat of relocating as a lever to extract concessions. . . . Inevitably the cost of these concessions is borne by labour."

Madam Speaker, the economic explanation given by Secretary Summers is not meant by him as an argument against trade, but rather as an argument for accompanying continued expansion of trade with appropriate public policies that deal with some of these effects, and recognize that while trade has overall beneficial effects for the economy, the distribution of the costs and benefits are far from uniform. And the New York Times for Tuesday, May 6th, illustrates the economic reality that gives rise to the political opposition to increased trade and internationalization that Secretary Summers notes—as the Times article of that date noted, "In inflation adjusted terms . . . weekly wages have slipped by 1.3 percent since late 2006."

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge leaders in the business community and others who would like to see further progress towards internationalization to read and understand Secretary Summers' economic analysis, and the very thoughtful public policy recommendations he includes that stem from this analysis. And because I can think of no more important contribution to the debate about economic policy in America, I ask that Secretary Summers' very important essay be printed here.

[From the Financial Times, May 5, 2008]

A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE HEALTHY  
GLOBALISATION

(By Lawrence Summers)

Last week, in this column, I argued that making the case that trade agreements improve economic welfare might no longer be sufficient to maintain political support for economic internationalism in the U.S. and other countries. Instead, I suggested that opposition to trade agreements, and economic internationalism more generally, reflected a growing recognition by workers that what is good for the global economy and its business champions was not necessarily good for them, and that there were reasonable grounds for this belief.

The most important reason for doubting that an increasingly successful, integrated global economy will benefit U.S. workers (and those in other industrial countries) is the weakening of the link between the success of a nation's workers and the success of both its trading partners and its companies. This phenomenon was first emphasised years ago by Robert Reich, the former U.S. labour secretary. The normal argument is that a more rapidly growing global economy benefits workers and companies in an individual country by expanding the market for exports. This is a valid consideration. But it is also true that the success of other countries, and greater global integration, places more competitive pressure on an individual economy. Workers are likely disproportionately to bear the brunt of this pressure.

Part of the reason why U.S. workers (or those in Europe and Japan) enjoy high wages is that they are more highly skilled than most workers in the developing world. Yet they also earn higher wages because they can be more productive—their effort is complemented by capital, broadly defined to include equipment, managerial expertise, corporate culture, infrastructure and the capacity, for innovation. In a closed economy anything that promotes investment in productive capital necessarily raises workers'

wages. In a closed economy, corporations have a huge stake in the quality of the national workforce and infrastructure.

The situation is very different in an open economy where investments in innovation, brands, a strong corporate culture or even in certain kinds of equipment can be combined with labour from anywhere in the world. Workers no longer have the same stake in productive investment by companies as it becomes easier for corporations to combine their capital with lower priced labour overseas. Companies, in turn, come to have less of a stake in the quality of the workforce and infrastructure in their home country when they can produce anywhere. Moreover businesses can use the threat of relocating as a lever to extract concessions regarding tax policy, regulations and specific subsidies. Inevitably the cost of these concessions is borne by labour.

The public policy response of withdrawing from the global economy, or reducing the pace of integration, is ultimately untenable. It would generate resentment abroad on a dangerous scale, hurt the economy as other countries retaliated, and make us less competitive as companies in rival countries continue to integrate their production lines with developing countries. As Bill Clinton said in his first major international economic speech as president, "the United States must compete not retreat".

The domestic component of a strategy to promote healthy globalisation must rely on strengthening efforts to reduce inequality and insecurity. The international component must focus on the interests of working people in all countries, in addition to the current emphasis on the priorities of global-corporations.

First, the U.S. should take the lead in promoting global co-operation in the international tax arena. There has been a race to the bottom in the taxation of corporate income as nations lower their rates to entice business to issue more debt and invest in their jurisdictions. Closely related is the problem of tax havens that seek to lure wealthy citizens with promises that they can avoid paying taxes altogether on large parts of their fortunes. It might be inevitable that globalisation leads to some increases in inequality; it is not necessary that it also compromise the possibility of progressive taxation.

Second, an increased focus of international economic diplomacy should be to prevent harmful regulatory competition. In many areas it is appropriate that regulations differ between countries in response to local circumstances. But there is a reason why progressives in the early part of the 20th century sought to have the federal government take over many kinds of regulatory responsibility. They were concerned that competition for business across states, and their ease of being able to move, would lead to a race to the bottom. Financial regulation is only one example of where the mantra of needing to be "internationally competitive" has been invoked too often as a reason to cut back on regulation. There has not been enough serious consideration of the alternative—global co-operation to raise standards. While labour standards arguments have at times been invoked as a cover for protectionism, and this must be avoided, it is entirely appropriate that U.S. policymakers seek to ensure that greater global integration does not become an excuse for eroding labour rights.

To benefit the interests of U.S. citizens and command broadpolitical support, US international economic policy will need to focus on the issues in which the largest number of Americans have the greatest stake. A decoupling of the interests of businesses and nations may be inevitable; a decoupling of

international economic policies and the interests of American workers is not.

EDWARD EARNEST FOSTER:  
FIERCE ADVOCATE FOR VET-  
ERANS

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, representing the 36th district of California since 1992 has given me the opportunity to meet many veterans and learn their stories. One special veteran and friend, Ed Foster, has an incredible story—one I would like to share with my colleagues on the eve of his retirement from the Torrance Job Service Office.

Edward Earnest Foster enlisted in the Army at age 19, and served as a medic in the Korean war. As a medic, soldier and veteran, he has touched the lives of countless individuals. He has advanced the cause of veteran's rights throughout the South Bay, and I am not alone in expressing enormous gratitude for all he has done.

Ed received nine medals on his tours of duty in Korea, including a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor. With the same strength of character that got him those medals, he has fought on behalf of all veterans.

Locally, Ed's contributions have been invaluable. In his post at the State Employment Department's Torrance office, he has worked to make sure area veterans find the work and dignity they deserve.

Perhaps his most notable and lasting initiative is the "Visit a Vet" program, which promotes visits with veterans at VA hospitals to let them know they are not forgotten and thank them for their service. We should all heed his call of "let us not just think of our veterans on holidays but do it all year long."

Ed Foster is a tireless advocate for veterans everywhere, and a wonderfully dedicated man. He represents, to me, what it means to serve one's country for a lifetime. Ed retires this month at the young age of 76. On behalf of the entire community, I say thank you, on behalf of a grateful nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INTERNET FREEDOM AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008"

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Internet Freedom and Nondiscrimination Act of 2008," legislation that establishes an antitrust remedy for anti-competitive and discriminatory practices by broadband service providers. I am joined by Representative LOFGREN.

Over the last ten years, the Internet has gone from its infancy through a period of exponential growth. Today, it is estimated that over 1.3 billion people use the Internet—that is almost 20 percent of the world's population. In the last 7 years alone, the worldwide use of the Internet has jumped 265 percent.

The Internet has become the dominant venue for the expression of ideas and public discourse. From social networking to get-out-the-vote drives, the Internet is now a leading tool for speech and action. Web sites like Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, and Monster have changed the way people of all ages connect socially and professionally. Political candidates raise more money online with each election cycle. Newspaper Web sites and independent blogs have revolutionized the ways in which news and media are disseminated and consumed. And the Internet has opened up new performance venues to emerging artists and entertainers. In these and many other ways, the technological innovation in communication made possible by the Internet has made it among the most powerful outlets for creativity and free speech.

However, some of the Internet Service Providers, which control 96 percent of the residential market for high-speed Internet access, and are either monopolies or duopolies in most areas of the country, have proposed to give favored treatment to some Internet content and disfavored treatment to other content. Under these proposed business models, what treatment you get will be determined by how much you pay or, potentially, whether the Internet service provider approves of the content or whether the provider has a financial interest at stake. Under these regimes, many of the innovations and ideas that we have enjoyed on the Internet may never have occurred. We would never have had a Google search engine or YouTube videos if "pay to play" had been our national policy. To be sure, if we go in this direction, it will stifle both future technological innovation and free speech.

Rather than attempt regulation of the industry, we believe an antitrust remedy is the most appropriate way to deal with the problem. The antitrust laws exist to correct distortions of the free market, where monopolies or cartels have cornered the market, and competition is not being allowed to work. The antitrust laws can help maintain a free and open Internet.

The "Internet Freedom and Nondiscrimination Act of 2008" amends the Clayton Act to require that broadband service providers interconnect with the facilities of other network providers on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis. It also requires them to operate their network in a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner so that all content, applications and services are treated the same and have an equal opportunity to reach consumers. The bill expressly preserves the ability of broadband service providers to manage their network, so long as it is done in a nondiscriminatory manner, and the bill allows the operators to give priority to emergency communications and take reasonable and nondiscriminatory measures to prevent violations of the law.

Americans have come to expect the Internet to be open to everyone and everything. The Internet was designed without gatekeepers for new content and services and without centralized control. If we allow companies with monopoly or duopoly power to control how the Internet operates, start-up companies might never be able to offer their products, network providers could have the power to choose what content is available, and the artists and thinkers of our time could find their speech censored.

CONGRATULATING NURSE TONI  
HADDOX

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Toni Haddox, of Denton, Texas. Ms. Haddox has been recognized as one of the Great 100 Nurses of 2008 by the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives and Districts Three and Four of the Texas Nurses Association.

Ms. Haddox is a nurse at the Denton Regional Medical Center, which serves Denton, Wise, Cooke and Montague Counties. She is a perfect example of Denton Regional's mission in the community: she is a caring, compassionate person who exhibits passion, knowledge, and commitment to her patients and colleagues on a daily basis.

Each year this recognition is bestowed on nurses who embody excellence in the science and art of nursing. The chosen honorees belong to an array of professional organizations and work in a wide variety of clinical specialties. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized area nurses for their compassion and dedication. The recipients will be honored at a gala event on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to recognize Toni Haddox. It is an outstanding honor to represent both Ms. Haddox and her fellow nurses in the 26th District of Texas. Her constant vigilance and skill has made North Texas a better place, and her allegiance to her craft is nothing less than remarkable. I sincerely thank her for her service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO TIANNA SULLIVAN

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Osage High School senior Tianna Sullivan for helping to save the life of an elderly woman who had wandered away from a health care center.

In the early morning of January 20, 2008, Tianna was driving home in 14 degrees below zero weather and came upon 88-year-old Marguerite Miller. Marguerite was barefoot and clothed only in a hospital gown. Although Tianna was scared, she knew that Marguerite needed help immediately. Tianna attempted to get Marguerite in her car, but she was so cold and stiff that she could only clutch to Tianna for warmth. Tianna dialed 911 and stayed with Marguerite until Osage police officer Brian Wright arrived. Marguerite's body temperature had dropped to 90 degrees, and they had a difficult time getting her in the police car due to her stiffness from the cold. An ambulance then came and took Marguerite to Mitchell County Regional Hospital. Later, she was taken to the Iowa City hospital burn center to treat her frostbite injuries.

Tianna's heroic actions and quick thinking set an example for us all. Tianna's courage

goes above and beyond what is asked of us as citizens of this country, and her willingness to help a stranger in need illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for the safety of our fellow citizens. For this I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in offering Tianna our congratulations and thanks. I am extremely honored to represent Tianna in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACKIE  
DELANEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Jackie DeLaney by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Jackie DeLaney, President and CEO of Sun West Bank, for her small-business achievements throughout the Las Vegas community.

As the only female bank president and CEO in Nevada, Jackie DeLaney is credited with establishing the Sun West Bank in 1998 with one of the largest capital investments of any bank in the state. She established a board of directors and filed and received approval on all necessary regulatory applications. Sun West Bank is the only local bank owned by Nevada business professionals. The full-service bank offers a full array of business products and services including SBA and small business commercial loans as well as expansion financing. Sun West also works with the Nevada Small Business Development Center and other agencies to help entrepreneurs and prospective business owners examine how to assess their business models and understand the market.

Jackie's role at Sun West has shown a great level of devotion to the community and has been recognized by a number of community organizations for their charitable work. Sun West has also achieved national recognition for its dedication to America's Promise, which strives to improve the health and well being of America's youth. The bank has also raised funds for organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada, the Shade Tree Shelter, and Classroom on Wheels.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jackie DeLaney and would like to recognize her contributions to small businesses throughout the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving the Financial Services Champion of the Year for the 2008 Small Business Awards.

RECOGNIZING HOMES FOR OUR  
TROOPS

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Home for Our Troops

as it holds its fifth annual event in my district in Troy, Michigan, on May 10, 2008.

Homes for Our Troops is a nonprofit organization that provides specially adapted homes for our severely injured servicemembers. The organization is able to provide assistance at no cost to the veterans that they serve through a growing network of monetary contributions, donations from building contractors, suppliers, corporate supporters, and local volunteers.

John Gonsalves started Homes for Our Troops in 2004 after watching a news report of a severely injured servicemember who had returned from Iraq. He thought to himself, "What happens to our severely injured veterans once they return?" Mr. Gonsalves searched for an organization where he could donate his building expertise for a few weeks, but when he found out that none existed, he quit his contractor job and started Homes for Our Troops. Since its founding, Homes for Our Troops has provided 25 veterans and their families with homes suited to meet the physical challenges they face after returning with life-altering injuries.

The continued efforts of Homes for Our Troops has gained national recognition. In fact, the American Institute of Philanthropy has named them as one of their Top-Rated Charities of 2007. They have the honor of being one of only five veterans charities included in the top-rated category. This honor not only displays the breadth of their efforts, but also the speed and efficiency of their delivery.

Madam Speaker, I salute Homes for Our Troops for their tireless efforts on behalf of our courageous men and women in the armed services. Theirs is a shining example of the altruism that embodies the American spirit.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA  
HONORAIR VETERANS

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On May 10, 2008, a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC, on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
RONALD D. BROWN

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Monday, the city of Atlanta lost one of its most

influential residents and a pillar of the community, Ronald Brown.

Ron Brown was the head of Atlanta Life Financial Group, a company that is a historic institution. The 103-year-old company was founded by a former slave by the name of Alonzo Herndon and is the oldest and largest black-owned, privately held insurance company in the country. Ron was a major factor in Atlanta Life's success.

Ron Brown expanded the company's scope from strictly an insurance business to diversifying into three divisions: Atlanta Life Insurance Co., Atlanta Life Investment Advisors and Jackson Securities. Atlanta Life Financial possesses \$16 billion in policies and manages \$1 billion in assets. While achieving great business success, Ron advocated that companies have not only a responsibility to make a profit but to also get involved within its community. Ron served on corporate and civic boards. He was a big believer of providing opportunities to children, sharing business experiences with them and meeting with student groups at the company headquarters.

Ron Brown accomplished much in his life. Through the many fruits of his labors from a life that was cut too short, Ron's impact will live on. With his passing, Atlanta has lost a figure of good and of progress.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Guam Community College (GCC) and to congratulate the institution on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Guam Community College, established in November 1977 by Guam Public Law 14-77, became our premier institution for vocational, skilled trade and technical education when it assumed the programs and missions of its predecessor, the Trade and Technical High School and the Vocational High School of the Guam Department of Education.

GCC's leadership at both secondary and post-secondary levels is realized through its offering of over 50 courses of study in vocational programs, adult and continuing education, community education, and short-term specialized training. Designed to target student populations within the Asia-Pacific Rim and the Micronesia region, GCC courses prepare students through job development and training based on community needs and trade demands.

The small communities within the region, and the distance from mainland learning institutions, are contributing factors to the GCC's mission. With a diverse offering in curriculum and training programs, the college caters to these communities by offering ease of access to higher education. The main college campus, located in Mangilao, Guam, accommodates a population of 2,000 students. Off-campus and satellite options allow for distance learning, and on-campus courses equip students with expert and on-the-job training through partnerships with Guam businesses,

organizations, and government entities. Through internships and apprenticeships, GCC has been successful in nurturing local talent to contribute to our island's economy.

GCC maintains membership in the prestigious educational organizations of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Pacific Post-Secondary Educational Council, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the League of Innovation for Community Colleges. Accreditation has been awarded by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 1979. Additionally, under the United States Vocational Education Act of 1946, 1963, and subsequent amendments, GCC has served as the State Board of Control for vocational education for Guam.

GCC has been a consistent leader in the region for education. True to its mission to provide students with training for life-long learning, GCC offers opportunities for specialized learning through programs such as English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, General Education Development (GED) preparation and testing, and an Adult High School Diploma.

During this 30th anniversary, I join the people of Guam in recognizing the foresight and vision of GCC's past presidents: Dr. Herominiano delos Santos, John T. Cruz, Jose Ramos, Peter Nelson, Dr. Stanley B. Malkin, and Dr. John C. Salas. We also recognize the current and past chairs of the Board of Trustees: Gina Y. Ramos, Juan Tenorio, Charles Spero, Dr. Antonio Yamashita, Dr. John C. Salas, Richard Tennessen, Jose Munoz, Atanacio T. Diaz, Greg Perez, and Adolpho Sgambelluri. The vision of these individuals has culminated today into the leadership of president Mary Ann Y. Okada, vice president of academic affairs John R. Rider, Ed.D., and vice president of administrative services John C. Camacho.

With the commitment, dedication, and leadership of Guam Community College's officers, board of trustees, faculty, and students, GCC has become a symbol of the possibilities that exist within our island and our region. The college blends the talent and expertise of our government agencies, businesses and industries, community groups, and technical training establishments on Guam. These valuable and strategic partnerships have increased trade and technical capabilities in the community leading to greater opportunities and success for its students and our islands.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to recognize the 30 years of education and community service of the Guam Community College. I commend and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAY RUIZ SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of representing the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which, throughout its history, has played a critical role in keeping our Nation safe from the many threats we

have faced and continue to face today. Many of the men and women who have worked there, and continue to work there, are patriots, doing some of the Nation's most important work while hidden from the spotlight.

Tragically, many of these workers, unbeknownst to them, were exposed to cancer-causing doses of radiation during their employment. It has been a long, hard struggle for many of these employees to get compensation from the Federal Government, and many of them have passed away from the diseases they contracted in service to their country.

One of these heroes was New Mexico State Representative Ray Ruiz. Representative Ruiz was a LANL employee diagnosed with cancer as a result of his work for the lab. Tomorrow, May 9, marks the 4 year anniversary of his passing. From the time of his diagnosis to the time of his passing, Representative Ruiz worked tirelessly for a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) designation for LANL to ensure that the workers diagnosed with cancer did not have to face the same impossible burden of proof as he did—to convince the government that their work was responsible for their illness.

Following his passing, Representative Ruiz's wife, Harriet, not only was elected to fill her husband's seat in the State Legislature, but carried on the work to secure SEC designation for the workers at LANL. While there was an initial, narrow SEC approved to cover a very small class of workers at the lab, the Ruiz's work, and the work of many others, came as close to realization as it had to date when on July 22, 2007 a much broader SEC designation for LANL became effective.

The SEC covers hundreds of workers and their survivors diagnosed with radiogenic cancers who worked at the lab from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975. While this was an incredibly important development, and one that was long overdue, there are many workers who should be included in this SEC, but are not.

I know one worker, Madam Speaker, who suffers from radiogenic cancer, but just falls a few months short of the recently enacted SEC because he does not meet the requirements for number of days worked through 1975. Extend the SEC further, however, and he would certainly qualify for compensation.

This is particularly troubling considering NIOSH has already conceded that doses cannot be reconstructed for workers through 1975, but there are employees such as the one I just referred to who are denied compensation because of the cutoff date. NIOSH can no more reconstruct doses for employees of the lab in January 1976 than they can for employees of the lab in December of 1975. Yet post-1975 claimants are forced to undergo dose reconstruction during a period for which NIOSH concedes information is not available.

That is why today I am introducing the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act to both honor the late Representative Ruiz, and to also help fully realize his and his wife's work to provide compensation to all employees who contracted illnesses from radiation exposure at LANL. This legislation would expand the current LANL SEC to cover claimants at the lab up to the present so that any worker diagnosed with the illnesses stipulated under the current SEC and who meets a required 250 aggregated work days at LANL are covered. The important national security work being

conducted at the lab did not stop on December 31, 1975, and sadly, neither did the harmful exposures to radiation that has caused many of these cancers. Post-1975 claimants have done the same work and been diagnosed with the same illnesses. These radiogenic cancers are not constrained by calendar years, and nor should be the compensation to employees and their families.

Madam Speaker, claimants and their families have made great strides in achieving some small measure of justice from the Federal Government. There are many, however, who continue to fight the battle not only with their illnesses, but with the government simultaneously. The EEOICPA program was designed to put the burden of proof on the government, not on the claimant. Unfortunately, that has not been the way the program is operating. The SEC designation for LANL was an important step towards rectifying this situation, but the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act will help provide much deserved compensation to the many other cold war heroes who have tragically fallen through the cracks.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO WAPSIE VALLEY  
WARRIORS

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Wapsie Valley Warriors football team at the State Football Tournament in Cedar Falls this past fall.

Falling short in last year's championship game, the Warriors were determined to not let history repeat itself once again. The top ranked Warriors (13-0) would not disappoint, pushing to a 22-14 win over the Lawton-Bronson Eagles. For twelve Warrior seniors, it didn't get much better than that.

I congratulate the Warriors for winning the Iowa class A state championship. This hard fought journey to the championship title gives Wapsie its fourth state title in history and its first since 1997. It is especially rewarding with the added pressure of a number one ranking from the season's outset.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Warrior football team, both on and off the field, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

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COMMEMORATING DUANE  
MUNFORT HILL OF UKIAH, CALI-  
FORNIA FOR HIS OUTSTANDING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFFORD-  
ABLE HOUSING

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Duane Hill, affordable housing trailblazer and friend, upon his retirement after 33 years as founder and executive director of Rural Community Hous-

ing Development Corporation. Based in Ukiah, Mendocino County, RCHDC is Northern California's largest rural nonprofit housing development organization.

Duane Hill recognized the overwhelming need for affordable housing in rural areas when cities were receiving substantial housing subsidies and few resources were being distributed in rural areas. He assembled a board of influential volunteers and embarked on a campaign of community awareness and public education that led to the incorporation of the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation in 1975.

Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC grew from its original \$500 investment and staff of two to its current \$3.3 million operating budget with assets worth more than \$200 million. The agency has built 19 developments from the ground up that together provide 528 affordable rental apartments. By purchasing nine large housing developments, RCHDC also preserved 400 units of rental housing that were in danger of conversion to market-rate.

The agency has provided first-time homebuyers with more than 350 self-help homes in 30 subdivisions scattered throughout rural Northern California, and has 126 more in development. RCHDC now manages 1,000 affordable housing units and serves between 1500 and 2000 people annually. The agency also has \$30 million worth of future projects in the pipeline. In 2008, RCHDC will complete rehabilitation of 144 new units in Del Norte County, one of the most underserved areas of the State, as well as an additional 50 units in Humboldt County. In Kelseyville, RCHDC's new farm worker housing will not only provide agricultural workers with a suitable place to live, but will also help to ensure the viability of agriculture as an economic, employment and cultural resource for Lake County.

Duane's steadfast resolve to see projects through to completion, coupled with his uncanny ability to build consensus and marshal both human and financial resources has created an inventory of affordable housing stock that has served as both a home and a springboard to upward mobility for thousands of low-income rural Californians.

He is on the forefront of campaigns for housing bonds and community development funding. He built his own "self-help" home and started a program for RCHDC employees to do the same. Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC has become nationally recognized as an innovator in rural housing development. The California Housing Consortium inducted RCHDC into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame. Just last month, Duane received the prestigious National NeighborWorks Association's 2008 Lifetime Achievement award

Madam Speaker, Duane Hill has earned the respect of his colleagues and community. Through visionary leadership, technical expertise and quiet persuasion, Duane Hill has invented, built and sustained the community development movement in rural Northern California. For these reasons and for the lasting impact RCHDC continues to have in rural Northern California, it is appropriate that we honor Duane Munfort Hill.

NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER  
APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize May 9th 2008 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, this is an occasion to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for the children of working parents. Today, I join a chorus of state and local government proclamations, business and community events and the personal acknowledgment of providers by the parents themselves.

It takes a special kind of person to work in the childcare field, which is so critical to quality family life and the early childhood development of millions of Americans. Our Nation's childcare providers are all too often unsung heroes, making the recognition of National Child Provider Appreciation by this body that much more important.

Childcare is also an important component of our Nation's economy. The National Child Care Association has estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million childcare providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million under age 5 are in their care. Moreover, healthy families contribute immeasurably to healthy workplaces.

Many regions in my home State of Wyoming are experiencing population increases due to growth in the energy sector of our economy. Like other aspects of Wyoming's infrastructure, Wyoming's childcare community is being challenged by this growth and the increased demand for childcare services. I am proud to recognize Wyoming's childcare providers for their valuable contribution to Wyoming's communities in this time of transition.

With that, I commend our Nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

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COMMENDING AMTRAK ON  
NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of passenger rail in the United States and express my support for Amtrak in conjunction with National Train Day on May 10th, 2008.

National Train Day marks the 139th anniversary of the "golden spike" being driven into the ground at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The "golden spike" bound the last tie connecting the last rail that united the Central Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific Railroad, connecting the United States by rail from coast to coast.

The transcontinental railroad was born thanks to the support of President Abraham Lincoln. He, along with Civil War leaders, envisioned and planned the creation of the railroad. Not only did the completion of the railroad result in the ability to deliver goods and people across the country, it ultimately bound

the east with the west, further unifying the country as the divide between the North and the South was beginning to mend.

The transcontinental railroad was the first of its kind. It was an engineering marvel completed with great precision and speed. The railroad was an engineering wonder and it set the example for how transcontinental railroads would be built across Canada and Russia some 20 to 25 years later.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad created a new sense of wonder and enthusiasm for discovery and entrepreneurship across the country. It set the stage for a great migration of businessmen, created a new frontier for those seeking a new way of life, enabled faster movement of people and goods, and provided the country with a great opportunity to expand the economy.

Today, we are witnessing a rebirth of passenger rail in America. In the same way that the transcontinental railroad was critical to our Nation in the late 19th century, a strong national passenger rail system is vital today. In order to strengthen intercity passenger rail in this country, today I have introduced the "Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008".

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, more commonly known as Amtrak, operates a nationwide rail network, serving more than 500 destinations in 46 States over 21,000 miles of routes, with nearly 19,000 employees. Amtrak recently marked the beginning of its 38th year of operation. Our passenger rail service has come a long way since its beginnings in 1971, and has faced many challenges since, but continues to grow stronger with each passing year. Despite uneven Federal investment over the years, Amtrak has persevered, achieving many successes in improved operating efficiency, increased ridership, and higher revenue.

In fact, in FY 2007, Amtrak set a new ridership record for the fifth year in a row, exceeding 25.8 million passengers. At the same time, Amtrak increased ticket revenues by 11 percent to more than \$1.5 billion, a figure that increased for the third straight year. These successes are being enjoyed across Amtrak's entire network. In FY 2007, Amtrak held 56 percent of the air/rail market between New York and Washington and 41 percent of the market share between New York and Boston. This shows that where Amtrak is provided the resources to succeed, it provides a trip-time competitive alternative to air and car.

America needs to look toward Amtrak as we address our growing transportation needs. The Department of Transportation describes the problem of congestion on our highways and in the air as "chronic." Amtrak removes almost eight million cars from the road annually. Airports are experiencing significant delays too, with more than 400,000 flights departing or arriving late in 2006. Amtrak eases air congestion by eliminating the need for 50,000 fully loaded airplanes each year.

Amtrak is also a substantially more environmentally friendly mode of transportation than automobiles or airplanes. According to the World Resources Institute, rail transportation produces 57 percent less carbon emissions than airplanes, and 40 percent less carbon emissions than cars.

Madam Speaker, I lend my strong support to the commemoration of National Train Day on May 10, 2008, and encourage all of my

colleagues to use this excellent opportunity to reflect on the benefits that Amtrak and intercity passenger rail provide to our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHAUNDELL NEWSOME

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Shaundell Newsome by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Shaundell Newsome, President and CEO of Newsome Marketing Enterprises, for his role in promoting excellence in small business throughout the Las Vegas community.

At the age of 14, Shaundell began his love for marketing while he was attending the High School of Graphic Communication Arts. While he served 10 years in the United States Air Force, he greatly enhanced his communication skills by becoming the Morale Welfare and Recreations Coordinator for his squadron. Following his service in the military, Shaundell joined Station Casinos' Marketing Department, where he helped to successfully launch the company's popular Boarding Pass Rewards Program. He then went on to serve as the marketing director at Sante Fe Station. Looking for a way to focus his attention on providing practical yet "outside the box" marketing solutions for small businesses, Shaundell founded Newsome Marketing Enterprises in 2006.

While working to continue his newly established marketing firm, Shaundell was often recognized for his efforts to create professional opportunities for others, particularly in the minority-business community. As a board member for the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, he focused on creating new economic development opportunities for the non-profit organization. He also worked with Valley Center Opportunity Zone (VCOZ) to assist small minority businesses within the enterprise zone by presenting workshops, including his well-known "Marketers Anonymous—A 12 Step Plan". He often shares his expertise by giving personal consultation to various organizations and businesses. Shaundell also works closely with the Urban Chamber of Commerce and the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, playing a vital role in advocating for small businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Shaundell Newsome and would like to recognize his small-business accomplishments within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for the 2008 Small Business Awards.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAHIRA HIRA

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Tahira Hira's appointment to

President George W. Bush's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

On January 22, 2008, President Bush established the new Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, chaired by Charles Schwab. Dr. Hira is one of only 16 members appointed by President Bush. The Council's purpose is to help keep America competitive and assist the American people in understanding and addressing financial matters. The Council will work with the public and private sectors to help increase financial education in schools as well as for adults in the workplace.

Dr. Hira came to Iowa State University in 1980. She is the executive assistant to the university president and a professor of personal finance and consumer economics. Dr. Hira has been teaching and conducting research in family financial management, consumer credit, gambling, and consumer bankruptcy since 1976. She has published approximately 100 articles and book chapters and given approximately 200 national and international presentations in her field. Dr. Hira has also received various awards for her work and serves on several national committees and boards.

Dr. Hira's list of awards and accomplishments represents the valuable resource she has provided to Iowa State University and financial education in America. She certainly has earned her position on the President's Advisory Council, and I know she will excel in her special advisory role.

I commend Dr. Tahira Hira for her longstanding dedication and diligence to her profession and for her efforts to improve our Nation's financial literacy. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Hira in the U.S. Congress, and I wish her the best while serving on the President's Council and in her future work.

CONGRATULATING NURSE SUSAN COBB

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susan Cobb of Lewisville, Texas. Ms. Cobb has been named one of the Great 100 Nurses of 2008 by the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives. She is a nurse at the Medical Center of Lewisville.

The Medical Center's mission is to consistently provide high quality health services, information and education in an environment that is compassionate, professional, and responsive to its patients, physicians, and associates. Ms. Cobb is an excellent embodiment of this which her passion and commitment demonstrate.

Each year this recognition is bestowed on nurses who embody excellence in the science and art of nursing. The chosen honorees belong to an array of professional organizations and work in a wide variety of clinical specialties. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized area nurses for their compassion and dedication. The recipients will be honored at a gala event on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand today and recognize Susan Cobb. She provides an invaluable service to North Texas each and every day, and I join the community in thanking her for her devotion to saving lives. It is a privilege to represent Susan, and all our fine nurses, in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING HIGHLAND  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Highland Community College on 150 years of educating the good people of the state of Kansas. Chartered in 1858, Highland Community College was the first college in Kansas, and it has overcome many adversities to remain prosperous and respected to this day. Highland Community College offers a wonderful and necessary service to students who are trying to make more out of their lives.

Community colleges play an important and distinctive role in the American education system—they provide a world class education that is affordable and provides flexibility. Highland Community College facilitates programs for many non-traditional students all over the state of Kansas through its outreach program. It offers many night and weekend classes to those students whose lives can not be built around the typical student's schedule. A degree from Highland Community College will take any student far in life, and for some, it will be the push they needed to pursue additional degrees.

In Kansas, we believe that college should open doors, not close them, and that education should create opportunities, not debt. Sadly, instead of graduating with hope for their future, many of today's college students graduate with loan payments as far as the eye can see. In an increasingly competitive society, higher education is a necessity. Paying for and completing a higher education degree must be a realistic possibility for everyone. The great community colleges in Kansas, in particular Highland Community College, make that a reality for many students.

Highland Community College has made a commitment to providing a low-cost, high-value education. With their leadership, we'll move closer to the day when every Kansas student who wants to attend college can afford to do so and can receive a high quality education that fits their needs as an individual.

Highland Community College has served the State of Kansas and served it well. These words are a mere token of gratitude and cannot begin to repay the debt that we as Kansans owe members of the Highland community. Today, I congratulate Highland Community College on 150 years of success.

SUPPORTING SOLUTIONS TO THE  
HOUSING CRISIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support two important pieces of legislation that will both keep families in their homes, and increase the supply of affordable housing.

After years of lax regulatory oversight driven by the discredited ideology of the Bush administration and a rubber-stamp Republican Congress, our Nation is faced with a housing crisis. Sub-prime loans, once the darlings of Wall Street, are now adjusting upward and millions of families have lost their homes or are facing foreclosure. In just the first 3 months of 2008, over 113,000 foreclosure notices have gone out to families in California. President Bush has responded by providing a \$30 billion bailout to Bear-Stearns, a major cause of the mess in the first place. Today, the Democratic-led Congress is proposing a real solution that will assist real families, and all the President has offered is a veto threat.

I support both the Neighborhood Stabilization Act (H.R. 5818) and the Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221). Together, they offer a comprehensive approach that will protect families, stabilize home prices, and expand affordable housing options around the Nation.

This legislation will allow homeowners trapped in untenable mortgages to refinance into FHA-backed mortgages. Lenders and borrowers must each take responsibility by lowering the outstanding principal, and demonstrating an ability to repay, respectively. Requiring borrowers to provide a portion of resale profits to the government further lessens taxpayer exposure. The legislation also provides loans and grants to states to acquire foreclosed properties and turn them into affordable units for both sale and rent. Finally, this bill includes tax provisions aimed at assisting first-time homebuyers, easing the burden of property tax bills, and expanding financing of low-income housing projects.

Just as important is what this legislation does not do. Unlike the bill passed by the Senate, these bills do not provide irresponsible and unnecessary tax breaks to homebuilders, nor do they include a tax incentive to purchase foreclosed properties that would likely increase the number of foreclosures.

I urge all my colleagues to support both bills before us today, and vote for policies that will stem the tide of foreclosures and provide real help to struggling families. If the Federal Government can provide a handout to Wall Street, we can certainly offer a hand up to families.

TRIBUTE TO PARTICIPANTS IN 2008  
WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL  
FINALS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, from May 3–5, 2008, more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals

of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a group of outstanding students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Overland Park, Kansas, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won the statewide competition, earning the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally-acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With various reports and surveys that reveal the lack of civic knowledge and engagement, I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce enlightened and responsible citizens.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School are:

Hillary Bourquin, Rosemarie Boyles, Annie Clark, Michelle Coombs, Alexander Davidson, Blair Donahue, Maria Dudley, Jillian Falbre, Lauren Hannifan, Lisa Hartung, Sarah Hermes, Veronica Holton, Erin Jolley, Emily Majeris, Arica Maurer, Kirsten Milliard, Theresa Nelson, Angela Nigro, Daniel Obermeier, Courtney Pigott, Rose Reynolds, Amanda Schnieders, Jonathan Shoulta, Emily Stone, David Sullivan, Bryan Thelen, Brittany Wilderson, and Jerry Wohletz.

I also wish to commend the teachers of the class, Tim Lillis and Amy Person, who are responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the statewide competition and national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Lynn Stanley, the State coordinator, and Ken Thomas, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievements at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR  
MARY LOU RATH

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected and dedicated legislator, a valued educator and community leader, and close confidante and dear friend who, for more than three decades, has dedicated her life and service to her neighbors in Western New York.

State Senator Mary Lou Rath is one of the most respected legislators in our area—proof that elected service is a noble calling. Mary Lou has always been the voice of reason, and proved time and time again that her only agenda was to serve and fight for the people of Western New York.

After spending 30 years in public service, Mary Lou announced recently that she will retire from the New York State Senate. She surely be missed, leaving behind a legacy of fighting for quality health care, serving as a champion for women across New York State, and taking on issues big and small that made a real difference in the lives of those she represented.

Mary Lou was first elected to public office in 1977 as an Erie County Legislator and earned both the support of her constituents and the trust of her colleagues, who elevated her to the post of Republican Leader. In 1994, she became the first woman ever to serve the 61st District in the New York State Senate. In the State Senate, Mary Lou earned a reputation as a hard working and compassionate representative.

Mary Lou also earned a statewide reputation for her efforts to reform Medicaid and curtail the sky-rocketing costs of health care. Additionally, she worked hard to advance her smart growth initiatives, end domestic violence and ensure that all children have a quality education.

In 1997, Mary Lou was inducted in the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute for a woman who has been such a positive role model and inspiration to women across New York. Not only did Mary Lou have a distinguished professional career, but along with her husband, the late Supreme Court Justice Edward A. Rath, Jr., raised a wonderful family in whom she instilled the values of public service.

The name Rath not only invokes the best in public service, it is, in a word, iconic in our community. The County Office building bears the name of her father-in-law, Edward A. Rath, Erie County's first-ever chief executive. Her son, Edward A. Rath III, is the third generation of family public servants, a member of the Erie County Legislature, elected to a seat once held by his mother.

Despite all her achievements in public life, I know from my long friendship with the Rath family that Mary Lou's greatest accomplishment is her loving family, her children Allison, Melinda, and Ed, and her eight grandchildren.

She is very deserving of the honor she will receive from the YWCA on May 10th, 2008 for her contributions to Batavia and Genesee County.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of her tremendous service of more than 30 years, for her leadership, dedication and lasting legacy she leaves, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring my friend and colleague, New York State Senator Mary Lou Rath, in grateful appreciation for her distinguished career and devoted service to the people of Western New York.

THE ENHANCEMENT OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND READJUSTMENT THROUGH EDUCATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, we are forever indebted to the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of our Armed Forces who have fought and continue to fight for our freedom. Though we can never truly repay the debt we owe them, we have a solemn duty to honor their service with more than mere words.

One important benefit for veterans is the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which provides funding for education and training to veterans after their service. Since its inception, the Montgomery G.I. Bill has helped millions of service members. But, Mr. Speaker, it's long past the time when we should modernize this important law.

Today, with my colleagues, I introduced The Enhancement of Recruitment, Retention, and Readjustment Through Education Act of 2008. This legislation enhances the existing G.I. Bill by improving education benefits for servicemembers, veterans, and members of the Guard and Reserve. The legislation will help more military personnel attend college debt free, and allow them to transfer their education benefits to their spouse or children. It also bolsters recruitment and retention efforts, encouraging servicemembers to continue their military careers in support of the all-volunteer force of today. Specifically this legislation would:

Provide an immediate increase in education benefits for active duty personnel to \$1500 a month, and to improve retention, those benefits increase to \$2000 a month after 12 or more years of service.

Significantly increase benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves.

Provide transferability, allowing service members to transfer their education benefits to dependents. After 6 years of service, half of the benefit may be transferred and after 12 years of service 100 percent may be transferred to a spouse or dependent children.

Allow servicemembers to use up to \$6,000 per year of G.I. Bill education benefits to repay Federal student loans.

Create a matching program to help more veterans graduate debt-free. Up to an additional \$3,000 per year could be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs in return.

Allow access to Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits for service academy graduates and Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps officers who continue serving.

Build on existing educational benefits program to ensure rapid implementation with minimal additional administrative costs.

On behalf of the over 30 million veterans in the United States who stand to benefit, I am very excited to introduce this legislation. While we can never fully repay the service and sacrifice so many brave Americans have made and continue to make on behalf of our nation, we must ensure they receive access to the kind of benefits they deserve.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL GARRY W. MCCLENDON

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to LTC Garry McClendon. Lieutenant Colonel McClendon has served our Nation in the Army for 25 years and as commanding officer for the Anniston Defense Munitions Center and Holston Army Ammunition Plant since June 2006.

Mr. McClendon's distinguished career began in 1983 as an Ammunition Stock Control and Accounting Specialist. Subsequent assignments with the Army included tours of duty in Southwest Asia, Fort Bragg, NC, Germany, Fort Lee, Virginia, and Camp Able Sentry in Macedonia.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel McClendon for his 25 years of service to the United States, and wish him all the best in his next endeavors.

RISING ABOVE THE GATHERING STORM: TWO YEARS LATER

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a speech I gave to the National Academies' convocation on April 29, 2008 on the second anniversary of the release of the "Gathering Storm." I was honored to have had the opportunity to address some of our nation's top business, academic, and scientific leaders at the convocation.

As you may recall, the report painted a very bleak picture of our Nation's high-tech workforce, innovation, and global competitiveness. It prompted swift congressional action to authorize new funding and resources to bolster our science and high-tech workforce, culminating with the enactment of the America COMPETES Act last fall.

However, I am concerned that we still have much work to do to secure our economic future in this global marketplace. And we will never be competitive if we cannot get the Federal Government's finances in order and begin to reduce our dependency on foreign debt.

Madam Speaker, my address as prepared to the "Gathering Storm" convocation follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to address this gathering. As the fourth of five "congressional perspectives" on the program this morning, I'm reminded of the old Congressman Mo Udall quote: "Everything has been said but not everyone has said it."

First, I want to thank you all for your efforts. I am pleased that so many of our nation's science, business, and government leaders have once again gathered to discuss this most pressing of issues challenging the United States.

Perhaps the greatest success of the "Gathering Storm" report thus far is the tremendous awareness and urgency it has raised among the American people.

It was only a few years ago, in 2005, that Rep. Vernon Ehlers, Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, and I went to the White House to urge the administration to make this a priority.

With the support of the councils of National Academies of Science and Engineering, we announced a national summit on science, technology, engineering, and manufacturing at the Department of Commerce which helped lead to the creation of the Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century.

I want to thank Norm Augustine and the other members of the committee who helped educate me to the critical importance of this as I served as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee funding these programs.

I appreciate President Bush for laying out the American Competitiveness Agenda in his 2006 State of the Union and his support for more funding this year.

Congress followed suit and adopted many recommendations from the "Gathering Storm" report into the America COMPETES Act which was signed into law last year.

I appreciate the leadership of Science Committee Chairman Bart Gordon and Ranking Member Ralph Hall in the House, as well as Sen. Lamar Alexander in the Senate for seeing this bill through.

It is rare in Washington that good ideas move so far, so fast. And it is in many ways a testament to the people in this room who tirelessly worked to educate Congress, the Administration, business community, and the American people.

There is so much more work to be done. We have been successful in raising public awareness of these issues, but we have barely begun to turn the page in meeting our workforce and innovation demands.

I worry that we still graduate half the number of physicists that we did in 1956—before Sputnik spurred our last "great awakening" in science and engineering.

I worry that one-third to half of those we graduate with science and engineering degrees are foreign students; and most of them will return to their home countries rather than applying their skills in the U.S.

I worry that U.S. patents are down and our companies are spending more on tort legislation than on research and development.

I worry that tests still show that one-third of U.S. students lack the competency to perform the most basic mathematical computations.

I worry that half of the money we made available for grants for college students in STEM fields is going unused.

I worry that our edge in aerospace research is in danger. Our historic prominence in automobiles and electronics manufacturing has long since eroded; we cannot afford to lose our aerospace leadership.

I worry about losing competitiveness with China—they may even beat us back to the moon.

I worry about the country my children and grandchildren will live in if we fail to deal with this.

But you don't need me to rattle off any more statistics. The real experts will help put these trends and developments in context later today.

Instead, I'd like to talk about a different, yet inextricably linked, issue that is further undermining our competitiveness. To turn Udall's phrase, I would like to talk about something that hasn't been said, in hopes that everyone will say it.

While we are working hard to stave off the "Gathering Storm," we are losing sight of the tsunami right off our coasts—a tsunami of debt. Former Comptroller General David Walker calls this tsunami powerful enough to "swamp our ship of state."

This is particularly relevant as we consider the state of our nation's competitiveness. If we can't pay for our current obligations, how can we begin to afford the resources we will need to compete globally in the twenty-first century?

These two efforts go hand-in-hand.

America is \$9 trillion deep in federal debt, and the Government Accountability Office has estimated \$54.3 trillion in unfunded promised benefits if we don't change our current course. That's trillions, with a "T".

The Social Security and Medicare Trustees reports issued last month only reinforce the dire condition of our fiscal health. Both reports make very clear that we must address these tremendous shortfalls very soon.

The U.S. dollar is dropping like a rock—it lost 15 percent against the Euro last year.

Gasoline reached \$120 per barrel this week.

What will happen when the well runs dry and we no longer have money for the vital technology programs that we're discussing today?

How will we remain competitive when there is no money to fund science and math education initiatives? Our children can't compete in the global marketplace if we can't provide U.S. students with a first-class education.

How will we remain competitive when there is no money to fund medical research? Without discretionary funding to develop cutting-edge technology, advance research, and perform clinical trials, we will not be able to make critical strides toward cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, autism, and other devastating diseases.

How will we remain competitive when there is no money to fund our infrastructure?

How will we remain competitive when there is no money to pay for the National Science Foundation and NASA? America will no longer be able to provide leadership and inspiration to the rest of the world.

These bleak scenarios only scratch the surface of how concerned we should be about America's future. These are the realities we face.

Sadly, much of this falls on deaf ears in Washington. So many bright people delude themselves into thinking that we have a long-term plan to bring our finances into order.

The long-term has arrived. The next President will have to address this.

It reminds me of the refrain from songwriter Paul Simon's "The Boxer": "Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest." That could describe Congress's and Wall Street's reaction, or lack thereof, to the financial crisis staring America square in the face.

We can't afford to put off reform anymore. With every year that Congress prolongs making the difficult decisions to deal with this runaway mandatory spending—the portion of the federal budget available to fund discretionary programs decreases.

And just so we're clear: nearly every science, technology, research, manufacturing, and competitiveness program we discuss here today is funded through discretionary dollars.

In 1962, mandatory spending—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and debt interest payments—comprised less than one-third of the federal budget. Today it's doubled to over two-thirds of the budget.

The Office of Management and Budget projects that in less than 5 years, non-defense discretionary spending will fall to less than 15 percent of the federal budget. And the competitiveness programs we're working so hard for are but a small fraction of that.

Because mandatory programs get funded first, we will have to fight harder for fewer dollars to fund this important initiative.

Without mandatory spending reform, we simply won't be able to fund the necessary increases in competitiveness programs without significant cuts in other discretionary programs.

Clearly, this is a pressing economic issue, as the first baby boomer has just signed up for promised Social Security benefits and our nation's longterm IOUs are coming due.

Just recently, Moody's Investment Service indicated that the U.S. triple-A bond rating will be at risk by 2018. Standard and Poor's Investment Service indicated that it may be as early as 2012; and if present trends continue would plummet to junk-bond status by 2025.

What will that mean to our economy?

Should the U.S. lose its AAA rating in a few years, the cost of borrowing for both the Treasury and for U.S. private businesses would significantly increase. It would also increase the likelihood of a devastating capital flight. This is a very real risk to our economic growth and global competitiveness.

Again, this debt has very real implications. More than \$2.6 billion a day is needed to fund our budget shortfall, which has left nearly 40 percent of our domestic economy in foreign hands.

These IOU's are held by foreign countries— with significant shares held by non-democratic countries like China and Saudi Arabia. We should care that countries that do not share our democratic values have growing leverage over the U.S.

Borrowing hundreds of billions of dollars on the Chinese and Saudi credit cards puts not only our future economy, but also our national security at serious risk.

Ironically, the Chinese will be some of our greatest economic and technology competitors in the twenty-first century. How well will we be able to compete when we depend on their credit to fund our programs? They have become our banker.

This is also a moral issue. Last month, Pete Peterson penned an editorial that ran in Newsweek. He ends by quoting Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was instrumental in the resistance movement against Nazism. Bonhoeffer said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children."

I can't help but wonder what sort of future today's partisan Washington is leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Fortunately, we still have options—if we act soon.

I am truly impressed by the bipartisan and broad ranging coalition that the "Gathering Storm" report has assembled in its cause. I believe we can replicate this success in addressing entitlement reform, tax policy, and fiscal solvency. We need to replicate the "Gathering Storm" effort to deal with the issue of our debt.

For the past year, Congressman Jim Cooper, a Democrat from Tennessee, and I have been working closely together on the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act. It has since garnered over 80 bipartisan cosponsors, including Republican leadership in the House as well as the chairs of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

The Heritage Foundation, Brookings Institution, Concord Coalition, and former Comptroller General David Walker helped us draft this and it is supported by David Broder and David Brooks.

Modeled after the base-closing process, the bill would create a bipartisan 16-member commission to review entitlement spending, tax policy, debt, and all other federal spending.

The Commission will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings—one in each of the nation's Federal Reserve districts—over the span of 12 months in order to hear directly from the American people.

Everything must be on the table—including tax policy.

If anyone has another viable plan to address our entitlement tsunami, we are anxious to hear it. But it has to be able to pass. Doing nothing is not acceptable.

And just like the base-closing process, the SAFE Commission Act would require and up-or-down vote on the Commission's proposal—ensuring that Congress finally considered a comprehensive solution to this great challenge.

So far, Rep. Cooper and I have reached out to every Member of Congress, the President and his potential successors, Fortune 500 leaders, small business owners, think tanks, thought leaders, and the religious community.

And today I'm reaching out to you—our science, technology, engineering, manufacturing and workforce development leaders.

I ask for your support in this endeavor so that it may put us back on track financially, just as the "Gathering Storm" report spurred us to fix our nation's education and competitiveness programs.

William Wilberforce, who, in his first speech in the British Parliament in 1789 describing the evils of the slave trade, concluded by telling his colleagues,

"Having heard all this you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know."

Not one of us can say we do not know about the nation's long-term financial outlook.

We know, and it's on our watch to fix.

This must also be a part of this year's presidential debate. We need to make the next president understand that entitlement reform.

And the media needs to do a better job covering it. We should insist on a presidential debate devoted to these issues.

I am confident that, with your support, we will succeed and it may well lead to a renaissance in America—a renaissance in innovation, education, and economic development.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE TAVARES

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Stephanie Tavares by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Stephanie Tavares, reporter for *In Business Las Vegas* for her achievements in reporting on various small business legal issues within the Southern Nevada community.

Stephanie grew up in a small town that did not have access to many big-city newspapers, but while she was still in high school, she strongly identified with a local television news anchor inspiring her to pursue a career in journalism.

She worked as a news clerk for her college newspaper, which helped to launch her love for writing, editing, and the news. For the past three years, Stephanie has reported on small business issues for *In Business Las Vegas*. She is credited with not only covering business issues, but with being an advocate for small business as well, learning different perspectives, policies, and the needs of the small business community. She also reports on utilities and environmental issues for the magazine.

In addition to her professional work, Stephanie donates much of her time and talent to several professional and community organizations. She is involved with the National Association of Business Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and the International Studies Association. Additionally, she recently served on a panel of the 2007 Women of Color Conference. On the local level, Stephanie is a supporter of Adoption Exchange, Henderson Libraries, and Henderson Parks and Recreation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Stephanie Tavares for her achievements in journalism for small businesses within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving the Small Business Journalist of the Year at the 2008 Small Business Awards.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMANDA VEEN

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cadet Lieutenant Amanda Veen of Perry, Iowa for being named Cadet of the Year by the Iowa Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Amanda, who is currently a sophomore at Liberty Home School, also received the Billy Mitchell Award and served as Color Guard Commander in the North Central Region Cadet Competition last year for the Des Moines Metro Cadet Squadron.

The Cadet of the Year award honors Amanda's dedication and commitment during her participation in the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Programs. The Iowa Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, which is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 390 officers and cadets in Iowa. The Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Programs provide youth opportunities to reach their full potential as they study four subject areas: aerospace education, physical training, leadership, and moral and ethical values.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. Congress join me in commending Cadet Lieutenant Amanda Veen for her leadership and dedication to representing the Iowa Civil Air Patrol. I consider it an honor to represent Amanda and her family in Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### COMMENDING THE HARD WORK OF OUR NATION'S NURSES ON THIS, NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the incredible efforts our nurses pour into their grueling workdays, carrying out their duties to the great benefit of this country's health and medical care system. Together, nurses represent the largest share of health care professionals in the field, boasting numbers eclipsing 2,500,000—but that's becoming increasingly not enough. Facing a shortage that demands a million new nurses

by 2016, the current crop of professionals have shouldered, and will continue to shoulder, the extra work and hours of properly caring for our elderly and infirmed. For this, and so much more, nurses deserve a generous helping of our gratitude and the highest of reverence, not just this next week dubbed "National Nurses Week," but all year round.

We can show them that we care by paying tribute to those nurses serving in Iraq and Afghanistan—by bringing them and our heroic troops home after a job well done. We can show them that we care by outfitting them with a health care system that is affordable, universal, and driven less by profits and more by compassion and humanitarianism. We can show them that we care by investing in the research, techniques, and technologies that promise to one day cure age-old, debilitating diseases that plague millions—and not play politics when our citizens' livelihoods are at stake.

The Harlem Hospital Center serves my district as a powerful force for social progress, catering to the community's health needs and training the next generation's minority and female physicians. The nurses there fight the good fight, day in and day out, not often enough rewarded with the credit that they deserve. I am honored to praise their achievements—and those of their colleagues all across America—this week.

#### VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 2007

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, as you may know, I have the privilege of representing the Vietnamese community in Orange County—one of the largest outside of Vietnam.

Human rights is an important issue to me and my Vietnamese constituents. Today, I want to highlight the importance of continuing to work for freedom and democracy in Vietnam, and to commend the advocates that are committed to this cause.

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the House-Senate Joint Resolution designating May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day. As we prepare to observe Vietnam Human Rights Day, it is clear that the struggle is far from over.

Human rights violations in Vietnam have only gotten worse since Vietnam was granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status, removed from the State Department's list of Countries of Particular Concern, added to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and allowed to be a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

In my eyes, these policies, endorsed by the Bush Administration, have been rewards for a government that has made no real effort to improve its human rights record.

The Government of Vietnam claimed that it had improved its human rights record, and that it would continue to make progress on the issue of human rights. However, their record speaks for itself.

The Government of Vietnam has harassed, arrested and sentenced democracy advocates many of whom were not afforded a trial. That

list includes: Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Phong, Nguyen Binh Thanh, Nguyen Bac Truyen, and Nguyen Van Dai, lawyer—just to name a few. But the list doesn't stop there.

Since 2006 the Government of Vietnam has detained six American citizens—all falsely accused and harassed. One of those cases includes Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan who has been incarcerated in Vietnam since November for promoting peace and non-violence.

Since his detention in Vietnam, I have called for his immediate release and authored letters to both Secretary Rice and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung urging his safe return to the United States. I have met with his wife Mai Huong and have seen the anguish this injustice has caused their family—a family that has not been able to communicate with their loved one since last year.

Dr. Nguyen Quan now awaits a trial scheduled for May 13 along with fellow democracy activists: Mr. Nguyen The Vu and Mr. Somsak Khunmi. I call on the Government of Vietnam to afford Dr. Quan and the other democracy advocates a fair and just trial. It is my greatest hope that his trial will be handled in a fair manner, unlike that of Father Ly, who was gagged, unable to speak at his own defense, and sentenced to 8 years in prison.

So today I join the Vietnamese community in commemorating Vietnam Human Rights Day and urging support for the continuing advocacy efforts that are fighting for the most basic freedoms that we in the U.S. enjoy—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion. These freedoms do not exist in Vietnam.

I will continue working with my colleagues in the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to advance human rights for the people of Vietnam. And as a cosponsor of H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, I will continue to advocate for its passage with my colleagues in the Senate. I am pleased that Senator BARBARA BOXER held a hearing on this legislation last March.

It is my hope that H.R. 3096 will be brought to the Senate floor for a vote. This would be a clear message that Congress wants to see the Government of Vietnam get serious about improving human rights conditions

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE HONORING THE SAN ANTONIO FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Fire Chief Charles N. Hood and the brave men and women of the San Antonio Fire Department. On Tuesday, May 7th, a four-alarm fire swept through the historic Main Building at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

Our Lady of the Lake University was founded in 1895 and was the first San Antonio institution of higher education to receive regional accreditation. A beacon of hope and opportunity, Our Lady of the Lake has provided countless minority and underprivileged students the means to a higher education.

In their valiant efforts to fight this destructive fire, San Antonio Fire Department firefighters

went from room to room in the 100 year-old main building, ensuring that students, faculty and staff were safely evacuated. Because of their courageous efforts, not one life was lost and amazingly there were no serious injuries reported. While the fire was ripping through the third and fourth floors, firefighters worked quickly to save the University's mainframe computer and important records so that these items were not damaged by the thousands of gallons of water being used to fight the fire.

More than 100 firefighters fought late into the night and were on hand to make sure that the Our Lady of the Lake University community was safe. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the San Antonio Fire Department and offering support for the entire Our Lady of the Lake University community as they recover from this devastating fire.

RECOGNIZING NU HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the NU High School Boys Basketball team at the Iowa State Boys Basketball tournament in Des Moines this past winter.

The last quarter would see five lead changes with the last lead change coming with two minutes left in the game. Travis Ellerbroek hit an NBA range three-pointer to take the lead for the final time and win the class 1A State boys basketball title.

I congratulate the Panthers for winning the Iowa Class 1A State championship. This exciting victory is the first for Coach Paul Elser who wrapped up his first season with the Panthers.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Panther boys basketball team, both on and off court, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

85TH JUBILEE OF THE AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENT HEYDAR ALIYEV

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on May 10, we commemorate the 85th Jubilee of the late Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev was a strong leader at a critical time. When political strife and economic uncertainty engulfed the region, he emerged in 1993 as President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He steered his country through regional power struggles and global changes. He negotiated a cease-fire in the war with Armenia. He deepened Azerbaijan's relationship with the United States, Turkey, Israel, as well as countries in Western Europe. He also cultivated the nation's relations with multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, the Council of Europe, and the OSCE. He oversaw economic reforms that opened the door for foreign investment.

In September 1994, the "Contract of the Century" was signed between American and Western companies and Azerbaijan. The Contract was designed to allow Azerbaijan to develop its energy resources in order to diversify Western energy supplies. The two early oil pipelines were from Azerbaijan through Russia to the port of Novorossiysk on the Black Sea and from Azerbaijan through Georgia to Supsa. But his real dream was the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, which, despite strong opposition, was supported by both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, and is now pumping one million barrels of oil a day.

President Heydar Aliyev always valued his country's relations with the United States. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence. His goal was to elevate relations to a strategic level, and we can say that he has been successful.

After we experienced the worst terrorist attack on United States soil on September 11, President Heydar Aliyev was one of the first in the world to offer the unconditional support of his country in the fight against terrorism. Soon after, Azerbaijan had troops in Afghanistan and was the first country with a predominantly Muslim population to send troops to Iraq.

President Aliyev was instrumental in shaping Azerbaijan's Western-leaning policies and relationship building practices. Azerbaijan joined NATO's Partnership for Peace Program in 1994. It is also a 2001 charter member of the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development which works to promote democratic values, ensure stable development, enhance international and regional security, and step up European integration. Azerbaijan has consistently integrated into the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, further deepening U.S.-Azerbaijani military to military cooperation.

Following his passing in 2003, Azerbaijan has continued its course first established by President Heydar Aliyev toward the greater democratic and economic development. Due to his efforts and the will and character of the people of Azerbaijan, there is no doubt about the viability of this nation or about its capability as an effective leader in the region.

The United States looks forward to furthering its partnership with Azerbaijan in the region and on global issues of mutual concern.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LT. EVAN SCAGGS

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege today to rise in recognition of an outstanding young naval aviator from my district, Lt. Evan Scaggs of Sulphur, Oklahoma. As a dedicated member of the U.S. Navy, Lt. Scaggs was an integral part of one of the highest elevation rescue missions ever to occur in Iraq. Honored by his hometown newspaper, the Sulphur Times-Democrat, I felt that his story was so compelling and his commitment so sincere, that telling his story before you today would be but one small way of honoring such an outstanding young man.

Madam Speaker, when a group of American schoolteachers with Teachers Without Borders

disappeared from a hiking trip, Lt. Scaggs, a 64th ERQS pilot, was called in as the flight lead for the rescue. He and the rest of the crew prepared themselves in just 2 hours to go in search of the hikers. Traveling to the assumed location of the hikers, approximately 120 miles north of Balad Air Base, the rescue crew was able to locate the hikers on the side of a mountain sitting at an 80 degree angle. The teachers were stranded at an altitude of 4,700 feet where they were surrounded by treacherous terrain. Using careful maneuvering, the helicopter was able to fly close enough to allow the rescuers to retrieve the hikers safely. Their health was immediately checked and they were found to be in good condition despite being dehydrated and cold. If it were not for the actions of Lt. Scaggs and the rest of the rescue team, the two lost teachers would not have likely survived another night in the harsh conditions.

Lt. Scaggs and all members of America's Armed Forces deserve appreciation and respect from those they defend. That's why I am proud to stand before you today to honor Lt. Evan Scaggs from Sulphur, Oklahoma, and thank him for his bravery and his service.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERRY DEVORE

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroism and self sacrifice of Olney Springs Fire Chief Terry DeVore, 31, who died in the line of duty on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, while driving to the scene of a brush fire threatening his community.

When Terry heard the distress call Tuesday afternoon from nearby Ordway, Colorado, he jumped in his fire engine with fellow volunteer fireman John Schwartz to try to help. A massive wild fire was burning across the prairie and the smoke was so thick that Terry and John could not see the bridge burned out in front of them. Terry's father Bruce, a fire department volunteer for 36 years, was right behind them when he noticed their taillights disappear. Bruce and the other firefighters stopped and tried to fight the inferno in front of them, but it was a hopeless fight.

Terry first started helping his father at the fire department when he was 13. He loved his town and he loved helping people. Although he grew up in Olney Springs, he left for a time to work at Rocky Mountain Steel Mills in Pueblo, Colorado, before returning home to work for the Crowley Correctional Facility. He then moved to the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility where he became a sergeant. Terry also volunteered at the Olney Springs Fire Department that serves the town's 350 residents and served as Fire Chief for the past year.

Terry left behind wife Jennifer, four children between the ages of 4 and 10, Ryan, Breann, Katy, and Jeremiah, and his parents Bruce and Deborah DeVore. "He was never afraid of anything; there was no sense of fear," his mother Deborah told a newspaper. "He loved helping people. He was always making jokes, pulling pranks on people. He just loved life."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent Terry and other men and women who sacrifice

so much to care for their communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of a great American and in expressing heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the service of Terry DeVore.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was in my district voting in the North Carolina primary election and I missed rollcall votes on May 5th, 6th and 7th. I ask that the RECORD show that had I been present:

For rollcall No. 240—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 952—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 241—To table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 952—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 242—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1011, as amended—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 243—To table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1011—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 244—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 245—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 246—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 247—Motion to instruct conferees on H. R. 2419—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 248—To table the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2419—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 249—To suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3658—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 250—To table the motion to reconsider H.R. 3658—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 251—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 317, as amended—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 252—To table the motion to reconsider H. Con. Res. 317—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 253—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1109, as amended—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 254—To table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1109—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 255—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 256—To suspend the rules and pass S. 2929, as amended—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 257—To table the motion to reconsider S. 2929—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 258—Motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2419—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 259—To table the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2419—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 260—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 261—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 262—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 263—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1168—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 264—To table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1168—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 265—To suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1155—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 266—To table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1155—I would have voted "no";

For rollcall No. 267—Motion to adjourn—I would have voted "yes";

For rollcall No. 268—To approve the journal—I would have voted "no."

#### ON THE BIRTH OF COOPER ADDISON TAYLOR

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my longtime friend and former law partner Heath Preston Taylor and his wife Julie Hartley Taylor of Sandy Run, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby boy. Cooper Addison Taylor was born on April 17, 2008, weighing 6 pounds and 5 ounces. Addison is an old family name. Cooper joins an older brother, Andrew Preston Taylor. He has been born into a loving home where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Taylor family. I want to congratulate Cooper's grandparents George Preston Taylor and Judy Wilkes Taylor of Sandy Run, South Carolina, and Forrest Andrew Hartley, III, and Barbara Bickford Hartley of Atlanta, Georgia. Great grandmother is Gladys Taylor of Sandy Run, South Carolina. Among the happy aunts and uncles are my former law partner Henry H. Taylor and his wife Molly D. Taylor of West Columbia, South Carolina.

#### RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER-ELECT KAREN BASS

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, as chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I rise today to recognize a historic milestone in California history. Next week, on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, the Honorable Karen Bass will be seated as California's first African American woman Speaker of the State Assembly. I would also point out, Madam Speaker, that this is the first time that an African American woman has held this post in any State.

Speaker-elect Bass was first elected to the State Assembly in 2004 to represent the 47th

Assembly District which covers parts of Los Angeles. Assemblywoman Bass's leadership skills were recognized early on, as she was selected in her first term to the influential position of Assembly Majority Whip. In her second term, Assemblywoman Bass was elevated to the powerful post of Assembly Majority Leader. During her first two terms in the State Assembly, Speaker-elect Bass had 17 of her bills signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on issues ranging from foster care reform to children's health insurance.

Before entering elected office, Speaker-elect Bass founded and ran the Community Coalition, a community based nonprofit organization in South Los Angeles. As Executive Director, she built the Community Coalition into an important social justice organization that empowered residents and helped clean up neighborhoods ravaged by the crack cocaine epidemic. Today, the organization is considered a model of community engagement throughout the country.

Speaker-elect Bass grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles, California. She is the daughter of DeWitt and Wilhelmina Bass. Her father worked as a mail carrier and her mother was a full-time stay-at-home mom who raised four children. Speaker-elect Bass is a graduate of Hamilton High School, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Sciences from Cal State Dominguez Hills and has a Physician Assistant Certificate from the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Within a matter of a few short years, Speaker-elect Bass went from being a community organizer to an elected official, and beginning next week, will be one of the most influential legislative leaders in the largest State in the country. Her rapid ascension is a testament to not only her leadership skills, but also to her dedication to the people that she serves.

On behalf of all 34 members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I congratulate Speaker-elect Bass on her historic election and look forward to working with the new Assembly Speaker as we move forward together to address the issues facing the State of California.

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INTRODUCING A BILL TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill authorizing appropriations for the National Tropical Botanical Garden. This is a companion to S. 2220, which was introduced by Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA and cosponsored by Senators DANIEL K. INOUE, BILL NELSON, and MEL MARTINEZ. S. 2220 was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on April 10, 2008. I am joined in introducing this bill by Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida.

The Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden was chartered by Congress in 1964; it was renamed the National Tropical Botanical Garden in 1988 through an Act of Congress. The pur-

poses of the garden as set forth in the 1964 charter was to: establish, develop, operate and maintain an education and scientific center with libraries, herbaria, laboratories and museums appropriate and necessary for encouraging and conducting research in basic and applied tropical botany; foster and encourage fundamental research with respect to tropical plant life and to encourage research and study of the uses of tropical flora in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, medicine and other sciences; disseminate through publications and other media the knowledge acquired at the gardens relative to basic and applied tropical botany; collect and cultivate tropical flora of every nature and origin and to preserve for the people of the United States species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction; and provide a beneficial facility that will contribute to the education, instruction, and recreation of the people of the United States.

Although its charter does not include authorization of appropriations, the National Tropical Botanical Garden has endeavored, with notable success, to live up to the goals set forth in its charter. Its work has been almost exclusively supported by private donations from individuals and foundations. Operating support of nearly \$100 million has been provided through donations in the 43 years of the Garden's existence; assets valued at \$50 million, including endowments, trusts, land, buildings, and rare books are owned by the Garden. During its 43 years, the Garden has received less than \$5 million in federal grants and contracts. The National Tropical Botanical Garden files an audit report with the Senate each year by an independent auditing firm in accordance with the terms of its Congressional Charter.

The National Tropical Botanical Garden manages five tropical botanical gardens and three preserves, which comprise 1,800 acres. Four of the gardens and the three preserves are in Hawaii's second Congressional District, which I represent. One of the gardens is located in Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN's district in Florida. More than a collection of beautiful and rare plants, the National Tropical Botanical Garden also has important research and educational facilities. These include the Loy McCandless Marks Botanical Library, the largest and most important botanical/horticultural library collection in Hawaii, and a major regional herbarium used by scientists throughout the world.

The Garden conducts world-class, state-of-the-art tropical biodiversity research and conservation, which distinguishes it from display-oriented gardens and parks in the United States and abroad. The Garden has extensive national and international alliances with botanical gardens, universities, and research centers. It has a visiting scientist program and the library is used by a wide array of scientists, including federal researchers. However, these facilities badly need to be updated. The Garden has a plan to construct a new Botanical Research Center. Such a Center would bring the Garden's significant botanical, research, and rare book libraries and its unique and important herbarium collections together under one roof, along with research laboratories, offices, and dedicated space for students and visiting researchers.

The Garden's research focuses on field research, including discovering new species; documenting and conserving ecosystems, en-

dangered species, and cultural knowledge; and addressing invasive species and restoration ecology issues. Its scientists are involved in a number of international science programs focused primarily on the Pacific Islands.

Some 90 percent of all biodiversity exists in the tropics. Hawaii, the only U.S. State in the tropics, is home to more endangered plants and animals than any other State. This is due to the high percentage of unique, endemic species that evolved because of Hawaii's geographic isolation and their susceptibility to the impacts of aggressive nonnative species and diseases. However, over the past 30 years, the National Tropical Botanical Garden has rediscovered some two dozen species that were thought to be extinct and discovered 30 new species previously unknown to science. Many of the species that the Garden is working to preserve and protect hold promise for the future development of drugs to cure diseases. The Garden's research teams conduct ethnobotanical research to study and document how indigenous people used plants. Ethnobotanical fieldwork is augmented by laboratory studies using state-of-the-art technology to determine a plant's molecular composition and medicinal properties. This research has yielded potential new anti-HIV medication and provided clues to the genesis of ALS and Parkinson's disease.

While the National Tropical Botanical Garden has achieved much over the past four decades, there is so much work that is needed. Although the primary support for the Garden will always be private funding, it is fitting that we have an opportunity to appropriate funds to support this institution in achieving its Congressional Charter. Our bill authorizes annual appropriations up to \$500,000 for operation and maintenance expenses. The 2008 budget for the Garden is \$9 million, 95 percent of which will be provided from private sources.

I invite all of my colleagues to come to Hawaii or Florida to visit the National Tropical Botanical Garden and to observe firsthand the important conservation and research activities taking place. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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A TRIBUTE TO PHILMORE GRAHAM

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Philmore Graham, of Vallejo, California, for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. Mr. Graham has provided remarkable leadership to our young people during his lifetime, especially by founding and then expanding the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club.

Philmore Graham, the ninth of ten siblings, was born August 29, 1938, to now deceased parents, John Archie and Louise Graham, in Laurinburg, North Carolina. He attended Laurinburg and Lincoln Heights High Schools and was a well-rounded student with a 3.9 grade point average. He was president of his class from eighth grade through the completion of high school, was captain of the football team, played basketball and was principal for a day.

Philmore's father died when he was age 4 and his siblings and he missed the first 6 weeks of school to pick cotton and help their mother buy food and clothing for school. His hatred of picking cotton inspired him to do well in school because their mother would remind them that their choice was either go to school or continue to pick cotton.

Philmore graduated from Tennessee State University with bachelor of science degrees in mechanical and metallurgical engineering in May of 1962. He has done graduate studies in material science at UCLA and UC Berkeley. He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force through the University's ROTC program. While in the Air Force, he served as a project engineer for the Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California, from 1962-1965. During his tour of duty here, he worked in the Materials Engineering Department and developed a number of material specifications for missile components. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for completing a record number of projects updating the Titan and Atlas Missile programs.

Philmore also worked in the community while at Norton Air Force Base. In 1964, he spearheaded the project to establish a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pi Rho Chapter, in San Bernardino, California. The chapter offered scholarships and social-economic programs to the community under his leadership. He was selected as "Chapter and District Omega man of the Year."

Philmore received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force in August 1965 and accepted a position with Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, in October 1965, where he directed the Foam Salvage Vessels Research and Development Program. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for developing an economical method of testing the flotation material in the laboratory rather than the costly ocean testing.

In 1972, Philmore was promoted to technical support branch head of the Nuclear Inspection Division of Mare Island Nuclear Submarine Overhaul Program. He received a third Superior Accomplishment Award for Outstanding Supervision of Training, Technical Support and Records of Naval Nuclear Work. From 1979 to 1983, Graham worked as an internal auditor for the Nuclear Reactor Division of the Nuclear Engineering Department and was assigned as the Director of Training for the department and supervised the training of some 250 engineers and technicians. In 1986, he was promoted to Supervisor, Nuclear Engineer and became the first and only African American supervisor in the Nuclear Engineering Department's history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. During his administration, the Department received the highest grades to date on written exams during an audit from Washington, DC, and Philmore was awarded one of the highest monetary awards in the history of the Nuclear Engineering Department's incentive awards program for outstanding performance in upgrading the training program.

Philmore continued his work in the community by establishing a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Vallejo. In 1966, he started the Continentals of Omega Boys Club with six boys; it has grown to more than 500 members and is now called the Continentals of Omega Boys & Girls Club, Inc. The or-

ganization is considered one of the top boys and girls clubs in the country. The club has produced a number of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, educators, engineers, skilled workers, and many other outstanding citizens. Academics is the major focus of the club and more than 70 percent of the membership achieve school honor rolls each year. More than 200 members have attended colleges and trade schools across the country and Philmore and members have received more than 63 awards for outstanding community contributions during the club's existence. When he retired from Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Philmore devoted himself completely to the club, growing it into the valuable asset it is today.

Through the years Philmore was nominated for a multitude of awards and is the proud recipient of the NAACP Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Good Neighbor Award, Salute to America Lifetime Merit Award, Profile of Excellence Award, Martin Luther King, Jr., Humanitarian Award, "Who's Who" among Black Americans, Outstanding Young Men of America and several selections as Omega Man of the year and Citizen of the Year for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Philmore has always been active with Friendship Baptist Church in Vallejo, where he served 10 years as superintendent of Sunday Church School and has taught Sunday School for 37 years, including his years in high school.

He was married to the late Jamella Nelson Graham and they have two children, daughter, Deidre LeNore Graham and son, Montoya Reed, both graduates of Tennessee State University. Deidre obtained degrees in English and criminal justice and Montoya earned a BS degree in biology and has done graduate study at TSU in animal science.

Madam Speaker, because of Mr. Graham's devotion to his family, his community, and his country, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his tireless efforts and ask all Members of the House to join me in wishing him well.

#### RECOGNIZING GERRY CUSHMAN

### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the hard work and achievements of Gerry Cushman, a fisherman from Maine who recently won the prestigious Golden V-Notch award from the Maine Lobstermen's Association, an association of more than 1,200 lobstermen from Eastport to Kittery. This award recognizes a fisherman who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help preserve the lobster industry. Gerry won this award not just for his effort to protect and preserve the lobster industry but for his steadfast dedication to the entire Maine commercial fishing industry.

Gerry Cushman serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, is a member of the Zone D Lobster Council, and sits on the State's Lobster Advisory Council. He also works with the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op and the Port Clyde Draggermen's Co-op: a joint working group to preserve the fishing community of Port Clyde.

Gerry has championed the lobster industry both on the water and on the dock. He helped to secure a \$340,000 grant from the Land for Maine's Future Fund to facilitate building and expanding a fishing pier in Port Clyde for lobstermen and groundfishermen as well as two bait companies. The grant is part of a larger initiative to protect working waterfront spaces along Maine's coast. Working waterfronts are rapidly disappearing in the State of Maine and these resources are crucial to preserve both fisheries and communities.

I have had the privilege of meeting Gerry and seeing first hand his dedication to ensuring that future generations of Maine fishermen will have both lobsters to harvest, and a place to land their catch. I admire Gerry and the men and women who work tirelessly to make certain that the fishing industry and the communities they support are preserved for future generations. I echo Gerry's words that "what we leave for the next generation is important." Small fishing communities across the country are beginning to take a leading role in the management of the fishery resources on which they all depend, and Gerry Cushman is one of the leaders in this effort. I would like to once again thank Gerry for his hard work and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF NORCO'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an exceptional town in my congressional district. The town of Norco, California, was dedicated on May 13, 1923. Founded by a dynamic entrepreneur, Rex B. Clark, and funded by his wife Grace Scripps Clark, daughter of powerful newspaper mogul James Scripps. This 15-square-mile community of Norco began as a California agricultural powerhouse and today is known as "Horse Town U.S.A." Clark's original concept was to develop a community of "go-getters" whereby a man could live and feed his family off the land. With a town motto of "Acres of Neighbors," the dream was wildly successful as Norco brand tomatoes, grapes, berries, lettuce, chickens, and other produce were sent all over the United States.

A chance discovery of hot mineral water in 1926 led Rex Clark to yet another dream: The Norconian Resort Supreme—a 700-acre masterpiece that opened to worldwide acclaim on February 2, 1929, complete with 60-acre man-made lake, magnificent golf course, Lake Casino, hotel, spa, separate chauffeurs' quarters and the only Southern California AAU Qualifying outdoor pool until the 1932 Olympic games. Hollywood flocked to the resort and stars such as Clark Gable, Norma Shearer, Buster Keaton and Joan Crawford were regular visitors at what may well have been the finest resort of its kind on the west coast. MGM and Fox Studios held company picnics on the site as did Disney Studios who held a famous party in 1938 to commemorate the success of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

On May 20, 1928, the lavish swimming and diving pools opened to greet the 1928 USA

Men and Women's Olympic Swimming and Diving Team. Swimmer Cecily Cuhna highlighted the day with setting a world record. If a swimmer or diver participated in the 1928, 1932 or 1936 Olympics those athletes competed, trained or exhibited at the Norconian Resort.

Many more memorable events and activities occurred in the coming years and in the most unlikely of places: the poultry town of Norco. On December 8, 1941, the depression-weary resort became one of the preeminent naval hospitals in the Nation and at its peak in 1945 serviced 5,000 wounded, sick and battle-weary sailors and marines. The first patients were casualties of the infamous Pearl Harbor attack and recuperated in the exquisite hotel rooms. The Naval Hospital quickly set the standard in a number of areas which included the treatment of polio, use of penicillin to conquer malaria and tuberculosis, and the development of prosthetics and occupational therapy.

Norco was also the birthplace of wheelchair basketball on the wheels of the fabulous "Rolling Devils." The stars, who once were guests of the former Norconian Resort, turned out "for the boys"; Gary Cooper, Abbott and Costello, The Three Stooges, Marlene Dietrich, Jack Benny, Bob Hope and dozens of other stars entertained wounded heroes from battles in the Pacific. Eleanor Roosevelt was also a visitor, as was Helen Keller, and ball club owner Bill Veeck, a wounded marine, guided his Cleveland Indians to a World Series Championship from a hospital bed in Norco.

Norco citizens rallied behind the war effort with record bond sales and patriotism on many occasions raising thousands of dollars more than cities ten times larger in size and population. After World War II and Korea, Norco once again became an agricultural powerhouse, but, with the closing of the Naval Hospital in 1957, the entire area went into an economic tailspin. However, in 1963 a long forgotten real estate agent scrawled the words "Horse Property for Sale" on a piece of white butcher paper and very quickly Norco became the home to horse lovers. Incorporated in December of 1964 to protect its "rural lifestyle," Norco is home to a community fiercely devoted to the equestrian lifestyle with large properties, extensive open space and a horse trail on every street—120 miles of horse trails to be exact.

Over the weekend of May 9, 10, and 11, 2008, Norconians will remember their past and celebrate a truly unique Southern California Equestrian lifestyle. It is an honor to represent the town of Norco in Congress and I congratulate the town and residents on 85 years of service to their country and community.

LTG MICHAEL HAMEL: HONORING  
A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the Space and Missile System Center, SMC, at L.A. Air Force Base plays the critical role in the design, production, and launch of our country's most sophisticated military satellites. Located

in El Segundo, CA, in the center of my congressional district, SMC has enjoyed 58 consecutive successful launches. Employing 6,500 military and civilian personnel nationally, with a whopping \$10 billion annual budget—SMC is a major economic driver in southern California.

The importance of SMC to our national security cannot be overstated either. In my many terms in Congress, I've always worked closely with the SMC commander, who is much more than a mission manager. LTG Mike Hamel, the present commander, retires in July, and I rise to honor his extraordinary service.

Mike and I have often talked about America's strategy for space. Framing a new, nationally integrated space policy—one bringing together the civil, military, and commercial sectors—is a common goal of ours. I applaud him for his visionary leadership on this issue—and look forward to more conversations about getting it right.

Mike Hamel has served his country with distinction for 36 years, since receiving his commission as second lieutenant from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1972. In the course of 16 assignments, he rose to the rank of lieutenant general, which he attained on June 1, 2005.

The change of command ceremony occurs May 15, a date Congress is in session. Though I will miss the transfer of command to the very able GEN John Sheridan, I look forward to partnering with him and to welcoming a tanned and relaxed Mike Hamel to Washington after he and his wife, Linda, complete their drive across the country.

Thanks, Mike, on behalf of a grateful Nation.

#### NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H. Res. 1086, a resolution in recognition of National Nurses Week, which will be celebrated May 6 through May 12, 2008. As a proud member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I added my name as cosponsor to this worthy resolution.

Nurses Week has been celebrated every year since 2003 and coincides with the May 12th birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. We recognize this week, as we should all 52 weeks of the year, the critical role nurses play in providing safe, high-quality, and preventative health care.

Providing this type of adequate health care is essential, not only across the Nation, but especially in rural America. As a longtime friend of hard-working West Virginians, I believe all Americans deserve to have access to quality, affordable health care. Throughout my tenure, I have continued to support programs that will improve this access, and I believe that providing quality nurses is part of this goal. This is why I support increased funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs so that those who answer the call to serve others through nursing have the support and funding they need to achieve that goal.

Nursing care is an essential and necessary aspect of our health care infrastructure, and it is therefore important that we continue to pro-

vide every opportunity to recruit and maintain more nurses, particularly in rural areas like southern West Virginia. Nursing programs in my district such as those at St. Mary's Hospital, Marshall University, and Mountain State University, along with countless others around the State, help to provide a vital service to their fellow citizens.

I encourage the people of West Virginia, and the entire Nation, to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients. They make significant contributions to the lives of so many every day without once asking for the recognition they clearly deserve.

TRIBUTE TO WAVERLY-SHELL  
ROCK WRESTLING TEAM

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Waverly-Shell Rock wrestling team at the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines this past winter.

Waverly-Shell Rock took all the drama out of the Class 3A team finals by winning the State title a day early. Needing just one win to wrap up the title, Waverly-Shell Rock's 112-pound freshman, Cody Caldwell, pinned his opponent in 4 minutes and 45 seconds. The Go-Hawks went on to win three more. Waverly-Shell Rock wrapped up the State Tournament by breaking the State record for team points in a State Tournament dating back to 2001 and became the first team to break the 200-point mark in a State meet.

I congratulate Waverly-Shell Rock for winning the Iowa Class 3A State championship. Waverly-Shell Rock's last title came in 2005.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Waverly-Shell Rock wrestling team, both on and off the mat, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

CONGRATULATING MEDGAR  
EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York on its' newly announced initiative to implement two new bachelor degree programs.

Medgar Evers College has long possessed an unparalleled reputation in the field of adult education. The college provides its students with a unique experience, which combines academic excellence in nearly 100 areas of study with real-world experience. This unique combination has led to the continued success of its students. As a result, the State Board of Regents and the City University of New York accreditation committee approved the allocation of money to fund two new bachelor degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts in

Religion Studies and the Bachelor of Science in Social Work. The new programs are expected to attract a record number of new students to the college for the next academic year and ensure a steady stream of students for the foreseeable future. Medgar Evers College provides students with the flexibility to select their course of study and schedule their classes around commitments such as a job, thereby providing those adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity with the chance to return to school. Education is the key to escaping the grasp of poverty that plagues so many Americans. Medgar Evers College is taking profound steps to ensure that those in need have access to higher education.

It is my sincere hope that other Colleges and Universities across the nation will join Medgar Evers College in providing opportunity for the working poor to enhance their education and qualify for better paid employment.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN G. JACOB ON  
HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 90th birthday of Helen G. Jacob, an inspirational woman who fought for our country in WW II and who continues to fight on behalf of her fellow veterans every day. Helen is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellow man.

The daughter of Frank and Ellen Cooley, Helen was born on May 16, 1918 in Buffalo, New York where she and her siblings resided on Crescent Avenue. Helen attended St. Mark's School and Mount St. Joseph's High School.

Helen, against her mother's wishes, joined the army in 1942 and was assigned to the 29th Traffic Regiment Division. Landing in Paris six days after the liberation, Helen performed tasks critical to moving troops throughout Europe.

Upon her return to Buffalo, Helen was denied membership in both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. In what has become her trademark, Helen pioneered and founded the Ereico Women's Post #1586.

In 1984, Helen began volunteering as the Women's Veteran Coordinator, amassing more than 12,000 hours of dedicated service. In 1996, the Helen G. Jacob Wellness Clinic opened in the VA Medical Center in Buffalo, New York in recognition of her tireless advocacy for quality services within the VA Western NY Healthcare System. By Helen's example and lifelong work, we are also reminded of the obligation to keep the promises made by our government to our veterans.

Justifiably and deservedly, Helen has been honored over the years. These awards include American Legion's Legionnaire of the Year; The Found Women Award from Women Focus of Western New York; Buffalo Ambassador from the Greater Buffalo Convention and Visitors Bureau; Award of Excellence from Every Women's Opportunity Center; the United Way and J.C. Penny's Golden Rule Award; and the Susan B. Anthony Award.

Helen continues to respond to calls for service including my request that she serve on the military academy review panel for the applicants in the 27th District. She remains an active member of over 20 different organizations. Helen is also a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mark's Church.

Her two children, Patricia and Bill, and grandchildren, Tom, Michelle, Christine, Eric, Adam, and Kevin, will join with the family of veterans and friends on May 9th at the Troop I Hamlin House to celebrate Helen's 90 years of life, love, and laughter.

Helen is a friend to all and a fighter for veterans. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Helen G. Jacob on the occasion of her 90th birthday and to thank her for her service and continuing commitment to our country.

CONGRATULATING NURSE MARY  
ALICE WILLIAMS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Alice Williams, of North Richland Hills, Texas. The Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized Ms. Williams as one of the Great 100 Nurses of 2008. Ms. Williams works as a nurse at the North Hills Hospital.

Nurses are often the initial and most frequent individuals who come in contact with patients. They serve as greeters, encyclopedias of patient histories, comforters, and above all healers. Mary Alice exhibits all these excellent qualities on a daily basis.

Each year this recognition is bestowed on nurses who embody excellence in the science and art of nursing. The chosen honorees belong to an array of professional organizations and work in a wide variety of clinical specialties. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized area nurses for their compassion and dedication. The recipients will be honored at a gala event on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to stand today and congratulate Mary Alice Williams. She is a fine representative of the North Texas nursing community. Her work is an excellent contribution to the patients of North Hills Hospital and I am proud to serve her in the 26th District of Texas. Ms. Williams has exhibited great skill in the field of nursing, and truly deserves this great honor. I join the entire North Texas community in thanking her for the apparent commitment to her fellow citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN  
STEPHENS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Carolyn Stephens by entering her name in the CON-

GRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Carolyn Stephens, Managing Partner for Jerolyn Enterprises, for her achievements in small business throughout the Las Vegas community.

Carolyn Stephens moved to Las Vegas after receiving her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Georgia. She used her experience to acquire a job as Director for the Health Care Division of Manpower Temporary Services. After this, Carolyn established a business of her own called Information Products, Inc., which supplied computer and copy paper to local businesses. Gerald (Jerry), Carolyn's husband and business partner, has supported her in her business endeavors. Together, the Stephens opened Lazer Graphics in 1985, putting their business on the cutting edge of digital technology as the first company in Las Vegas to turn computer graphics into high-resolution output film for businesses. She demonstrated her leadership for small business issues when she was appointed to serve as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business.

Discovering the need to connect other local woman business owners, Carolyn published the Women's Yellow Pages of Southern Nevada from 1993 to 1995. Carolyn has worked tirelessly to champion the advancement of women in business. For her work and dedication, she has received numerous awards and achievements including being the first recipient of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Circle of Excellence Award. She was also honored with the American Red Cross Clara Barton Medal of Excellence, the American Heart Association Heart of Gold, and the Soroptimist International Women Helping Women Award. Moreover, the Small Business Administration has recognized her with the SBA's Women Business Advocate Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Carolyn Stephens and would like to recognize her accomplishments within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving recognition as the Women in Business Champion of the Year for the 2008 Small Business Awards.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN SCHWADE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Schwade for reaching a noteworthy milestone of 40 years' service as a meter reader in the community of Protivin, Iowa.

As a meter reader in a small town, Joan gets a fascinating perspective of the community and has a great opportunity to regularly meet with townspeople. When she started her job in 1968, all of the 177 meters in town were located on the inside of homes. Times changed and today meters are located outside the homes, so readers like Joan are able to make it through their routes more efficiently. At the age of 76, Joan continues to enjoy the exercise and opportunity to talk with local residents. It is reported that she could do without the dogs and winter weather, but she plans to

continue her work as long as she is able to perform it.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Joan Schwade for her service and dedication to the Protivin community as a meter reader. I consider it an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

LITTLE HOMETOWN SOLDIERS OF  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA  
BRING GREAT COMFORT  
THROUGH MUSIC AND PRAYERS

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, With their voices of angels, the Little Hometown Soldiers of St. Petersburg, Florida bring the greatest of comfort and joy to the families of our men and women in uniform who have deployed around the world to protect our freedom.

This unique group of children ranging in age from 3 to 16, was founded in 2003 by Elaine Hopkins to speak in a special way to the youngest family members of our deployed servicemembers. Through patriotic songs, dramatic plays, cards and letters, and personal appearances locally and nationally they provide immeasurable support to children and adults alike. They visit Veterans Hospitals and Nursing Centers and sing at the funerals of fallen servicemembers. Having been with them on a number of these occasions, I can tell you that their words and songs of hope and encouragement are most appreciated.

The Little Hometown Soldiers have performed on national television, they have traveled to Washington to perform at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and they sang for our returning troops as part of Operation Home Front at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Madam Speaker, Elaine Hopkins has done a remarkable job with these children who are this generation's young patriots. Even at their early ages, they understand the shared sacrifice of our troops and their families and they understand the true cost of freedom having attended the funerals of many of our heroes.

On Memorial Day weekend, they will perform a special concert entitled "I Believe I Can Fly" as a tribute to the children and families of our fallen servicemembers. The event at 3 pm on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at The Paladium Theatre in St. Petersburg, Florida is free and open to the public.

Madam Speaker, I wish all my colleagues could be with me that day to hear the words of support and encouragement these children bring to families who have suffered the greatest of losses. The Little Hometown Soldiers are comprised of Camry Moody, Jermaine Lewis, Sherice Johnson, RoShaun Dudley, RaShard Dudley, Nehemiah Sonnylal, Johnathan Rosario, Isabelle Rosario, Tamaira Charlemagne, Griffin Ford, Sajon Ford, Nykko Ford, Phoenix Ford, Keanu Ford, Mariangela Vasquez, Jissel Vasquez, Marcos Vasquez, Amanda Puyot, Darquell Pierre, Andrea Young, Prentazia Crawford, Shandra Gordon, Erica McCallister, Destine Wilson, Sydney

Peterman, Lyonna Holloway, Jamesia Holloway, and Gisselle Zayas. They are one of our area's and our Nation's greatest treasures and I would ask you to join me in saying thank you to them for sharing their gift of love and music.

HONORING HORACE FINCHER

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Horace Fincher, the mayor of the city of Lytle, in recognition of his exemplary leadership in the growth of the city during his tenure, which ends on May 12, 2008.

Horace Fincher served as Mayor of the City of Lytle for 14 years after having served on the Lytle City Council for 6 years. During his tenure, Mayor Fincher worked to increase the tax base for taxpayers in Lytle by bringing in businesses such as H-E-B, Sonic Drive-In, McDonald's, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q, Camino Real Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR) Center, Hurley Funeral Home, and Tri-County Dialysis Center. He also has endeavored in bringing consecutive grant proposals to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), which is a voluntary association of local governments and organizations in twelve counties that serves its members through planning, information, and coordination activities.

Mayor Fincher truly led by example and it is to his credit that the city of Lytle has seen an improvement in its business capital, and a renewal of infrastructure projects. The city is a truly better place because of the dedication that Mayor Fincher has shown in his public service.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize Mayor Horace Fincher, and I thank you for this time.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO'S CHILD SAFETY ADVOCATES

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize many of Sacramento's outstanding individuals and businesses as members of the Sacramento community gather at the Child Abuse Prevention Center's annual Inspirations luncheon. The men and women being honored this afternoon are dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and well-being of Sacramento's children and families. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

David Ballard and the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento are receiving the community service provider award. The Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento is a shelter for abused and neglected children in Sacramento County. The only shelter of its kind, the Children's Receiving Home serves over 1,800 children each year. I would like to commend them on their ability to help these children in their time of need. David is being hon-

ored for his contributions to a variety of campaigns that have secured funding to help improve and expand the facilities and make changes in the care children receive there. In addition to his dedication to the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, Mr. Ballard has served on the Children's Coalition's board, the human services planning council, the family support collaborative executive committee and the child welfare redesign steering committee.

The hearts and hands award is being presented to Anthony Pico for his work with our foster care system. Mr. Pico was raised in foster homes and at 15 he began working with other youth in the California Youth Connection and the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Programs. He has worked with the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, Pitzer College, the California Institute for Mental Health, the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, and has held positions with the San Francisco Youth Commission—Mayoral Appointee Commission and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. For his dedication to improving our foster care system, Mr. Pico was the 2005, 2006, and 2007 recipient of the Youth Leadership Award from the City and County of San Francisco and is now being honored by his Sacramento partners.

This year, the Board of Directors Award goes to a coalition of health care providers and agencies in Sacramento for launching California's first Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program (SBS). The Sacramento County Departments of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services, and Public Health Nursing in conjunction with Catholic Healthcare West-Mercy, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, the DC Davis Medical Center and the Child Abuse Prevention Center have championed this important cause. This program is modeled after a program in New York which has greatly reduced incidents of SBS by 50 percent in that State. With this program hospitals will provide educational materials to new parents on the dangers of shaking their babies and the prevention techniques that parents can use to avoid this heartbreaking form of child abuse. These organizations have come together to reduce the incidence of SBS and most importantly protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these individuals and businesses for their extraordinary work on behalf of children and families in the Sacramento area, and I would like to thank the Child Abuse Prevention Center for their dedication to our children's safety. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their unwavering commitment to Sacramento's youth.

HONORING LOUISIANA HONORAIR  
AND T.D. SMITH, LINDA  
DAUTREUIL AND SALLIE  
VARRELMAN

### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to America's World War II veterans. These veterans represent the best

of our country, and I am grateful to work with Louisiana HonorAir to salute them, the courageous men and women who stood to protect America.

This weekend 97 veterans from Southwest Louisiana will make the three hour flight to our Nation's capital. In Washington, D.C., the group will tour the WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial and Vietnam Memorial and attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. For many veterans in the group, it is their first time to tour the WWII Memorial because of its recent construction. Then, as quickly as they came, the group will return to a hero's welcome in Lafayette, Louisiana where family and friends will gather to show their appreciation one more time.

Having met many of these groups in Washington, I continue to be awestruck by the reactions of these men and women who stood up to tyranny in Europe and Asia. Many rarely talk about their service, instead, looking to happier times. However, in the company of others who nobly served, they are able to frankly discuss their experiences, share tearful stories and remember comrades missing or killed in action.

Since 2007, more than 800 Louisiana veterans participated in the HonorAir program. Its success is a testament to one man's vision—T.D. Smith. To demonstrate his appreciation to our veterans, T.D., a local radio host, started the program in January 2007 after learning of a similar effort in North Carolina. Smith began gathering sponsors and raising money needed to pay for the flights, buses and tours.

Corporal Earl Flatt, of Broussard, Louisiana, a combat veteran of Iwo Jima, said, "My faith in America was increased once again by the enthusiasm of the people of Acadiana, who embraced this project and made it all possible." Corporal Flatt was on the first HonorAir flight, and he remembered being at the WWII Memorial as one of the most rewarding days of his life. Referring to T.D., he said, "Mere words cannot express my appreciation for T.D. Smith. His enthusiasm, work habits and patriotism is never exhausted. He would have been a hell of a Marine."

T.D.'s leadership and commitment to this project and our veterans is extraordinary. His humble demeanor further highlights the contributions of the veterans, many whom are strangers before the flight, and belies the typical boisterous on-air radio personality many would expect. T.D. ensures the HonorAir program never fails to remember its mission of "celebrating Louisiana's own—their courage, their valor, their sacrifice in WWII."

In addition to T.D.'s vision, the success of the program depends on a myriad of fundraising and logistics. This program is truly a broad community effort, and volunteers throughout the Acadiana area who help raise funds, serve on the board of directors, and act as guardians on each flight, should all be commended for their tireless efforts. However, Linda Dautreuil and her mother Sallie Varrelman each stepped forward to pilot the efforts of others. Ensuring each veteran received attention to their specific details, this mother-daughter team serve each flight participant with care. They plan, organize, and implement each flight guaranteeing the experience of a lifetime for these worthy veterans. Linda's respect and admiration for these WWII heroes, and her wish to thank them for their

sacrifice, is evident in her commitment to this project. And, Sallie, with a soft British accent, is repaying a 70-year debt to the brave American soldiers she remembers stationed around her Boumemouth, England home as a 12-year-old in 1939.

T.D., Linda and Sallie each exemplify patriotism and service to our great nation as they honor those of the "greatest generation." One man, who accompanied his father-in-law on a Louisiana HonorAir flight last year, expressed the profound affect this extraordinary expression of kindness has on those who served so heroically.

He said, "one of the most memorable moments was when we were waiting for our bus to pick us up at the WWII Memorial. As usual, T.D. was walking around, joking and talking to the Vets as he smoked a cigar. My father-in-law took a deep breath and commented on how well it smelled. It was then that T.D. unselfishly offered him a cigar and a light. Well, Mr. Trahan thought he had won the lottery. T.D. gave him a cigar and light and stood there talking to him, making him feel like the most important person in the world."

Unfortunately, shortly after his flight, the man's father-in-law passed away. His story emphasizes the importance of honoring these veterans before it is too late.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the brave men and women who defended America and in commending Louisiana HonorAir, T.D. Smith, Linda Dautreuil, and Sallie Varrelman who convey our appreciation in such a remarkable way.

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#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation week, I rise today to pay tribute to teachers across the country. It is always appropriate to thank those who devote their lives to the education of our Nation's children, but Teacher Appreciation Week gives us a special opportunity to remind educators that we support what they do and want to partner with them in the important work of preparing today's children to be tomorrow's leaders.

Every day, educators inspire, teach, and make a difference in our lives. Teaching is a challenging and rewarding job, and those who choose to undertake it deserve our respect and gratitude. It should be a priority for Congress to ensure that teachers have the tools they need to make a difference in the lives of their students, and I am pleased that my colleagues recently joined me in expressing their full support for America's educators by unanimously passing resolutions in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation week.

I am grateful for the positive impact that my teachers have had on my life, and I appreciate the work and dedication of our Nation's educators in teaching the future business leaders, farmers, and citizens of our country.

THE PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008 AND THE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, together with Ranking Member MICA, Subcommittee Chairwoman BROWN, Subcommittee Ranking Member SHUSTER, and more than 30 other Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am pleased to introduce the "Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008" and the "Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century", or RIDE-21.

We are introducing these bills between two significant milestones in railroad history. One week ago today, Amtrak marked the beginning of its 38th year of operation on May 1. This Saturday, May 10th is National Train Day, marking the 139th anniversary of the "golden spike" being driven into the ground at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The "golden spike" bound the last tie connecting the last rail that united the Central Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific Railroad, completing the transcontinental railroad.

These two milestones represent two different conceptions of passenger rail. The transcontinental railroad was born thanks to the support of President Abraham Lincoln. He, along with Civil War leaders, envisioned and planned the creation of the railroad. Not only did the completion of the railroad result in the ability to deliver goods and people across the country, it ultimately bound the east with the west, further unifying the country as the divide between the North and the South was beginning to mend. At the time, the transcontinental railroad brought a new sense of wonder and enthusiasm for discovery and entrepreneurship across the country.

In contrast, the formation of National Railroad Passenger Corporation, more commonly known as Amtrak, occurred at a time of waning support of intercity passenger rail. Amtrak was created after the freight railroads begged Congress to let them get out of the passenger rail business because it was not profitable.

Indeed, Amtrak inherited decrepit stations and terminals, passenger cars that offered dated amenities, and equipment prone to failure.

Thirty-seven years after the launch of Amtrak, America is on the threshold of a "renaissance" for intercity passenger rail that approaches the enthusiasm of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Last year, Amtrak set a ridership record for the fifth year in a row, exceeding 25.8 million passengers. Its ticket revenues rose 11 percent to more than \$1.5 billion, the third straight year of revenue growth. This record of achievement is even more impressive considering that for the past eight years Amtrak has contended with an Administration committed to its bankruptcy.

Indeed, these achievements are occurring when there is a greater need than ever for alternatives to our congested highways and skies. To alleviate this congestion and

strengthen our energy security, we need to invest in intercity passenger rail. Amtrak removes almost eight million cars from the road annually and eliminates the need for 50,000 fully loaded, passenger airplanes each year.

Other countries already make an annual commitment to intercity passenger rail. In 2003 alone, France invested \$10.6 billion in its rail system; Germany invested \$12.4 billion; and the United Kingdom invested \$7.8 billion. Outside of Europe, Japan invests about \$2 billion annually to its Shinkansen and China has launched a plan to spend a total of \$162 billion from 2006 through 2010 to expand its railway system.

These investments have paid off: passenger rail accounts for 32 percent of Japan's transportation market; the Eurostar, the high-speed passenger train operator between Britain and mainland Europe, recently reported a 21.3 percent rise in passengers to 2.17 million between January and March 2008, compared with the same period last year, with a 25 percent increase in ticket revenues. Indeed, you can hardly purchase a plane ticket from London to Brussels or London to Paris because rail service is faster and easier than air service.

H.R. —, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 authorizes more than \$14.4 billion for Amtrak capital and operating grants, state intercity passenger grants, and high-speed rail over the next five years. The bill authorizes \$6.7 billion (an average of \$1.34 billion per year) to Amtrak for capital grants and \$3.0 billion (an average of \$606 million per year) for operating grants. Past inconsistent Federal support has hampered Amtrak's ability to replace catenaries, passenger cars, bridges, ties, and other equipment necessary for Amtrak to provide service. These capital grants will help Amtrak bring the Northeast Corridor to a State of Good Repair, procure new rolling stock, rehabilitate existing bridges, as well as make additional capital improvements and maintenance over its entire network. In addition, the operating grants authorized under the bill will help Amtrak pay salaries, health costs, overtime pay, fuel costs, facilities, and train maintenance and operations. These operating grants will also ensure that Amtrak can meet its obligations under its recently negotiated labor contract.

In an effort to encourage the development of new and improved intercity passenger rail services, the bill creates a new State Capital Grant program for intercity passenger rail capital projects, based on the New Starts transit capital program administered by the Federal Transit Administration. The bill provides \$2.5 billion (\$500 million per year) for grants to States to pay for the capital costs of facilities and equipment necessary to provide new or improved intercity passenger rail. The Federal share of the grants is up to 80 percent. The Secretary of Transportation would award these grants on a competitive basis for projects based on economic performance, expected ridership, and other factors.

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, established to develop a national transportation vision to address surface transportation needs for the next 50 years, recommends that the United States establish a high-speed rail network that spans the entire country. The bill authorizes \$1.75 billion (\$350 million per year) for grants to States and/or Amtrak to finance the con-

struction and equipment for 11 authorized high-speed rail corridors. The Federal share of the grants is up to 80 percent. The Secretary of Transportation would also award these grants on a competitive basis.

Many of Amtrak's service routes outside the Northeast Corridor suffer from poor service reliability and on-time performance because of freight traffic congestion. This congestion prevents Amtrak from retaining and attracting new ridership, and increases Amtrak's operating costs. The Department of Transportation Inspector General recently reported that if Amtrak achieved an 85 percent on-time performance outside the Northeast Corridor in fiscal year 2006, it would have saved Amtrak \$136.6 million, or almost one-third of its operating budget. Amtrak is required by law to have preferred access on freight corridors; however, freight railroads do not always comply with Amtrak's access rights. The bill addresses this problem by providing congestion grants to Amtrak and the States for high-priority rail corridors in order to reduce congestion and facilitate ridership growth.

Federal support of Amtrak was cut drastically in fiscal years 2000 and 2001, forcing Amtrak to assume a large amount of debt to stay in operation. Amtrak has aggressively targeted this debt, paying down \$600 million from fiscal years 2002 through 2007. Our bill helps Amtrak to take further steps to reduce its debt, authorizing \$345 million each year for debt service through FY 2013. This funding will allow Amtrak to focus its resources on improving existing services and making additional capital and operational improvements.

Finally, no Federal guidelines currently exist to mediate disputes between commuter rail providers and freight railroads over use of freight rail tracks or rights-of-way, nor is there a standard forum for negotiating commuter rail operating agreements. The bill establishes a forum at the STB to help complete stalled commuter rail negotiations, helping our rail network operate as efficiently as possible.

The Committee is also introducing, H.R. —, the "Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century", authorizing \$12 billion of tax-credit bonds and \$12 billion of tax-exempt bonds for high-speed rail corridors over the next 10 years. This legislation will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and I look forward to working with Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCREY on this important initiative.

Amtrak and high-speed rail are essential to create the world's preeminent national transportation network.

I look forward to working with Members of the Committee and the House to pass these important bills.

#### SUPPORTING COMMEMORATION OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN J. HALL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that I have the opportunity to rise today in strong support and commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Israel. It is an honor to be able to speak on behalf of a country born in the aftermath of tragedy, erected against

formidable odds, and yet has prevailed to become a beacon of hope and an example of the prevailing strength of liberty and freedom.

Israel was not simply established, it was built. It was built through the toil, strife and resolve of the Jewish people and upon the premise of hope—hope that even in the wake of the ashes of the holocaust, goodness can prevail. And indeed, as we commemorate Israel's 60th birthday, we can see that goodness has prevailed.

In many ways, the path of Israel has mimicked that of the United States. It is in no way perfect and makes its fair share of mistakes. However, it is part of the same experiment of democracy, and built upon the notion of a state becoming a light unto other nations. In our century, the partnership between Israel and the United States has conjoined to thwart the existence of terrorism, advance the frontiers of human knowledge, and make an indelible contribution to the human condition.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to foster the United States' alliance and friendship with this great nation to join me in wishing Israel a very happy 60th anniversary.

#### IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Yom Ha'atzmaut—Israel's Independence Day, to congratulate the Israeli people on their significant accomplishment, and to celebrate the strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I very much appreciate the important role that Israel plays in the world for the Jewish people. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created providing a new homeland and safe haven for those who most recently had survived the Holocaust and for Jews before and since who had been scattered throughout the world after a millennia of conflict, discrimination, and persecution.

I am proud that the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Israel. Today, the U.S.-Israel relationship continues to be strong. And I pledge to work with our trusted ally to pursue a stable and peaceful Middle East, which assures safety and security for the State of Israel.

In the quest for peace in the Middle East, the United States has no stronger partner than Israel. As the Middle East's only democratic country, Israel is an important example for other countries in the region. It has free elections, a free press, and protection of minority rights. It is a strong and vibrant democracy and a trusted friend.

Maintaining a democratic society has not been easy. Israel has endured neighbors that have attempted to wipe it off of the map, and it continues to face threats from terrorist organizations which oppose Israel's existence and seek to disrupt any possibility of a peaceful coexistence for all people.

Even today as Israel seeks security within its borders and peace with its neighbors, radical extremists attack its citizens with daily

rocket barrages. It is crucially important that we stand by our friend and ally, now and in the future.

It is important to note that support for Israel is an issue that Democrats and Republicans here in Congress consistently work on in a bipartisan manner. Our willingness to work together sends a strong message internationally that the United States is committed to our friend and partner, Israel.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to stand by Israel and I know my colleagues join me in expressing Mazel Tov to all Israelis for a remarkable 60 years and wish Israel and its people a safe and secure future.

#### IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our Nation's mothers this Mother's Day because they embody the definition of strength, courage and compassion. Mothers are the backbone of American values and vitality and I ask that my colleagues honor the mothers of our Nation on Sunday, May 11, 2008.

The history of celebrating Mother's Day began when Anna Jarvis of West Virginia desired to honor the life of her deceased mother, Anna Reeves Jarvis. In 1908, Jarvis' church honored her mother as the first Mother's Day Celebration and then, in 1910, the governor of West Virginia, William Glasscock, wrote the first Mother's Day Proclamation, which encouraged families to celebrate Mother's Day. Anna Jarvis moved beyond her home State and urged the Federal Government to establish a national day to celebrate Mother's Day. Eventually the Sixty-Third Congress passed H.J. Res. 263. This resolution designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The next day President Woodrow Wilson signed a Presidential Proclamation directing the Nation to display flags on government buildings and homes to show America's love and dedication for mothers.

Mother's Day is a time for Americans nationwide to show affection and respect for the everyday heroines we call mothers, aunts, great aunts, grandmothers and great grandmothers—women of courage and strength that carry our country by raising children and uplifting our families. On May 11th, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to celebrate Mother's Day.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JERRY GUEDERIAN

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Jerry Guederian by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mr. Guederian, the 2008 Nevada Micro-Enterprise Small Business Person of the Year.

As a young child, Jerry had a passion for shoes. His passion led him to his studies at the Ars Sutoria Institute in Milan, Italy, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in shoe design. Armed with skills, determination, and talent, Jerry came to the United States from Switzerland and opened his first Shoe Lab in Los Angeles, California in 1989. His successful shoe repair business led him to franchising his stores throughout Southern California. In 1995, his passion for the business eventually brought him to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jerry's business success centers around his philosophy of having the best craftsmanship and customer service. Customers are often invited to watch Jerry's well trained cobblers repair their shoes, bag, or luggage through a Shoe Lab 'viewing window'.

Nominees for the Macro-Enterprise Award are judged by an independent panel of small business leaders on a variety of criteria including staying power, employee growth, sales increases, innovations of service, and contributions to community-oriented projects. Mr. Guederian and Shoe Lab excelled in every category.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Jerry Guederian and his outstanding accomplishments in the Southern Nevada business community and his recent achievement of being named Nevada's 2008 Micro-enterprise Small Business Person of the Year.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHARLIE SCOTT

### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to day to acknowledge racing pioneer Charlie Scott, and to express support for his admission into the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association.

Born in Crawford, Georgia, Charlie Scott was the first African-American to drive in an officially sanctioned National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) event, debuting at the Daytona Beach Grand National in 1956. As reported by NASCAR.com earlier this year, "[Charlie] drove a Kiekhaefer Chrysler. When the checkered flag waved, Scott found himself in 19th place, earning \$75 for his efforts." This outing—at Daytona, where NASCAR was born—was a groundbreaking effort and no doubt inspired countless future NASCAR drivers and fans. His illustrious career included races all over the country in motorcycles and other automobiles. He loyally supported the sport throughout his lifetime, and deserves recognition for helping to break the color barrier in automobile racing.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Mr. Scott and express my gratitude for his courageous efforts to make racing an inclusive sport from the very beginning.

#### STEM CELL SCIENCE: THE FOUNDATION OF FUTURE CURES HEARING IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I have been deeply involved in working to expand the Federal policy on stem cell research over the last several years with my friend DIANA DEGETTE, and I am encouraged to see the House Energy and Commerce Committee hold its first hearing on the subject of stem cell policy and the foundation for future cures. I look forward to hearing from the expert witnesses testifying today, everyone from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, leading scientists, Dr. George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston, and Dr. John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins University, and Weyman Johnson, Jr. who chairs the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, about the ever important field of regenerative medicine. There have been a couple of very exciting developments in the field recently, underscoring the critical role of the United States' scientific community and the need for even more coordinated Federal research.

Announcements from scientists about removing single cells from embryos to develop embryonic stem cell lines, and using human skin cells in ways that offer similar promise as embryonic stem cells, underscores the importance of pursuing all avenues of science that could advance human health.

The recent discoveries are significant, but we must remember that important scientific advances do not always translate to medical advances. It is for this reason that I believe, and scientists agree, it would be irresponsible to abandon embryonic stem cell research, which continues to show the most immediate promise.

My passion for advancing and expanding research on stem cells comes from years of meeting with those who are suffering from diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's and their loved ones—and from the many scientists I have had met over the years who have hailed the promise of the pluripotency, that is the ability to become any cell in the body, of embryonic stem cells, and the breakthrough of induced pluripotent stem cells, iPS, which are believed to have the same qualities. There is no greater promise for better treatments and potential cures than there is with a strong Federal investment in ethical forms of medical research of all kinds. American scientists should be leading the world.

iPS is a major scientific breakthrough, however many have said the viruses and genes used in the process to create the embryonic-like state of the human skin cells can cause cancer. If the cancer factor cannot be eliminated, and only further research will tell, iPS cells may be better suited for learning more about cancer, for example, or for improving pharmaceutical drugs. So, if it is the case that iPS cells might prove better for some uses and embryonic stem cells better for others, how could we abandon one for the other?

It is apparent that with the availability of new stem cell lines, the ability of medical researchers to alleviate the suffering of millions will be bolstered. The United States should support comprehensive stem cell research of all kinds, instead of tying the hands of researchers and asking patients with some of the most debilitating diseases to wait even longer. Federal policy must be updated to reflect science advancements.

Moving forward, I believe we need to look for ways to strengthen the ethical framework which guides all forms of regenerative medicine. Policies should be in place to allow scientists to pursue fundamental science inquiries. It will also be essential that Congress work with the National Institutes of Health to ensure that any change in policy can be implemented with ease. When Congress votes to expand the Federal policy or when the next Administration changes the policy, which I am confident will happen, we must have the capacity to move forward quickly to expand the Stem Cell Registry to include the many lines derived post August 9, 2001, and to supply new Federal grants.

We simply must pursue all avenues of science that show promise for advancing human health—and the role of the Federal Government in carrying this out is paramount. For more than a century, the National Institutes of Health has promoted cooperation among the scientists who receive Federal research dollars, and has made knowledge sharing a priority. While state-funded stem cell initiatives are important, without the support of Federal Government there remains a void.

In just 10 short years since Dr. James Thompson announced the first embryonic stem cell line, we have made great strides. Without the Federal funding restriction, who knows where we would be today. Nearly three-quarters of Americans from all walks of life support embryonic stem cell research, as does the majority in Congress who support expanding the Federal stem cell policy to allow for funding and oversight of embryonic stem cell research and who voted for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which with great disappointment was vetoed twice by President Bush.

I cannot stress enough the promise of stem cell research of all kinds for alleviating the suffering of the 100 million American patients and so many more around the globe who are living with devastating diseases for which there are no good treatments and for which there is no cure. As Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, stated in Senate testimony in March 2007: "It is clear today that American science will be better served and the nation would be better served if we let our scientists have access to more cell lines." We must work to remove the barriers to Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

#### WELCOMING HONOR AIR

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome World War II veterans from Western North Carolina to Washington, DC. I am honored to have these members of the Greatest

Generation here in Washington to visit the National World War II Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Honor Air of Henderson and Buncombe counties provides free trips for World War II Veterans to ensure that they have an opportunity to see the memorial which honors their service to our nation, and to commemorate their fallen comrades. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers of Honor Air in all of its locations across the country for making these trips possible.

The National World War II Memorial was opened to the public in May of 2004, and has since been visited by millions of people from around the world. Built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II, the National World War II Memorial serves as a reminder of their sacrifice and service to the American people. I am thankful that we have finally found a permanent memorial here in the Nation's capital to honor their service.

On behalf of the residents of North Carolina's 11th District and all Americans, I offer our deepest appreciation to these visitors for their service, their sacrifice, and their presence here today. These men and women represent the bravery and benevolence of America—past, present, and future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring and welcoming these distinguished veterans from Western North Carolina to the Capital of our grateful Nation.

#### HONORING SAMUEL H. HOWARD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SIXTY- NINTH BIRTHDAY

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 69th birthday of Samuel H. Howard, a man who has made an indelible impact on the health of Americans and whose life is an inspiration to us all.

During his more than 40-year career, Sam has served as a White House fellow, been a leader at colleges and health care organizations, and founded and led several corporations charting a course to improve health care for all Americans.

A proud graduate of Oklahoma State University, Sam also holds a master's degree from the prestigious Stanford University. He has received multiple awards for his business acumen, including being inducted by his alma mater into the Oklahoma State University School of Business Hall of Fame. Sam was twice awarded the Federation of American Hospitals President's Achievement Award.

In 1994, Sam received the Nashville NAACP Branch Image Award for Lifetime Achievement. His life has shown how much one can achieve when grounded by faith, family, and fortitude.

Madam Speaker, in Tennessee we are fortunate to have Sam Howard as a pillar of our community, and I am privileged to call him my friend. Today, on his birthday, I rise to salute him, express my gratitude for his service to his fellow man and wish him warm blessings for many years to come. Happy Birthday, Sam.

#### COVERING THE UNINSURED

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of the uninsured in recognition of National Uninsured Week in our country.

In recent years the cost of health care has grown wildly. Those who can afford private or employer-based health insurance are fortunate. Unfortunately, 47 million Americans lack health insurance, including nine million children—and in Texas one out of every four individuals is without health insurance.

We need a national health care plan, but until we make it a national priority, Congress will continue to make incremental steps.

That's why Congress has worked so hard to include more children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and I have introduced the Health Centers Renewal Act (H.R. 1343), the Community Mental Health Services Act (H.R. 5167) and the Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act (H.R. 154).

Ten years ago Congress created the SCHIP to help provide health insurance for children of low-income workers. These are hard-working families whose jobs don't offer employer-sponsored health insurance, or whose dependant coverage for children is unaffordable.

Nationwide there are approximately 9 million uninsured children. Alarmingly, more than 1.5 million of those children live in Texas. Our state had significant barriers against the enrollment of new children in SCHIP, and even has policies that have kicked kids out of the program.

As a result, Texas SCHIP enrollment has dropped from about half a million in 2003 to 350,000 in 2007. While children are unceremoniously removed from SCHIP, the number of uninsured continues to grow in our state.

There are about 1.5 million Texas children in households earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and 750,000 to 850,000 of them are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP coverage. Three fourths are not enrolled in either program, meaning there are 200,000 to 300,000 kids in Texas who are eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP.

Tragically, the state doesn't even use all the funds the federal government has provided for our children who are going without basic care. Eventually the money—more than \$850 million in the last seven years—goes to other states or back to the Federal government.

Bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress have supported an expansion of SCHIP that would help solve some of Texas's problems twice over the last year. Sadly, President Bush vetoed our efforts both times, but we will not give up until our children have the health care they need.

In the meantime, we have opened other fronts in the battle to improve the quality of health care in our country. The Health Centers Renewal Act was introduced last year and approved by the Subcommittee on Health on April 23, and will go to the full committee soon.

Health centers represent our Nation's largest primary health care system and serve as

a medical home to more than 15 million Americans, most of whom are uninsured or have low incomes.

By providing people who are medically underserved with primary and preventive health care, the health centers reduce the need for expensive specialty care in hospitals and emergency rooms. The Health Centers Renewal Act will allow health centers to nearly double the number of individuals they can serve.

The Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act, which was introduced in January, will improve medical care for often-neglected mental health patients. Community mental health organizations serve more than six million adults and children across the country.

Many of these people are Medicaid beneficiaries, children in foster care, the destitute, homeless and uninsured. Unfortunately, community mental health centers have been chronically underfunded for many years and struggle to meet the basic health needs of the people they serve.

This bill will allow mental health care providers to recruit medical primary care doctors to care for patients with serious mental illness. Patients with mental illnesses die on average 25 years earlier than the average American, demonstrating the criticality of the need for better health care.

The Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act was introduced last year would close a loophole that allows more than a million people with disabilities to go without medical care for extended periods of time.

When Medicare expanded in 1972 to include individuals with significant disabilities, Congress stipulated that they had to first receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for two years before becoming eligible for Medicare, resulting in a three step process.

First, the Social Security Administration has to determine SSDI approval. Second, an individual has to wait five months before receiving SSDI benefits. Third, after receiving SSDI benefits an individual has to wait two more years before they can receive Medicare coverage.

More than 26 percent of individuals with significant disabilities have no health insurance during this two-year wait. Before becoming disabled, most of these people worked full time and paid into Medicare like everyone else.

Now, when they need help the most, they are required to wait without coverage. This bill would phase out the two-year wait over 10 years and completely eliminate the waiting period for people with life-threatening conditions.

Finally, I strongly support restoring funding for the Healthy Community Access Program, which in my community has helped enroll an additional 250,000 individuals in Medicaid and CHIP, while also directing the uninsured away from the ERs and toward an appropriate health care home.

To address this issue, I introduced the Community Coalitions for Access and Quality Improvement Act, H.R. 3561. This legislation would provide grants to community health access coalitions to implement best practices proven to reduce health care costs, achieve better health outcomes and improve access to health care for uninsured and low-income Americans.

Congress should enact legislation to provide all Americans with health insurance. Ideally,

no child, no disabled worker, and no uninsured woman would suffer from a lack of adequate health care. As we work toward that goal, Congress should take every opportunity to put in place policies that provide as many people as possible with quality, affordable health insurance.

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HONORING ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH  
WEEK

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Santa Maria Elks Club to honor the first week of May as Elks National Youth Week in tribute to our junior citizens and to honor them for their achievement and contributions to their community, State and Nation.

Youth Week is designed to guide, inspire and encourage our youth to serve their community and help prepare them for the duties and opportunities of citizenship. Across the country, our Nation's young people are becoming active citizens and learning the importance of civic involvement. I firmly believe in encouraging the sense of community demonstrated by these ambitious and engaged young people.

As a mother and a grandmother, I am amazed by the strength of character I see in junior citizens. I commend the goals and ideals of the Santa Maria Elks Club and am proud to honor America's future leaders today.

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H. RES. 49, TO ESTABLISH NA-  
TIONAL LETTER CARRIERS AP-  
PRECIATION DAY

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 49, a resolution that establishes National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

Letter carriers are vital to the United States economy and help keep families and friends in touch with one another. They provide mail service 6 days a week, in good and bad weather, to more than 144 million households. The United States Postal Service employs more than 705,000 letter carriers who deliver more than 43 tons of mail each year. This averages to approximately 2,300 letters, cards, magazines, and circulars per carrier per day.

In addition, I would like to specifically honor Perry Bennet Schmitt, who has delivered mail to my District Office since I was first elected to Congress in 2000. My staff and I look forward to his daily visits where he brightens our day with jokes and stories. Perry has served the people of Saint Paul as a letter carrier for 28 years and has delivered mail on his current route for over twenty. It takes him six hours to deliver mail each day to over 350 stops. Perry is a designated letter carrier trainer and during his time with the Post Office has trained over a hundred carriers. He is also an active mem-

ber of Local 28 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, which represents over 1,000 members.

I want to thank Perry and all letter carriers for their dedication and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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HONORING COUNCILMAN GENE  
BELMARES

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Gene Belmares, who will be presented with the Liberty Bell Award by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association on May 9, 2008.

Gene Belmares is the son of a decorated World War II veteran, Ignacio Belmares, and Elvira Belmares. He grew up in Laredo, Texas, and attended United High School and Laredo Junior College. Gene utilized his marketing skills to great effect in his work with some of South Texas's most prestigious companies such as Thomas Petroleum, Arguindegui Oil, and WestWind Homes. Gene is now enjoying his work with the marketing and sales team at the famous La Posada Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in South Texas that is leading the revitalization of downtown Laredo.

Councilman Belmares was elected to the Laredo City Council in 2002, and is seated on the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Water Issues, Sports Venue, and Legislative Committees. He is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tempore, and is responsible for the unprecedented fiscal growth of the City of Laredo for the last 6 years through his work on landmark ordinances and legacy projects. Councilman Belmares also has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his civic work with the March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy, and the American Cancer Society. He enjoys coaching the Gateway Girls Softball League, and the Boys and Girls Club flag football.

Councilman Belmares is a truly deserving recipient of the Liberty Bell Award, which is given out annually by the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association to those who have demonstrated exemplary community service, and contributed to good governance in the community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Councilman Belmares to the City of Laredo, and I thank you for this time.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARVEY  
ALLEN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my friend Harvey Allen by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to

Harvey Allen for his service as an educator in the Nevada higher education system for over thirty years.

Harvey served as a full time professor of Broadcasting, English, Journalism, Speech, Acting, and Theater at the Community College of Southern Nevada for 30 years before retiring at age 75. His dedication to higher education stretched beyond the classroom as he directed the first student produced play at CCSN, served as faculty advisor for the college newspaper, served as a Faculty Senate Member, and established an internship program for Broadcasting and Journalism students. During this time, Harvey also served as a visiting professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Harvey's own education includes earning four degrees from Modesto Jr. College, San Diego State University, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In addition to his work in higher education, Harvey has been influential within the broadcasting community. In 2007, Harvey was inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Hall of Fame citing his many professional accomplishments which included hosting numerous radio talk shows and writing for several Las Vegas publications.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Harvey Allen. His dedication to enriching lives through education and broadcasting has touched countless Nevadans. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

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#### TROOPS NEED YOU

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, throughout our history, Americans have risen up to help our troops win wars—from merchants and storekeepers in the Revolutionary War to Rosie the Riveter in World War II. Today, that tradition continues, as average citizens directly support our troops in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

A non-profit charity called Troops Need You delivers resources our troops need—from medical supplies and equipment to school supplies and water purification systems, Troops Need You was founded by a military man himself, Major Eric Egland, an intelligence officer and former counter-terrorism operative who has served around the world, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. He knows what it takes to win.

Troops Need You has already mobilized over one thousand Americans, and is based on innovations so effective that they earned not only a partnership with General David Petraeus but even praise from the President of the United States himself.

We are at a critical point in Iraq, defeating the terrorists to deny them a safe haven to attack American families and our allies. Success requires more Americans to rise up and help our troops succeed. A great way to do that is through Troops Need You.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN SCHWARTZ

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroism and self sacrifice of firefighter John Schwartz, 38, who died in the line of duty on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, while driving to the scene of a brush fire threatening a nearby community.

When John heard the distress call Tuesday afternoon from nearby Ordway, Colorado, he jumped in his fire engine with Fire Chief Terry DeVore to try to help. A massive wild fire was burning across the prairie and the smoke was so thick that John and Terry could not see the bridge burned out in front of them. Terry's father Bruce, a fire department volunteer, was right behind them when he noticed their tail lights disappear. Bruce and the other firefighters stopped and tried to fight the inferno in front of them, but it was a hopeless fight.

John and Terry were good friends and worked together at the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility and John had recently joined Olney Springs' volunteer fire department. John's father told a newspaper that John joined the department because he liked the idea of doing something for the community. John attended Centennial High School in Pueblo, Colorado, and served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years before returning to the Fowler area. John raised horses, cattle, and goats on a small ranch and he loved to hunt and shoot with his sons, ages 4 to 15, John, Wyatt, Wesley, and Cody.

John left behind his four boys, as well as his parents John and Toni Schwartz.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent John and other men and women who sacrifice so much to care for their communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of a great American and in expressing heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the service of John Schwartz.

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#### RECOGNIZING WAPSIE VALLEY WARRIORS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Wapsie Valley Warriors volleyball team at the State volleyball tournament in Cedar Rapids this past fall.

Wapsie Valley and Holy Trinity were tied at two games apiece going into the final match. With the game tied at 12, Wapsie Valley got a big hit from Carly Wehling and a tip by Eryca Hingtgen to get a match point at 14–12. Holy Trinity fought off the match point with a spike, but Wehling finished out the game with her 13th and final kill of the match.

The third ranked Wapsie Valley (39–1) won the first two games and withstood a Holy Trinity comeback to earn a 27–25, 26–24, 22–25, 20–25, 15–13 victory and their second straight Class 1A State volleyball championship. I congratulate the Warriors on their hard fought victory.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Warrior volleyball team, both on and off the court, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

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#### CONGRATULATING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate American University of Antigua & Barbuda on its newly announced initiative establishing a school that will address the nursing shortage occurring in the United States and abroad.

The American University of Antigua & Barbuda aims to create a nursing school that provides Caribbean nationals with a place to pursue higher education in the healthcare industry as well as an alternative location of study for international students. Through its' historic affiliation with CUNY's Lehman College, AUA hopes to improve the medical standards of care throughout the Caribbean. The program allows AUA students who have completed their Associates Degree in Nursing with the option to transition directly into the baccalaureate program at the Lehman college for a mere 2 years. In a time when there is a 6 year wait list to attend nursing college, the creation of this program serves a model to produce more qualified nurses in an attempt to alleviate the nursing shortage. AUA also hopes to provide students with scholarships, in order to allow those people from lower-income families to pursue higher education.

It is my sincere hope that other Colleges and Universities around the world will join the American University of Antigua & Barbuda in providing feasible alternatives to the nursing shortage, while simultaneously allowing minorities and people from lower income families to further their education.

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#### TRIBUTE TO SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Dr. Marjorie Kaplan, Superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District, who is retiring at the end of this school year, after 16 years of extraordinary leadership for her district, and for the greater Kansas City area.

Dr. Kaplan came to Shawnee Mission in 1992 after a distinguished career in Arizona. She is returning to the Phoenix area where she will be close to her children and grandchildren.

My congressional district is blessed with some of the best schools in the country. I know many Members of Congress feel that way, but I know this is the case. Where I live, among many outstanding school districts, Shawnee Mission schools remain the gold

standard in our area. During her tenure, Dr. Kaplan has reinforced this perception and continually raised this standard.

I have come to admire and respect Dr. Kaplan, who has never been shy about giving me very good advice on education issues and legislation. I know how much good schools mean to my constituents, so I have always heeded her expertise and guidance.

The Shawnee Mission district includes older suburban areas and is surrounded by newer, fast growing areas. Under Dr. Kaplan's leadership, and thanks to confidence in the district, Shawnee Mission patrons have passed a series of school bond issues which allowed the district to renew its building stock, while combining some elementary school populations.

During the past 16 years, Dr. Kaplan and Shawnee Mission schools have:

Brought rigorous International Baccalaureate programming to area high school students since 1996, and greatly increased advanced placement classes; Strengthened the district's Center for International Studies and further developed the languages offered through the program; Transformed career and technical education courses and programs with award winning programs in culinary arts, commercial baking, graphic design, multimedia, and computer training; Brought in engineering technology, biotechnology, and biomedical health science programs; Introduced the Open Court reading program; and Continually produced students who outperform their Kansas and US peers on standardized tests, including the ACT and the SAT. For several years, Shawnee Mission produces about 20 percent of the Kansas National Merit finalists, despite having only 6 percent of the state's population.

Although a talented administrator, Dr. Kaplan has made it a point to substitute teach in every building throughout the school year. Perhaps because of this, her teachers and administrators know how much she cares, and understands their difficulties and joys at the classroom level. Educators today face new challenges, with increasing numbers of children who do not speak English at home and with problems of school funding and federal education programs. Despite it all, this district has continued to succeed.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me the time to pay tribute to an outstanding educator who I am proud to call a friend, Dr. Marjorie Kaplan.

RECOGNIZING DULUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, from May 3–5, 2008, more than 1200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C. to take part in the National Finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, one of the most extensive educational programs in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education

by act of Congress. It is important to note that results of independent studies of this nationally acclaimed program have shown that We the People students have gained a greater political tolerance and attained an excellent understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a superb program that is producing an enlightened and engaged citizenry.

I am proud to announce that the state of Minnesota was represented by a class from Duluth Central High School at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capital and compete at the national level. The names of these outstanding students from Duluth Central High School are: Leanna Albertson, Sharlene Balik, Krista Benko, Gregory Bongey, John Brakke, Whitney Buck, Jessica Churchill, Kylie Dalager, Alissa Elke, Chad Erlmeier, Zack Filipovich, Jordan Foschi, Nicholas Foucault, Robert Gitar, Daniel Gunderson, Matthew Harold, Elizabeth Hauschildt, Garth Heikkinen, Amy Hietala, Grace Larsen, Joseph Makynen, Marina McCuskey, Jason Michalicek, Hannah Olson, Liza Pierre, Jessica Primozich, Molly Prudden, Matthew Roberts, Eric Stokes, and Joseph Von Rueden.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testified" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluated, took, and defended positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Ethan Fisher, who was responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Jennifer Bloom, the state coordinator, who is responsible for implementing the We the People program in the great state of Minnesota.

I applaud the exceptional achievements of these students.

FISA COURT IS DOING ITS JOB

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as Congress has debated how to update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, some have said that law is completely outdated.

I support revisions to reflect changes in technology since FISA was enacted, but I think it is important to recognize that the basic law is sound and does not prevent the Government from acting to protect Americans.

That point was well put in a recent editorial in the Rocky Mountain News, noting that the Justice Department has reported that in 2007 the special FISA court approved some 2,370 warrants authorizing surveillance of people in the United States believed to be in contact with international terrorist organizations while denying only 3 requests for such warrants.

This led the newspaper to conclude that "The great number of warrants granted, compared to just three denied, indicates that the spy court is no great impediment to national security" and, with regard to the Bush administration's proposals to rewrite FISA, "The suspicion here is that the Bush administration simply doesn't want any checks on its eavesdropping powers."

I think that is a pretty accurate appraisal. For the information of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 2, 2008]

SPY COURT KEEPING UP WITH WIRETAP REQUESTS

The Bush administration has been asserting the right to wiretap without seeking a warrant from a special court set up for that purpose under the 30-year-old Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

However, a Justice Department report on the court's wiretap approvals suggests it is not quite the hurdle the administration made it out to be. Last year, the court approved 2,370 warrants seeking wiretaps of people in this country believed to be in contact with international terrorist organizations.

The court denied just three warrant applications and partially denied another; 86 times the court asked the government to amend its applications before granting approval. The year before, the court denied only one application and that just partially. This hardly sounds like an onerous approval process.

Since the number of warrants being sought has more than doubled since 9/11, it also sounds as if the court is having no problem keeping up with the workload. The suspicion here is that the Bush administration simply doesn't want any checks on its eavesdropping powers. And in seeking a rewrite of the surveillance law, the administration did in fact seek to greatly expand its powers to wiretap without warrants.

The great number of warrants granted, compared to just three denied, indicates that the spy court is no great impediment to national security.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JADE ANDERSON

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Jade Anderson by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Jade Anderson, owner and CEO of Capstone Brokerage, Inc., for his small-business achievements throughout the Las Vegas community.

Jade Anderson is a graduate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a degree in Business Administration. He began Capstone Brokerage Inc. shortly after graduation, first as a part-time venture for about five years. He shifted gears in 2002 deciding to put all of his energy into growing his company. His company also serves as a connection to other successful entrepreneurs and business minds around the globe. In addition to running Capstone, Jade is a member of the Las Vegas

Chapter of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO). Through this organization, he has been able to apply to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Entrepreneurs Masters Program where he meets annually for one week with other CEOs and entrepreneurs and listens to business leaders and professors speak on issues related to running their own businesses.

Today, Jade is also focused on making certain that his company gives back to the community. He gives a large portion of time to Olive Crest, a nonprofit organization that supports the prevention and treatment of child abuse. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Olive Crest and assists with fundraising and volunteer efforts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jade Anderson and would like to recognize his small-business accomplishments within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the Small Business Person of the Year at the 2008 Small Business Awards.

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TRIBUTE TO MIKE KEEFE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mike Keefe from the State of Iowa Fire Marshall's Office, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment for the past 32 years for the safety of Iowans.

After receiving a business administration degree in 1975, Mike began volunteering for the Decorah, Iowa fire department. While on the job, the fire department was called to a fire at the church he attended and where his mother worked as a secretary. He rescued his mother by helping her out a window. The fire officials asked Mike to assist in their investigation, and afterwards Mike was encouraged to apply for a position with the Iowa Fire Marshall's Office. He was offered and accepted a job in 1976 with the office as an investigator. Over the years Mike has investigated nearly 3,000 fires, providing reliable and dedicated service to many Iowans.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Mike Keefe for his service to the State Fire Marshall's Office and the people of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Mike in Congress and I wish him and his wife, Susan, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

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LYNN FIELDS—COMMUNITY  
SERVANT FOR EDUCATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Humble ISD board of trustees will say farewell to a dedi-

cated public servant on May 13, 2008 when my friend Mrs. Lynn Fields retires after serving 14 years as a board member.

I met Lynn when she was a reporter for the Baytown Sun back in the 1980s and I was a Texas Judge. Since those days, Lynn Fields has served as the voice of a mother and community volunteer on the Humble ISD school board who always looked out for the best interests of our children. She faithfully carried the torch of public service passed to her from her father-in-law, Jack Fields Sr., who previously served the district as board member for 21 years.

Over the years, she worked hard at improving services for students in both educational and social areas. She initiated the district's pursuit of a Spanish immersion program at two Humble elementary schools. She led the district with efforts to reduce alcohol and drug use among children with programs such as "Common Ground," which resulted in increased awareness of the dangers of binge drinking and the importance of students' making responsible decisions in social situations.

Many of her friends and colleagues have spoken kind words in describing her dedication to public service. "Lynn's heart is as big as the state of Texas," said Dave Martin, President of the Humble ISD Board of Trustees. "We could always count on Lynn's guidance to lead us down the direction and path that put the morality and ethical issues of our students first."

Lynn Fields and Humble ISD Superintendent, Dr. Guy Sconzo, have hosted a monthly cable access show called "Your Schools," which spotlights people and programs within the district. She received the School Bell Award for outstanding media coverage of educational news for the program by the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

"Lynn is frankly just one of the kindest, most caring servant leaders I have ever met," said Dr. Sconzo about working with Lynn. "Through literally every very difficult budget development crisis and challenging growth issues that face our district, Lynn always kept the discussion focused on what's best for children."

Lynn Fields has also experienced many wonderful personal moments in her 14-year tenure as school board member including the opportunity to hand two of her children their high school diplomas at their graduation. She also watched with pride when the board of trustees named an elementary school after her late father-in-law Jack Fields Sr.

In addition to her efforts in the school district, she is also an active community leader in several organizations. Lynn is a member of Humble Area First Baptist Church. She is a Light Keeper member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and serves as MADD Southeast Texas Regional Council Chair. She has been a long-time advocate for women and children. Lynn started the Bay Area Women's Center in Baytown in 1981. With the help of her husband, former Congressman Jack Fields, they raised funds to help open "The Door," a shelter for battered women in the Humble area.

Jack Fields has been a long-time friend of mine, and he is extremely proud of Lynn's ac-

complishments as well. "My wife has given of herself, unselfishly, for the students of our area," he said. "She has led in the areas of character, alcohol and drug education, and Spanish immersion for those students wishing to become bilingual. She is an outstanding woman, mother and wife. Our area and my family are benefited by her years of service. She is the model for those who serve in their communities. I could not be more proud of her. I am honored to be her husband. I love her very much."

It is an honor today to recognize the great contributions that Lynn Fields has made to Humble ISD and the community. Madam Speaker, we thank Lynn, for her years of service, principled leadership and dedication to our children. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

And that's just the way it is.

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PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION  
TO STATES INCARCERATING UN-  
DOCUMENTED ALIENS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1512, legislation to compensate the States for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, commonly referred to as SCAAP, is a very effective federal-local government partnership that deserves robust funding from the Bush Administration.

Currently, SCAAP funding is about \$175 million less than what it was in fiscal year 1998, and falls far short of meeting the actual costs incurred by local jurisdictions. In my home state of California, we received about \$110 million for this program in 2007. However, the California Department of Corrections actually spent more than \$912.5 million of its own money to arrest and hold these criminal aliens. Like many other states, California is cutting funding in education and other programs in an effort to balance its budget; by underfunding SCAAP, the Bush Administration is forcing California to spend upwards of \$800 million of its own money, foisting a federal responsibility on our local governments.

H.R. 1512 restores the original partnership and allows our local law enforcement officials to focus on protecting our communities. If we are truly serious about removing these dangerous criminal aliens from our country, we must make sure that we provide state and local law enforcement officers with all the tools they need to succeed.