

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE ELMS RESORT AND SPA 120TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the outstanding achievement of The Elms Resort and Spa in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, for celebrating 120 years of history and hospitality on July 4, 2008. The Elms has lasted through two fires, the Depression, bankruptcy, and multiple owners and still stands today as a grand example of elegance, first-class amenities and the spa of healing waters that made it so famous.

The Elms has welcomed a number of politicians and stars through the years. From Al Capone, to Jack Dempsey and even President Harry S. Truman, many figures throughout history have experienced the cultivated history and vibrant atmosphere of this great resort. This esteemed recognition of 120 great years has not come easily, but after years of restoring and rebuilding, the resort is vibrant as ever. This hotel is a true survivor and stands as a magnificent tribute to the unbeatable spirit of the town of Excelsior Springs.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding The Elms Resort and Spa for their dedication of service and loyalty to the people of Excelsior Springs, Missouri as a true Missouri landmark. I wish the resort 120 more years of greatness to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
ISLETA UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH FOR CELEBRATING
THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Isleta United Methodist Church was built in 1858; and

Whereas, the Isleta United Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in its region; and

Whereas, the Isleta United Methodist Church and its members continue to be integral, active participants of their community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank the Isleta United Methodist Church for contributions to our community and country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARTIN P.
ZANOTTI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Martin P. Zanotti, whose life will forever reflect devotion to family and friends, and service to community and country.

Mr. Zanotti's family was central to his life. He was married to his beloved wife, Rose, for 59 years. Together, they lovingly raised their children, Marty, David, Christopher and Mary Beth. He was a doting grandfather to Jacqueline, Rachael, Anthony, Anna, Corey, Courtney, Stephanie, Sarah, Frank, Natalie and Gina; he was a devoted brother to Paul, and a loyal friend to many.

Mr. Zanotti contributed greatly to our Nation and to our community. He was a United States veteran, having served during WWII in the U.S. Army Corps. His abiding commitment to his Catholic faith was evidenced by his long-time involvement in St. John Bosco Church, where he was founding member.

Above all, Mr. Zanotti was a man who lived his faith. He personified the word "gentleman" and was a man of integrity, who treated everyone with kindness and respect. Mr. Zanotti's quiet, yet warm nature and quick smile were at the core of his spirit and nothing made him happier than spending time with his family.

Mr. Zanotti attended countless sporting and school events and was there to witness every milestone. He reveled in the achievements of his children and grandchildren, and even most significantly, was their rock of support and encouragement when the chips were down.

Behind the scenes, Mr. Zanotti consistently lent his assistance to help anyone in need. Without fanfare or recognition, as soon as Mr. Zanotti learned of an individual or family in need, he reached out to help in any way he could, without hesitation and regardless of whether or not he knew them.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Martin P. Zanotti, whose spirit, joy for living, service to others and love for his family will live forever in their hearts and memories. I extend my sincere condolences to his family, extended family and numerous friends.

Although he will be greatly missed, Mr. Zanotti's legacy of kindness and giving has made our community a much better place, his joyous life and simple acts of kindness will never be forgotten.

HONORING JERSEY CITY POLICE
CAPTAIN ROBERT V. TAINO

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Captain Robert V. Taino on the occasion of his retirement. Captain Taino, who will retire on July 1, 2008, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of Jersey City Police Force.

Captain Taino, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1966, and initially assigned to the first precinct. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the radio room, Bureau of Supervision, administration division Chief of Patrol Staff, Special Patrol Bureau, Support Services Division, officer of the Chief and City Command. His experience and his knowledge of the community were recognized by the receipt of numerous awards including one commendation and one World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Captain Robert V. Taino, his wife Grace and 3 children Kymberly, Tara, and Robert, Jr. for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MACEDONIA BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to Macedonia Baptist Church of Norristown, Pennsylvania for celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. They will be acknowledging this great milestone on June 21, 2008 at a banquet luncheon to be held at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern, Pennsylvania. The Macedonia Baptist Church has an uplifting tradition of volunteerism and service to the community and represents a beacon of strength in the Norristown community.

Since its establishment in 1923, Macedonia Baptist Church has constantly kept its vision and goals centered in the principles of the Gospel and service to the community. Macedonia has been a fixture in the Norristown community and continues to grow and serve the community with each passing year.

Macedonia Baptist Church is led by Pastor Byron L. Craig and continues to make a difference every day. Throughout the past 16 years, under the guidance and leadership of Pastor Craig, Macedonia Baptist Church has

● 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.

experienced both spiritual and personal growth and has maintained a constant presence for community residents. Pastor Craig has been involved with numerous service organizations and has been awarded countless honors for his leadership, notably serving as president of the Norristown Ministerium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Macedonia Baptist Church on its 85th anniversary. May their continued care, compassion, and commitment to God and the community be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 1237, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth. The holiday of Juneteenth is an important opportunity to recognize the abolition of slavery in the United States. This holiday commemorates the emancipation of African Americans from the final vestiges of bondage in our Nation. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger led Union troops into Galveston, Texas, and announced that all slaves had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. The celebration of Juneteenth recognizes that day, two and a half years after Lincoln's proclamation, as the first opportunity for Union troops to penetrate Texan military resistance to announce and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

On June 19, 1865, after overcoming extreme opposition from Southern slave owners, General Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas. Beginning his fateful announcement, he said, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

These words brought forth the emancipation of 250,000 Texas slaves who were among the last people to learn of their freedom. Granger's statement marked the full realization of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as intended by the Founding Fathers of our great Nation. The date of June 19, 1865 symbolizes the genius of our country's struggle to bring about a more perfect union, a struggle that continues to this very day.

I take this opportunity to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth as a holiday which celebrates African American freedom while also encouraging self-pride and multicultural respect. I also thank Congressman DANNY DAVIS for sponsoring H. Res. 1237, a commendable resolution that I wholeheartedly support. I knowledge and support the historical significance of Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 414. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2964—Captive Primate Safety Act.

CRIME IN THE CARIBBEAN—PRAISING
YVETTE CLARKE'S RESPONSE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the efforts of Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE with regard to the bipartisan resolution that addresses crime in the Caribbean. The prevalence of crime in the Caribbean and its particular importance to the United States are discussed in the editorial "Resolution Passes House of Representatives" and "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Clear and Present Danger," which appeared in this week's edition of the *New York Carib News*.

Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE introduced the resolution to the House floor in the hopes that it would raise awareness about the horrific situation of skyrocketing crime rates in the Caribbean. The resolution unanimously passed the House and hopefully will be followed by support from the Senate and the administration. Crime is threatening the pillars on many Caribbean nations' economies: tourism and agriculture. Crime destroys both people's perception of safety and companies' perception of a sound location to invest funds. Whether America likes to admit it or not, we have played a crucial role in causing this crisis. Contagion is a real concern as extremely high rates of violent crime can easily pass through our porous borders.

Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE has done America a great service in bringing this very serious issue to the forefront of American politics. I urge Americans to remain informed on the situation by reading the editorials "Resolution Passes House of Representatives" and "Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Clear and Present Danger" in *Carib News*.

U.S. REP. CLARKE'S CARIBBEAN CRIME RESOLUTION PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today a bipartisan resolution addressing crime in the Caribbean region introduced by Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke passed unanimously in the House of Representatives. The resolution (H. RES. 865) expresses that the United States Government should assist Caribbean nations in taking specific measures toward reducing crime in that region.

Below are Congresswoman Clarke's prepared remarks on H. RES. 865:

"The release of the UN/World Bank report 'Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean' is a wake-up call for every American interested in the security of our nation.

As the report points out, a variety of factors, including some for which the U.S. is partly responsible—such as heavy illicit drug use and problematic deportation policies—have contributed to the Caribbean region having the highest crime rate in the world.

While today the region remains a wonderful place for Americans to visit, in the long-term, continuing these high levels of crime will wreak serious social, economic, and security troubles for many Caribbean countries.

Allowing this situation to deteriorate for years-to-come will undoubtedly create a security threat not just for the Caribbean states, but also for our own country, as an unstable Caribbean would create a vast hole in America's border security.

Many of the problems identified by this report have long been recognized by Caribbean leaders.

Now, with the confirmation provided by this report in hand, the U.S. must partner with its Western Hemisphere neighbors and allies to find workable solutions that will help the people of the Caribbean and ensure the long-term security and stability of our region.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution calling for the U.S. to take up the solutions contained in a very important UN/World Bank report. If we act now, we can help our allies to greatly reduce their crime levels before the situation becomes far less manageable."

[From the *Carib News*, Apr. 22, 2008]

CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN,
CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER EXPERTS WARN
(By Tony Best)

"A clear and present danger to the Caribbean's social stability and economic vibrancy." That's how Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, perhaps the Caribbean's foremost security specialist, described the bleak picture of crime and violence confronting almost every nation and territory in the region.

With the homicide rate at historic levels in some countries, the rising incidence of kidnappings and armed robberies, drug and gun running serious problem for urban communities, and break-ins and assaults of homeowners now commonplace throughout the area, Dr. Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President of the York College of the City University of New York, said that unless a comprehensive solution and implemented soon, the economic impact would be severe and the social stability undermined.

"It has reached a nearly uniform level of being a clear and present danger for the region," he told the *Carib News* after Caricom leaders approved a plan to deal with it at a recent special summit in Trinidad and Tobago, one of the region's hardest hit countries. "Although it is not a crisis-driven situation in every country, for instance there is variability in the homicide rate in Jamaica and St. Kitts-Nevis and there is the perennial trafficking of drug trafficking in Guyana vis-à-vis the Bahamas. But given the connectivity of the region, given the transnationality of the challenges, an appropriate definition is that the situation is a clear and present danger."

Meanwhile, the Caribbean's crime profile hasn't gone unnoticed by members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington. At the urging of Brooklyn Congresswoman, Yvette Clarke, the chamber has approved a resolution calling on the United States to assist the region as it tries to grapple with the growing problem.

"What is very significant about it is that is a record by which we can hold the feet of the House and by extension the Congress to the fire when it comes to our relationship

with the Caribbean region, particularly in the context of safety and security, development and crime," Clarke said. "As far as I know, there hasn't been this level of recognition given to the responsibility and the type of bridge building that need to take place between the United States and the Caricom nations."

The resolution doesn't have the force of law but expresses the mood of the chamber. It was approved about a week ago and Clarke expects it to open the door to assistance from Washington at a crucial time.

"Typically when the House passes a resolution of this type, the State Department is usually close behind it in terms of its role and responsibility," she said. "We expect support, not only in the House and the Senate but in the executive branch, the Administration. Definitely, it could influence the flow of funds and technical support to the Caribbean."

Dr. Griffith, the author of a number of books on Caribbean security, said that two economic pillars of the region, tourism and agriculture were under threat from crime and violence because they have the potential to raise doubts about people's personal safety and their foreign direct investment.

Of course, there is oil in Trinidad and Tobago, bauxite in Jamaica and Guyana but as a region tourism and agriculture define the economic landscape of the Caribbean," he said. "Crime and security jeopardize those in dramatic ways. Jamaica is unique in a sense, but I am not sure for how long to have had a significant crime and security challenge but at the same time it has been doing fairly well in tourism. The general economic livelihood of the Caribbean very much revolves around having relative peace and stability."

As he sees it, the problem comes down to the degree of crime, the extent of drug trafficking and the prevalence and availability of weapons, all of which can undermine "the basic tenets" that influence the flow of long-term foreign investment in the various island-nations and coastal states.

The York College Provost warned that the negative news media coverage of the Caribbean, portraying it as a major center for crime and violence could make the various destinations far less appealing to tourists than at any other time.

"It raises the question if tourists are going to want to come to a region that is getting negative press day-in-and-day-out," he asked. "When someone in Europe sees a story about a particular country, he or she would see the Caribbean as a whole, not the individual destination. The region's long-term survivability makes crime and violence a clear and present danger."

He gave the heads of government good marks for confronting the problem but warned that many of the ideas approved in Port of Spain, including special crime fighting and management teams; improved training; introduction of sophisticated equipment; and the availability of mobile law enforcement units would take considerable amounts of financial resources and time to get off the ground. The upshot: moving the plans from the drawing board to reality would result in a time lag that the region could ill-afford.

"The challenge becomes translating the statement into practical reality," was the way Dr. Griffith, who advises western hemisphere and other international institutions on security question, put it. "The statement's truisms undermine some of the practical dimensions involved."

For instance, the decision to establish counter-kidnapping units and response teams and negotiators would "take a while to plan and deliver" and would involve foreign countries and quite a lot of money.

"The training necessary for them and the recruitment that's also necessary would require going beyond the Caribbean boundaries, getting the money to do that. I am not sure that the legislation to give effect to the proposals exists in the Caribbean," he added. "That would mean making legislative accommodations domestically to accommodate some of these worth

them on their dedicated service and I humbly welcome these men and their families to Kansas City.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ELOISE HAGAN FOR HER SERVICE WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Eloise Hagan began volunteering with the Red Cross in 1957; and Whereas, Eloise Hagan is 99 years young; and

Whereas, she was recognized for her more than 50 years of volunteer service during the American Red Cross of Knox County's 2008 Volunteer Awards program; and

Whereas, Eloise Hagan continues to exemplify a special dedication to service and community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Eloise Hagan for her contributions to her community and country.

IN HONOR OF JUDY MARTIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judy Martin, and in recognition of her dedication, advocacy, and promotion of community building in the Greater Cleveland Area. Judy Martin is this year's honoree of the Sixth Annual Beauty and Talent Pageant, presented by the Cleveland Joint Elks' Beauty and Talent Committee.

Judy, a Cleveland resident for over forty years, has been a tireless advocate of non-violence in the Greater Cleveland Area. Following the tragic death of her son in 1994, she became an activist and supporter of Black on Black Crime, Inc; working with the organization as their Secretary and Treasurer. Judy founded her own organization to support others who have also lost loved ones through violence, Survivors/Victims of Tragedy, Inc. She was instrumental in creating the Memorial Wall/Wall of Sorrows on display in East Cleveland, obtaining ninety-eight percent of the funds necessary to build the wall. The wall serves as a memorial for all children who have been victims of crime in Cleveland since 1990 and she continues working with the community in creating a Memorial Reflection Garden.

Judy Martin is also an advocate of Missing Children and Adults, a member of the Greater Cleveland Million Moms, part of the Brady Campaign to prevent gun violence, and a member of several other organizations including the Cleveland Joint Elks Education Committee, the Pioneer Fez Club, and the Veterans Department.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Judy Martin for her outstanding and tireless efforts as an advocate of non-violence and promotion of community building in

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: June 17, 2008: rollcall vote No. 414, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 2964—To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote No. 415, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 3702—Montana Cemetery Act of 2007—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 416, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H. Res. 1275—Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author—I would have voted "aye."

U.S. ARMY FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION LRRP/LRP/HIGHLAND RANGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome the courageous and honorable men of the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, Company E 58th Infantry Long Range Patrol, and Company K 75th Infantry to their 40th Anniversary Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri. These brave men and their families will finally receive the honor they have deserved for so long.

This exceptional group began in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division LRRPs formed within the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades in 1966 and 1967. On July 5th, 1968, these LRRPs were then placed under the control of Captain Ruben H. Siverling, Commander of E Company 58th Infantry (LRP). Captain Siverling described the greatness of these brave men by stating: "I have been recognized and honored for several various degrees of accomplishment in my journey through life. None are more satisfying or humbling than to have served under extreme combat as the last commander of E 58th (LRP) and the first commander of Company K 75th Rangers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a very elite unit of U.S. Army Vietnam veterans, and to welcome them to their 40th Anniversary Reunion. These men, like so many others, have sacrificed so much to protect our Nation's freedom. I congratulate

the Greater Cleveland Area, as well as for her extensive and diverse service to many individuals and families who call the Cleveland Area home.

HONORING JERSEY CITY POLICE
INSPECTOR JON L. TOOKE

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Inspector Jon L. Tooke on the occasion of his retirement. Inspector Tooke who will retire on July 1, 2008, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of Jersey City Police Force.

Inspector Tooke, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1979 and initially assigned to the North District. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the Medical Bureau, Welfare Investigation Unit, Gun Permits Unit, Planning and Research Unit, Police Academy, South District, City Command, Public Information Officer and Patrol Bureau. His experience and his knowledge of the community was recognized by the receipt of numerous awards including ten Excellence Police Service Awards and one World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Inspector Tooke for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINQUAS FIRE COMPANY NO. 2

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Minquas Fire Company No. 2 of Chester County, Pennsylvania as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of service to our community. Organized on April 2, 1908, their countless hours of service and dedication are a testament to the brave men and women who strive each and every day to keep our communities safe.

The Minquas Fire Company No. 2 was initially organized at a meeting at the Downingtown Opera House. Opening a firehouse shortly thereafter in 1909, the Minquas Fire Company No. 2 has been a fixture in the community ever since. In 1923, Minquas expanded to provide EMS service by creating a separate ambulance committee and ambulance fund and this joint company of fire and EMS crews continues to serve the Downingtown area today.

Presently, the Minquas Fire Company No. 2, home to both fire and EMS crews, runs approximately 2,700 calls annually and covers portions of the Borough of Downingtown and East Caln Township. It also serves the surrounding municipalities as needed. Today, the Company is a combined company of mostly volunteers and some paid EMS staff. There

are more than 75 active members running emergency calls under the leadership of President and Fire Chief Michael Miller and EMS Captain Joel Swisher. The Minquas Fire Company No. 2 will commemorate this great milestone on Saturday, June 21, 2008 with a day of celebration.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the brave men and women of Minquas Fire Company No. 2 as they celebrate 100 years of protecting our communities. We can never thank our responders enough for all their dedication and sacrifice to protect the lives and property of their neighbors and the Minquas Fire Company No. 2 is an exemplary example of unselfish service to others.

ANDREW L. JEFFERSON ENDOWMENT FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 31, which will congratulate the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. on his achievements and his selection as the First Endowed Chair of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Trial Advocacy Program. Judge Jefferson is a friend of mine and a fine American who earned this recognition.

Judge Jefferson has dedicated almost 50 years of service to the legal profession, serving in both public and private practice. He served with honor as a judge of the Court of Domestic Relations in Harris County, and later as the 208th District Court Judge for Harris County. Throughout his career, he has received numerous commendations and awards, including the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award and the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, to name a few.

Judge Jefferson has also been an integral member of the Houston community. He has devoted much effort to public service in our area and has been involved with community organizations and services throughout his life. He stands as a lifetime member of the Houston Area Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

This endowment will be an invaluable resource to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the legal profession at large. Its creation ensures that Judge Jefferson's legacy continues.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 415. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to sus-

pend the rules and pass H.R. 3702—Montana Cemetery Act of 2007.

CONGRATULATING THE BROADWAY MUSICAL "IN THE HEIGHTS" FOR WINNING FOUR TONY AWARDS ON JUNE 15, 2008

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise and congratulate the Broadway musical "In the Heights" for winning four Tony Awards on June 15, 2008 in the categories of Best Musical, Best Original Score, Best Choreography, and Best Orchestrations.

"In the Heights" written by Lin-Manuel Miranda a Puerto Rican native of Washington Heights, highlights the lives of a Dominican and Puerto Rican community in Washington Heights during three days allowing the viewer to delve deeper into a community that is especially dear to me in that they are my constituents. Not only does this Broadway musical showcase issues that affect any family but it also takes the viewer a step further by seeing how specifically the Puerto Rican and Dominican Latino community in Washington Heights is affected by everyday life and also their perspectives on various issues.

I would like to commend the cast and crew of "In the Heights" for their hard work and also the very pertinent issues raised in their musical. As Congressman for this specific constituent community I am very proud that this Broadway musical has had so much success and I congratulate all those involved in making it come to fruition.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LOUIS
KIWANIS CLUB

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the St. Louis Kiwanis Club on their 90th anniversary. The St. Louis Kiwanis have been providing community service since 1918.

The Kiwanians have one common goal: To serve the children of the world. Kiwanis advocates this vision everyday by providing opportunities to serve for every member of a community through Service Leadership Programs. Through these opportunities, youth and young adults around the world become competent, capable, and compassionate leaders.

The St. Louis Kiwanis have served their community in many ways, including supporting local charitable organizations including, but not limited to: The Boys and Girls Club of St. Louis, Kiwanis Camp Wyman, Key Clubs, and the Kiwanis Children's Dental Foundation Mobile Clinic. They serve by providing manpower at local events and promoting other children's related causes.

The Kiwanis have reached out to their fellow citizens in need and, in the process, have enriched their own lives.

I want to congratulate and thank the St. Louis Kiwanis for the time and service they

dedicate to the Second District of Missouri and the people of the United States.

RAY BROCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the lifetime achievements of Raymond R. Brock, Jr., of Gladstone, Missouri. Ray has been awarded the Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award on the 200th birth anniversary of Alexander W. Doniphan. Ray's prestigious recognition exemplifies Alexander Doniphan's greatest qualities through education, jurisprudence, statesmanship, patriotism and as a successful businessman.

Ray Brock has dedicated his entire life to giving back to the community. From being a member of the Board of College Hill, Inc., to a pioneer in the development of the Northland area, Ray has shown committed excellence over the years. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1954, and has worked with the Salvation Army, Northland Community Foundation, the Liberty Hospital Board of Directors, Clay County Parks & Recreation Board, and countless other organizations. All of these qualities embody the unique character required for the Alexander Doniphan Community Service Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Raymond R. Brock, Jr., for his selfless acts of generosity through volunteerism. His life should serve as an example to all of us to help each other and our community.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
SMYRNA UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH FOR THEIR 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Smyrna United Methodist Church was established in 1858, predating the Civil War; and

Whereas, Smyrna United Methodist Church continues to have weekly Bible studies and an active choir; and

Whereas, Smyrna United Methodist Church continues to be a central gathering point in the heart of their community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Smyrna United Methodist Church for contributions to her community and country.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP D. STAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Phillip Star; a profoundly re-

spected and influential member and civic leader in the Greater Cleveland community; and in recognition for his twenty years of service as Director of the Center for Neighborhood Development (CND) in the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

As a civic leader, community organizer, educator and author, Phillip Star carries with him a rich history of public service and advocacy in the Greater Cleveland Area. He earned his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, an M.A. from New York University, and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He has served the community in various leadership roles, dedicating his life to empowering and educating local residents in order to improve the quality of life in Cleveland's urban communities. He began his career in community organizing and neighborhood development as a volunteer in Gary, Indiana with VISTA. Prior to joining CND in 1988, he served as a consultant at University of Michigan's National Housing Institute and Housing Law Reform Project and as director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

Since joining CND twenty-years ago, Mr. Star has had a tremendous and lasting effect on our community and all those who have been touched by his work. He has worked to develop future leaders in the field of community organizing and neighborhood planning by instituting year long internships for undergraduate Urban Studies students at various community development corporations, with over one-hundred students being placed in over sixty organizations. Mr. Star has successfully initiated several programs which empower the local community and promote civic engagement, including a mediation program for the Cleveland Housing Court and an online community resource for Cleveland Residents, NeighborhoodLink. Under his leadership, CND was designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs as a community partnership center.

Mr. Star demonstrates his leadership abilities and dedication to fostering community development both in the classroom and in the community. He teaches courses such as neighborhood planning and Cleveland neighborhoods and neighborhood institutions at Cleveland State University and was Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's appointee to the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Action to Support Housing. His other Leadership positions include serving as President of the Ohio Housing Coalition, serving on the Board of Trustees of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and serving as Acting Judge of the Cleveland Housing Court. Mr. Star is also the founding trustee and past president of the board of Eco-City Cleveland and as president of the board of the Living in Cleveland Center. He currently serves on the board of the Cleveland Tenants Organization and the Neighborhood Housing Service and for eight years served as past chairman of the Cuyahoga Affordable Housing Alliance.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Phillip Star, who has dedicated his life to serving his community and everyone in the Greater Cleveland Area. Let his advocacy on behalf of the welfare of others serve as inspiration for all of us.

HONORING JERSEY CITY POLICE
CAPTAIN WILLIAM STETSON

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Captain William Stetson on the occasion of his retirement. Captain Stetson who will retire on July 1, 2008, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of Jersey City Police Force.

Captain Stetson, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1981, and initially assigned to the East District. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the Special Patrol Bureau, Central Communications Bureau, Operations Division and Support Services Division. His experience and his knowledge of the community was recognized by the receipt of numerous awards including one Commendation, five Excellence Police Service Awards, three Unit Citations and one World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Captain William Stetson for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PREVENT
HOME IMPROVEMENT FRAUD
MONTH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and recognize National Prevent Home Improvement Fraud Month and to honor the efforts of Mr. Michael McGee of West Chester, Pennsylvania in raising awareness of the importance of this issue in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country.

As the home remodeling industry continues to grow with the aging of the country's housing stock, so to does the opportunity for fraud by unscrupulous contractors who take advantage of vulnerable home owners, particularly the elderly. Recognizing National Prevent Home Improvement Fraud Month allows the remodeling industry and advocacy professionals a platform to educate homeowners, provide them with the resources to make sound decisions with regard to their home improvements, and raise awareness about potentially scandalous practices that could significantly impact homeowners financially.

Buying a house is an important purchase, but turning a house into a home is an incredible investment. Raising awareness and combating home improvement fraud and contractor dishonesty will help homeowners avoid unfinished projects, substandard materials, and an unsafe, unlivable dwelling.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me today in honoring National Prevent Home Improvement Fraud Month. May this month continue to bring awareness to issue of home improvement fraud and efforts to prevent these types of scams both locally and nationally.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington in time for votes on June 17, 2008 due to a personal matter in my hometown of Houston, TX. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

"Yea" on rollcall vote 414 on H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act;

"Yea" on rollcall vote 415 on H.R. 3702, the Montana Cemetery Act;

"Yea" on rollcall vote 416 on H. Res. 1275, Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 416. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1275—Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ELECTED OFFICIAL**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay special tribute to John Mercer Langston, America's first African-American Congressman from Virginia, a prominent abolitionist, and founder of Howard University's law school.

While the world is watching America's historic presidential election, with Barack Obama as the first African-American Democratic nominee, it is necessary to recognize the trailblazers that have come before him and the barriers that they have brought down.

John Mercer Langston was born in a small county, Louisa, Virginia, in 1829 to a wealthy white plantation owner and an emancipated slave of Indian and Black ancestry. During slavery Langston was able to overcome several racial obstacles. He moved to Ohio when he was young where he attended Oberlin College and obtained a bachelor's and master's degree. He tried to pursue a law degree but racism stopped him from taking the usual route of getting a law degree. He was admitted to Ohio's bar after studying law under attorney and Representative Philemon Bliss. Similar to Obama, Langston was a strong leader and organizer. Langston organize anti-slavery societies at a local and state level. He recruited African-American men to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was a law scholar, a dean and founder of Howard

University's Law School. He was elected in 1888 and served as a shining example to those that came after him.

Barack Obama's historic achievement would not have been possible if it was not for people like John Mercer Langston who triumphed over racial hurdles. It is important to acknowledge that it has taken about 180 years to finally see an African-American so close to the Presidency. This is all possible because of the collective bravery and sacrifices of so many before him, and especially the catalyst of John Mercer Langston's, from Louisa County, great accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on June 17, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 2964, H.R. 3702, and H. Res. 1275, and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 414 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 415 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3702, the Montana Cemetery Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 416 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1275, Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF SAMUEL L. EVANS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA**HON. CHAKA FATAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. FATAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of an important Philadelphian who will long be remembered.

When one looks up the definition of a leader they will find these words, "someone who guides or directs others." Alongside that designation should be a photo of one of Philadelphia's most revered citizens, Samuel L. Evans.

Evans was an imposing figure standing tall among the politically powerful even as he reached out to those in need. He was both influential and inspirational, an activist and advocate. Evans was a warrior in the civil rights movement, and a mentor for countless aspiring politicians, educators and entrepreneurs.

Sam Evans was a complex man, one who never compromised when it came to his principles, a trait admired by some and criticized by others. Evans' unwavering dedication to the success of African American boys and girls in Philadelphia brought him legions of admirers among those he assisted. They are among the most prosperous and socially active citizens serving in leadership positions throughout the city and the nation.

A man of courage, strength and dignity, Sam Evans will be remembered for his tenacious spirit and admired for his unyielding loyalty.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF ST. MARCELLINUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE CITY
OF COMMERCE IN THE 34TH DISTRICT**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of the only Catholic church in the City of Commerce in the 34th Congressional District.

On August 10, 1958, the church's founding stone was placed on the spot that would become St. Marcellinus Church at 2349 Strong Avenue. Eight months later, the church's official open house took place on the feast of St. Marcellinus, the church's patron, on April 26, 1959.

Today, more than 600 people are registered parishioners of the church, and hundreds more attend mass on a regular basis. The church's services—held in both English and Spanish—continue to draw generations of Commerce families together in this industrial community of about 13,500 residents.

Parish Life Director Humberto Ramos was appointed to lead the congregation in August following the retirement of Father Jules Mayer after more than 21 years of service. Minister Ramos said the church serves many purposes in the community that extends well beyond religion. "Everybody knows each other in this community. This is their church. People need to have a sense of belonging."

To celebrate the church's important milestone, Cardinal Roger Mahoney will preside over its Golden Jubilee Mass on June 22 and recognize some of the church's founding members.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me along with Cardinal Mahoney and the parishioners of St. Marcellinus Church in celebrating the parish's 50 wonderful years of service to its members and the community.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD excerpts from a June 29, 2007 article that appeared in *The Tidings*, the weekly newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, that provides a detailed overview of the creation of St. Marcellinus Church. As the article points out, the church's founders are especially to be commended for their commitment and fortitude in creating this place of worship that today stands as the spiritual centerpiece of the Commerce community.

ST. MARCELLINUS CHURCH: A HISTORY

(By Hermine Lees, *The Tidings*)

"... Before 1957, the idea of a local Catholic church serving this industry-heavy community southeast of downtown L.A. was only a dream for its residents, and fulfilled only after some 14 years of praying and planning. By then, residents of the communities of Bandini and Rosewood Park were hemmed in by the creation of the Santa Ana Freeway, rail yards and industry that separated them from St. Alphonsus Church.

Father Patrick O'Dowd, St. Alphonsus pastor, attempted to solve the problem by purchasing a parcel of land at the corner of Atlantic and Panocha, planning for a chapel in the area. But the Korean War and freeways intervened.

Only through the efforts of two local residents, Alex Perez and Ben Garcia, was a Catholic committee formed in 1954 to survey the area, raise funds and communicate their plan for a church to Cardinal James Francis McIntyre. By early 1957 their hard work was rewarded when Auxiliary Bishop Timothy Manning sent them this encouraging letter: "I join with you that this year will see the completion of our plans for Bandini. We have purchased the extra property we needed." On June 14, 1957, the parish of St. Marcellinus was established, with Father Thomas G. Hayes named the founding pastor.

The 42-year-old New Orleans native started his first pastorate by searching for a location to celebrate Mass. On Sunday, July 14, in the upstairs dining room of Kelly's Restaurant, he celebrated the first Mass for 120 faithful and claimed that Christ had come to Bandini and gathered his friends around him in another "upper room."

A crew of parishioners "rigged the upper room for church" for 10 weeks until a former Protestant church became "home." Eventually a plot at Strong Avenue and Harbor Street was available and by Holy Saturday, 1959, Father Hayes sang the first High Mass in the new church . . .

Although several historical sources differ on the name and rank of St. Marcellinus (some claim he was a pope, others a martyred priest), it is recorded that many miracles have occurred in his name. Kind of like the phenomenon of this parish surviving in the midst of freeways and commerce.

HONORINIG JOE RAY STEWART

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Joe Ray Stewart of Houka, Mississippi, for his fine service to our Nation during the Second World War.

Mr. Stewart served in the European Theatre under Generals Patton and Eisenhower, and built bridges wherever needed. In December 1944, the soldiers of the 249th Engineer Combat Battalion moved from building a bridge on the Saar River to the Ardennes, to block German advances in the Battle of the Bulge. The battalion was then assigned to the engineer task force charged to cross the Rhine River in Germany, and later tasked with securing and maintaining the bridges on the Rhine.

It has come to my attention that during his deployment, Mr. Stewart fought in three major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, advanced to the rank of Corporal, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery in action.

The family of Joe Ray Stewart, residing in Tennessee's Seventh District, joins me in recognizing a beloved and great American. As with all who serve in our Armed Forces, our veterans' dedication and selflessness has allowed our Nation the enduring blessing of freedom and democracy.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring Joe Ray Stewart and remembering the service of all those veterans who risked their lives to defend our country and the entire free world.

DONNA SHALALA, PRESIDENTIAL
MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and happiness that our country is honoring one of South Florida's most outstanding citizens and a dear friend, Dr. Donna Shalala. This week Dr. Shalala will be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian award in the United States. This is indeed a tremendous honor and her lifetime of service to our Nation is a testament to her humility of character and steadfastness of vision. She was born in Cleveland and graduated from the Western College for Women. Dr. Shalala's enthusiasm for education did not cease after she received her bachelor's degree but grew alongside her passion for government and civic service as witnessed by the time she spent as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Having received her masters and then doctorate at Syracuse University, Dr. Shalala started an illustrious teaching career that started at the City University of New York and continued at Columbia. With great teaching experience, she commenced her professional path in academic administration as the President of Hunter College, then as the Chancellor of Wisconsin-Madison and finally in the position she now holds as the President of the University of Miami, my alma mater.

Dr. Shalala's career has also expanded into the realm of government where she has held many positions in varying departments. She was the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research in the Carter administration and the Chair of the Children's Defense Fund in 1992. Most significantly, she was the Secretary of Health and Human Service for the eight years of the Clinton administration.

In March of 2007, Dr. Shalala was named co-chair, along with former Senator Bob Dole, of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Her knowledge and experience with the health care system proved invaluable as the Commission crafted its final report.

I am proud to represent Donna Shalala as a Congresswoman and delighted to share in this momentous occasion with her family and peers. More importantly I am honored to call her a friend.

GLADSTONE ALL-AMERICA CITY
AWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the outstanding achieve-

ment of the city of Gladstone, Missouri, for being named one of the 10 winners of the National Civic League's 2008 All-America City Award. The award recognizes communities that identify community-wide challenges and successfully deal with those challenges head on. Gladstone was one of 17 finalists for the award, and the only city in the Kansas City area that was a finalist this year.

Gladstone on the Move, a citizen-based organization that identified long-range goals for the city, played a large role in making Gladstone stand out as an All-America City. Its recommendations included a property tax increase to pay for additional ambulance service, public improvements, an extension of a sales tax for the beautiful new community center, as well as a strong neighborhood revitalization program. The city of Gladstone should be proud of the way it effectively identified and met the needs of their residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Gladstone's city leaders and residents for their example of excellence as a winner of the National Civic League's 2008 All-America City. Their pride in their community and drive to keep improving their city should be commended and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. MIGUEL
NEGRON

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Negron on being honored by the Puerto Rican Cultural Committee of Hoboken on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Miguel and Nelly Negron came to the United States in the 1950s from Utado, Puerto Rico, through Patchogue, Long Island, before establishing themselves in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1963. With their two children, Edith and Ivette, the Negrans began a new life and started their long commitment to their community. Miguel joined his cousin Israel Bula as a partner in the Bula Superette located in First and Garden Street in Hoboken. He later left the partnership and bought a bodega on his own where he and Nelly spent 6 days a week serving the neighborhood with native Hispanic food products for a total of 22 years.

In 1982 Nelly retired, and in 1985 Miguel joined her in retirement, although they hardly rested. Instead they cared for their three grandchildren. Miguel also continued to support his community by investing in real estate around the neighborhood and offering investment advice to his friends and neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Negron currently reside in the Caparra Home Townhouses in Hoboken, New Jersey, and are faithful parishioners of Saint Francis Church. The couple has been married

for 55 years and they enjoy a fruitful life with their family and friends in Hoboken, New Jersey. They are proud grandparents of Benjamin Michael and Vanessa M. Vega, and their youngest, Ashley Smulders. Please join me in honoring Miguel and Nelly Negron for all their accomplishments and years of commitment as residents of Hoboken, New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET R.
MICHEL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and accomplishments of Ms. Harriet Michel. I would like to thank Ms. Michel for all of her hard work and her contribution to the minority business community.

Harriet R. Michel's work as president of the National Minority Supplier Council, NMSDC, has created a platform for the growth of minority business development. Ms. Michel has contributed greatly to the empowerment of minority business owners by creating opportunities to compete for corporate contracts.

I would like to again thank Ms. Michel for her great contribution to the minority business community and I would like to wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

[From the CaribWoman, June 3, 2008]
NMSDC PRESIDENT TO RETIRE IN 2009

NEW YORK, NY.—Harriet R. Michel, president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), announced that she will retire after 20 years of service effective January 31, 2009. Ms. Michel was named president of NMSDC in September 1988.

"I'm very proud of what the NMSDC has accomplished in my 20 years with the organization," said Ms. Michel. "We have created programs to assist our corporate members in improving their minority supplier development processes, offered valuable training for supplier development professionals and provided thousands of minority business owners with the opportunity to compete for corporate contracts. While it saddens me to leave NMSDC, I have the comfort of knowing that the organization is as strong as it's ever been, and will certainly remain an invaluable asset to corporate America and minority business owners."

During her tenure, NMSDC'S corporate membership nearly quadrupled, and corporate member purchases from minority-owned businesses increased from \$10.5 billion to more than \$100 billion. The organization's staff increased from 8 to 22, and its annual budget grew from \$2 million plus to \$16 million, which has strengthened the affiliate network, too.

Since Ms. Michel became president, nine chairmen from major corporations served as chairman of the NMSDC board, including David E. Miller (JCPenney Stores and Catalog, 1986-88); Joseph E. Antonini (Kmart Corporation, 1988-1991); Robert C. Stempel (General Motors Corporation, 1991-93); Arthur C. Martinez (Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1994-1997); George A. David (United Technologies Corporation, 1998-2000); Daniel P. Burnham (Raytheon Company, 2001-03); John M. Barth (Johnson Controls, Inc., 2004-05); and Steven S. Reinemund (PepsiCo, Inc., 2006-07), Terry J. Lundgren, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Macy's, Inc., is the current chairman.

Under Ms. Michel's leadership, the NMSDC experienced tremendous financial growth and implemented all of the core national programs available to its corporate members and MBEs today.

Under Ms. Michel's guidance, the organization expanded the size of its annual conference from 700 attendees in 1998 to more than 7,000. A one-day business opportunity fair was added to the conference, which is considered the nation's benchmark forum for minority supplier development.

The NMSDC's Minority Business Information Center was created in 1994. It is the only national centralized source of information about minority business development and trends.

The Center's resources include access to online databases; a vast collection of magazines, newspapers and journals with articles pertinent to minority business development; statistical data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census; books containing corporate facts and figures; information on legislation affecting minority business development; links to relevant sites for the government, media, and other organizations; publications, order forms, audio and video cassettes; NMSDC Council referrals for certification; and the organization's e-Newsletter and archives.

In 1990, the NMSDC created the annual Minority Business Leadership Awards Dinner-Dance to recognize MBEs and corporations for their long-standing achievements in minority supplier development. Today, more than 1,700 guests attend the event.

Ms. Michel will remain in her position through the end of January 2009. An NMSDC search committee will work with a national executive search firm that specializes in non-profit leadership recruitment to fill the position.

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GENERAL
WALTER J. "BUD" BACON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a man whose professional accomplishments and personal character have brought great distinction to Tennessee and this Nation.

Retired U.S. Air Force BG Walter J. "Bud" Bacon passed away on Monday, June 2, 2008. General Bacon was always very kind to me and is a man for whom I have the greatest respect.

As a Vietnam and Korean War Veteran, General Bacon earned many decorations and awards, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters and Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

For a man of many remarkable military achievements, it would have been easy for General Bacon to lose touch with his roots. This was never the case. After his retirement, General Bacon was a vocal, active presence at Knoxville area Veterans meetings and a founding member of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association. Memories of his humor, humility, and devotion to East Tennessee will endure for many, many years.

General Bacon's life is a truly America story of Patriotic determination. He had always wanted to attend West Point but was turned down twice for not meeting the height require-

ment. As the story goes, he came up with a plan to have his friends carry him lying flat early in the morning to the physical. The reason—he heard you were tallest when you first wake up.

Whether the doctor was impressed with his determination or the tactic truly put his height over the top, General Bacon went on to have one of the greatest careers in the Air Force of any man ever. It was an American dream come true.

General Bacon loved God, family, and his Country, and never stopped serving them all. Right up until his death, the highly-decorated General greeted wounded soldiers returning home from Iraq.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I offer my condolences to General Bacon's family, and call to the attention of my colleagues and other leaders of the RECORD the eulogy of General Bacon, given by his friend Retired United States Air Force COL Joseph E. Sutter, which is reprinted below.

EULOGY FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER J.
"BUD" BACON, USAF (RETIRED)

Friday, June 6, 2008, First Presbyterian
Church, Knoxville, TN

(Delivered by Joseph E. Sutter, Colonel,
USAF (Retired))

Joyce, Betsey, Katy, and all of your families—let me thank you for the honor and high privilege to say a few words about my friend, Bud Bacon. I knew him as "Bud," and for some reason he called me "Josephine." I can't say that I ever knew why.

Some of you knew him as "Buddy." Some as "General." Others as "Pa," and some of you knew him as "Grand Buddy." No matter—we all felt the same about him.

I first met him some 14 years ago, and I certainly wish I had known him longer. Within a few weeks of meeting Bud, I remember coming home and telling my wife Geri: "When I grow up, I want to be like Bud Bacon." Allow me to share with you a few of the reasons why.

Bud had a great attitude about life. One of the entries in the blogs in the Knoxville News Sentinel said that Bud Bacon had the attitude that the "glass is half full." He was always happy, and had an infectious laugh. As his daughter Betsey relates, her father was fond of saying: "If I die tonight, I will die a happy man."

He had the love of his family—actually two families. He loved to travel. He loved his country, and made serving his country his profession. I'll say more about this a little later. And he loved his God.

LOVE OF COMMUNITY

Bud loved his community. He came home after a distinguished Air Force career and immediately began to "give back" by supporting so many worthwhile activities, including the Ramsay House Plantation, the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Youth Leadership Forum, the University of Tennessee Center for the Study of War and Society, the Knoxville Veterans Day Luncheon, Memorial Day Services, Pearl Harbor Day Ceremonies, Flag Day Ceremonies, the Air Force Association, and so many others too numerous to mention.

LOVE OF FRIENDS

Bud had the love of so many friends, and he would go "the extra mile" for any of them. Allow me to tell you a short story of how he went not only the extra mile for me, but the extra 6,000 miles! Geri and I were visiting Vienna, Austria, a number of years ago and were window shopping on a Saturday afternoon. There was a unique terry cloth robe in one of the stores that I wanted to get

for Geri, but she said that we could wait until tomorrow so we would not have to carry it the rest of the day. What we did not realize is that most of the shops are closed on Sunday, and we were returning home the following day. I casually mentioned this story to Bud a few weeks later, and he said that he and Joyce were visiting Vienna soon, and he would look for the robe. Sure enough, when they returned they brought the robe over, and it remains a prized possession today mainly because of the extra effort that Bud put forth to get it.

He was always looking to do good thing for others. He nominated me for a community service award, and I nominated him for a similar award. As it turns out, he was a better writer than me! (I won and he did not).

On Wednesday, May 21st, Bud came to the Knoxville airport early in the morning to wish a safe trip to more than 100 World War II veterans heading to Washington, DC, to see the WW II and other Memorials as part of HonorAir Knoxville. We were looking at the pictures of the sendoff the other day and there was Bud with a big smile on his face wishing the "old timers" a great trip. When I talked to him that morning, he said he was heading off to Green Meadow Country Club to play golf after we left.

LOVE OF GOLF

And while Bud certainly had a love of golf, he freely would admit that he was not the greatest golfer in the world, but he always had fun. When I would ask him how he did, his usual answer was "lousy!" Bud and I had the same barber, Curry Whittaker of Volunteer Barber Shop. Both Bud and Curry were left-handed golfers, and Curry offered to let Bud use a new driver that should help improve his game. Bud was excited, but the next time he came into the shop he tossed the driver back to Curry and said: "This thing didn't help a bit!"

And he enjoyed golf with his brother, John. My brother Frank and I were on a golf trip together last week and we thought of Bud often. This helped us cherish our time together even more.

And one final golf story. Shortly after I met Bud, we were together at an Air Force Association (AFA) meeting and agreed that it would be fun for the local AFA chapter to sponsor a golf tournament. After trying for more than a year to find someone to come forward and organize the tourney, Bud and I agreed that we would hold one in the fall, even if it was only the two of us playing together at Green Meadow. The annual event is now in its tenth year, and with the approval of Joyce, the tourney will now be named in his honor: "The Air Force Association General Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Classic." Bud would want all of you golfers to join us this fall for fun, and what a great way to honor his legacy.

LOVE OF COUNTRY

And perhaps his love was most on display in how he felt about his country. I'm sure many of you know how he got admitted to West Point, but let me share with you one of the versions of that wonderful story. Bud was too short—he did not meet the minimum height to be admitted so he enrolled at the University of Tennessee. After being turned down at West Point for the second time, he heard that you are a little bit taller in the morning when you first get up, as compared to later in the day when your body has time to compress or shrink. He hatched a plan to have some of his friends carry him to be measured first thing in the morning, without standing up. Depending on whose version of the story you believe, he either just made the height, or the doctor was impressed by his dogged determination and signed off on the physical. In either case, the rest is his-

tory—he went on to a very distinguished career in the US Air Force. He used this story to make the point that ". . . if you want something bad enough, you can achieve it." Who would have thought that someone could actually make himself taller? He may have been short in stature, but he was very tall on determination and character!

In the Air Force, he was tested in combat in two wars: Korea and Vietnam. His unit in Vietnam was known as the "Misty FACs," or forward air controllers. According to Bud's friend and fellow fighter pilot, retired Air Force Colonel Charlie Harr: "The Misty FACs were among the first to perform a very dangerous mission. They were widely known for their daring and bravery."

Bud had command of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB, FL, later in his career. I spoke to one of his pilots that I know, retired Air Force Lt. General Don Peterson. Here is what Don had to say:

"His leadership at Homestead was splendid. He knew how to lead and get the job done, but just as importantly, he knew how to take care of the people who served under him. He was a role model for us all. Our morale was higher than ever, which made us all—and our Air Force—better."

Bud was an active member of virtually every local military organization, including the Air Force Association, the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council, the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association, and he was the driving force behind the renovation of the Doughboy Statue and Plaza at Knoxville High School, his alma mater.

He was the Grand Marshall of the 2004 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade. I know you all remember the wonderful picture of Bud that appeared in the News Sentinel—proudly in uniform, saluting, smiling, and with several flags in his hand. I have a copy of that picture with me today.

It's clear that he deeply loved our country's flag and proudly and properly displayed it at his home. He always had it lighted at night and would take it down when he and Joyce traveled. Joyce would say that he might forget a few things from time to time, but would never forget to take down the flag.

And he planned the music for this service. Is there any doubt that he loved his country?

Finally, Bud sent an e-mail to his grandson Schuyler, a proud Marine who had recently returned from Iraq. Bud wrote the e-mail on Friday, May 23rd, the day before he took ill. What a summary of Bud's feelings. This is what Bud had to say—his own words:

Subject: "Words of Encouragement"

If I may quote you, Schuyler, you said: "I believe strongly in what we're doing. . . ." Those are, again in your words, words of encouragement to me. Those of us in uniform are obedient to our leaders and commanders, and we believe in the rights and privileges we have inherited—from those who went before us, in uniform and not in uniform. We are not automatons; we do have hearts and souls and minds of our own. But we recognize we are chosen to do the tough work—when tough work has to be done.

The pictures of you in uniform and in combat are treasures; you look as sturdy as the truck. You have made the Bacon family proud. Keep us informed of your progress toward special operations.

Love, Grand Bud

FAITH

Finally, we know that faith was large part of his life. Bud taught Sunday school and was a Deacon at this church. The words of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25, seem appropriate to sum things up: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I know we all believe that Bud is in heaven with our God in Paradise. It doesn't get any better than that.

That is why, "When I grow up, I want to be like Bud Bacon."

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGIES BILL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prevent President Bush from sending nuclear power technologies and materials to Saudi Arabia, one of the most energy-rich nations in the world. I am proud to be joined in introducing this bill by the gentlelady from Florida, Representative LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I am also pleased that our bill is being introduced on the Senate side by Senator SCHUMER of New York.

Last month, President Bush went to Saudi Arabia to seek more oil production from the Saudis. Americans are being turned upside down at the pump every day, with money being shaken out of their pockets. Despite this hardship, the Saudis turned President Bush down flat at the time. Having failed to persuade the Saudis to provide relief for American consumers, the President then did something truly shocking, even by the standards of this failed administration: he agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with nuclear power plants.

Why does Saudi Arabia, the most energy-rich nation on the face of the planet, with the largest oil reserves in the world and huge potential for renewable electricity generation, need nuclear power? The answer is simple: they don't.

For any country with so much oil, gas, and solar potential, importing nuclear power makes zero economic sense. So why would Saudi Arabia seek nuclear power technology? There is only one possible answer: the Kingdom feels threatened by the rise of Iran, and it wants to guarantee that Saudi Arabia, too, can play the nuclear game.

President Bush's policy towards Iran has been one long story of failure. And now President Bush is doubling down on his bad bets, pushing to send even more nuclear materials and technology into the Middle East. The President's bizarre decision to ship nuclear power plants to the Saudis not only is unnecessary, but it's extremely dangerous. The Middle East is already the most unstable region in the world and pouring more nuclear fuel onto this smoldering region could ignite a raging fire storm engulfing areas far beyond Saudi Arabia's borders.

If Saudi Arabia wants to diversify its energy sources, that is appropriate and sensible, and we should help the Saudis down this path. But let's do it right. Saudi Arabia is three times the size of Texas and broils under constant sunshine. The country is a vast desert. The United States should be helping the Kingdom exploit its enormous solar energy potential, not building nuclear reactors. That's why this bill also encourages the President to establish a solar power development and assistance program with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of the strong bipartisan support that this bill, to block the transfer of nuclear power technologies to

Saudi Arabia, has already received. This is not a political issue; this is a national security issue. We've already seen the extraordinarily high cost of spreading so-called "peaceful" nuclear technologies around the world: we've been paying that price for decades. The United States simply cannot afford to make this kind of mistake again.

President Bush seems to believe that the United States is in a race, with the French and the Russians, to win contracts to build nuclear power facilities around the world. But he's wrong; that's not the race we're in. We're in a race to contain the atom, not to let it loose. We're in a race to prevent the spread of dangerous nuclear technologies any further, before these technologies can be used against us or our allies. Providing nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, a country for whom such technology makes no economic sense for electricity generation, is short-sighted and dangerous. The Markey-Ros-Lehtinen bill will block any such unnecessary and dangerous transfers, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS
PARTICIPANTS IN HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40 veterans from the Kansas City area who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight to Washington, DC, on June 11, 2008.

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that was created to honor America's veterans by organizing free trips to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated to their service. Priority is currently given to veterans who served during World War II or those veterans who are facing terminal illness. Sadly, each day we lose more than 1,200 World War II veterans. It is imperative that these individuals have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was designed to honor their service and I am pleased that Honor Flight has made this a reality for so many of our WWII veterans. I had the opportunity to visit with many of them as they toured the World War II memorial last week and was struck by how many repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, when, in reality, we should be the one thanking them.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to humbly express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the veterans who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, as well as their fellow service men and women from other parts of the United States, for their service to our country. No other group of Americans has stood stronger or more bravely for our democracy than our troops and veterans. We must celebrate, honor and remember these courageous and faithful men and women.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, Gary Swanson and David Jackson, as well as the many dedicated chaperones and volunteers who worked behind the scenes on June 11 and for many months beforehand to ensure the Honor Flight participants had a memorable experience.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the generous financial contribution my constituents, Norman and Elaine Polsky, made to Honor Flight in order to make the trip to Washington, DC, possible for these worthy service men and women from the Kansas City area. I thank Mr. Polsky for his incredible generosity and appreciate his tireless work in the community on behalf of his fellow veterans.

The T-shirts worn by chaperones assisting Honor Flight participants feature a stirring quote from notable American entertainer Will Rogers, which states, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand at the curb and clap as they go by." Thank you to all of our veterans, especially those men and women who served proudly and courageously during World War II, and serve as an inspiration to our current armed forces. I am standing and clapping as loudly as I can.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, having remained in my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2964 (Roll no. 414), H.R. 3702 (Roll no. 415), and H. Res. 1275 (Roll no. 416).

HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate June 2008 as National Homeownership Month and would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GARY MILLER, for introducing H. Res. 127, recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

In 2002, President George W. Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month to strengthen our Nation's commitment to equal housing opportunities for all, setting a goal to increase minority homeownership in America by 5.5 million by 2010. Purchasing a home is the largest investment made by most households, providing economic security and an opportunity for homeowners to build wealth.

It has become clear, however, with at least 1.4 million foreclosures predicted next year and as many as 2.8 million Americans projected to lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, that we must rededicate ourselves at all levels of private, public, and nonprofit sectors to keep homeowners in their homes and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people. We must work together as a Nation to protect American homeowners and ensure that every American has the opportunity to live and hold onto the American Dream.

HONORING COLONEL BRIAN W.
LAURITZEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-Nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the

Army Corps of Engineers to address some of the many transportation challenges facing the region. Especially noteworthy is his personal involvement to secure an agreement to complete the extension of the Fairfax County Parkway, a vital connection across the Fort's Engineer Proving Ground, something that had festered unresolved for more than 10 years.

Inside the perimeter of his base, Colonel Lauritzen has steadfastly insisted that our nation's Soldiers and their families deserve the highest quality of life. Fort Belvoir has one of the Army's most successful Residential Community Initiative programs that have revitalized the approach to military housing and neighborhood centers, creating first-class communities for those who serve our Nation in uniform.

On a more personal note, Colonel Lauritzen and his staff have eagerly addressed questions or constituent concerns that my office has brought to their attention. Regardless of how complicated or involved these requests may have been, I have always found his door to be open to discuss the issues and, more often than not, find compromise to difficult situations.

Madam Speaker, at Fort Belvoir's Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, July 2, Colonel Lauritzen—West Point graduate, Soldier, and extraordinary officer—will retire from the Army and enter a new chapter in his life. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best as he pursues new endeavors. He has truly served Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and our Nation with the highest standards of leadership expected from the very best of our military commanders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY
JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1275, a resolution which honors the life of the late Timothy John Russert Jr. H. Res. 1275 was sponsored by a member of the Oversight committee, Representative BRIAN HIGGINS of New York and introduced yesterday with 89 original cosponsors.

I would like to thank the House Leadership, Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their support in bringing this measure to the floor in such a timely manner. I also wish to thank Edward Leong, senior counsel with House Legislative Counsel's office for his efforts in drafting a very fine resolution. Such cooperation, support and dedication to excellence are truly a fitting tribute to Timothy Russert.

I think the Washington Post said it best. In the June 14, 2008 edition, on the front of the Style section, the caption under Tim Russert's photo read, "The 'Meet the Press' moderator during a taping of his show last year. He got to do what he most wanted to do, and the news business was better for it."

I couldn't agree more. He was on top of his game as the NBC News Washington bureau chief and moderator of "Meet the Press." In between ball games, cheering and supporting those Buffalo Bills, going to Mass, writing

books about the wisdom of our fathers, hanging out with his son, Luke, and checking in on his father Big Russ, he did what he loved best—being an award winning political analyst.

Madam Speaker, Timothy John Russert, Jr's sudden death, has left a huge void on the political landscape. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

I commend my colleague Representative HIGGINS for sponsoring this condolence measure and I urge its swift passage.

HONORING MR. PARK M. STRADER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a close friend and exemplary public servant who has brought distinction to the State of Tennessee.

I have known Park M. Strader for many years, and he is someone I hold in the highest regard. In fact, Parkey (as he is known to his friends) was an intern for my father when he was a Member of Congress. Since then, Representative Strader has built an illustrious career in public service, devoting his life to making Tennessee a better place.

During his two terms as a Representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, Representative Strader worked tirelessly for his constituents. No problem was too small for his attention, nor did he hesitate to tackle the big issues of the day.

As a member of the House Commerce and State and Local Government Committees and the House Local Government, State Government, and Industrial Impact Subcommittees, Representative Strader was a major factor in the rapidly expanding economy of East Tennessee. His intellect and dedication earned him a reputation as one of the most respected, knowledgeable public servants in Tennessee.

Representative Strader's public service spans many decades and has earned him many awards. Prior to his service in the Tennessee State House, Representative Strader served seven terms—28 years—as Knox County's Property Assessor.

During that time, he was one of the most important contributors to helping keep Knox County taxes low and help keep Knox County government running economically and efficiently.

With a history of service and dedication to Tennessee, I know Representative Strader will continue to work for the public good even in retirement.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating State Representative Park M. Strader on his commendable service to the people of East Tennessee. I am proud to call him my friend and wish him well on whatever new endeavors await him.

NASA'S TECHNOLOGY IS BETTER
TODAY FOR EVERYONE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, better known as NASA, has been an ubiquitous aspect of American life since its inception in 1958. This organization brought the United States supremacy outside of the atmosphere and took us to the moon. They reinvigorated the imaginations of children who applied greater concentration to their studies of math and science. Recent accomplishments, such as the International Space Station and many unmanned probes, have been less in the public purview, but have extended scientific knowledge into the realm of what was previously thought to be science fiction. NASA, contrary to popular belief, was not the inventor of Velcro or Tang, yet it has managed to stay in the lives of Americans despite its lower profile by creating critical elements of some of the most important technology in use today. NASA helps to lower food prices by increasing food production five-fold based on research done on growth in outer space. Their design technology helps manufacturers to create cars, the electric guitar of favorite bands, planes, and skyscrapers. NASA created the temper material that is used in Tempur-Pedic beds, prosthetics, and many wheelchair seats. They are responsible for imaging technology that allows CAT scans, advanced MRIs, and new infrared mammograms that increase detection rates by 98 percent. They even made the needles with small silicon chips that reduce the need for invasive surgery when performing biopsies. NASA created the necessary technology for pacemakers, portable dialysis machines, and programmable insulin pumps which use digital telemetry. Laser eye surgeries are performed with the technology that enables the shuttle to dock with the space station. They are responsible for blood pressure monitors, heart monitors, and laser angioplasties. Bringing it closer to home, NASA created scratch-resistant lenses, polarized sunglasses lenses, and the satellite communication technology which brought about cell phones. The roads America drives on have grooves cut into them because NASA realized that it would help reduce hydroplaning, which has contributed to an 85 percent reduction in wet weather traffic accidents. Robotics, world-wide search and rescue systems, space blankets, light emitting diodes or LEDs, cancer treatments, and the list goes on and on. Describing, or even mentioning, all of them would be a feat that would result in a book hundreds of pages long. In fact, NASA is forced to pare down all of its technological inventions to its top 40–50 each year in its annual publication Spinoff. A world without the technologies developed by NASA would be one without your digital camera or your iPod. NASA may not have sent a man to mars, yet, but they may be taking us all along with them when they go.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the NASA Authorization Act of 2008. It authorizes \$20.2 billion for NASA in FY 09, including \$1 billion to speed development of the Crew Exploration Vehicle and Crew Launch Vehicle.

This bill authorizes increased funding for vital aeronautics research after several years of cuts. In fact, it authorizes \$853 million for aeronautics research, a \$341 million dollar increase over FY 07 levels.

This includes continued funding for the next-generation air transportation system initiative—a collaborative federal effort to design a new air traffic control system that can accommodate increased air traffic, which is expected to double or even triple by 2025. This important work being conducted by engineers and scientists at NASA Langley will lay the groundwork for a more efficient, safer, and environmentally-friendly air traffic system that will reduce delays and allow our Nation to move more people and goods around the United States and around the world.

Madam Chairman, we know that investing in aeronautics research pays off. The aviation industry is the number one positive contributor to the U.S. balance of trade, with a net contribution to this balance of more than \$60 billion in 2007. This is directly attributable to our past investment in aeronautics research. EVERY aircraft, worldwide, uses NASA technology. And NASA Langley Research Center located in Hampton, Virginia has been at the forefront of developing many of these cutting edge technologies.

Engineering principles developed from past research at Langley have contributed to overall aircraft safety and efficiency through advances in wing design, noise abatement, structural integrity, and fuel efficiency. And it is important to remember that these principles were developed 5, 10, 20, or even 30 years before they led to improvements in the commercial aircraft we see today. Though we may not see the benefits of today's investments in research for several decades, if we fail to make these investments today, we will regret that decision 20 or 30 years from now. Our Nation's leadership position in aeronautics is made more secure by the commitments we make today.

Madam Chairman, this bill recognizes that aeronautics has been an essential part of NASA's mission since the Agency's founding 50 years ago. NASA's aeronautics research and development efforts, including the work done by the workers at Langley Research Center in Virginia, have made the United States the world leader in the aeronautics industry.

I commend Chairman GORDON and the Members of the Science and Technology

Committee for their hard work on this bill and for bringing it to the full House, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

CONGRATULATING LARRY S.
KEISER, ESQ., OUTGOING PRESI-
DENT OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Larry S. Keiser, outgoing president of Temple Israel in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Attorney Keiser is engaged in the practice of civil litigation since 1971, focusing his professional time on commercial disputes, personal injury claims, workers' compensation and unemployment matters.

A graduate of E.L. Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre, Attorney Keiser graduated from Pennsylvania State University and Temple University School of Law. At Temple Law, he was a member of the Law Review, the Legal Aid Society and was named the Sylvan Balder Memorial Scholar.

Attorney Keiser is a former examiner for the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, where he wrote and graded Bar Examination questions in the areas of torts and evidence.

He currently serves the Luzerne County Bar Association as Continuing Legal Education Chairman, an office he has held continuously since 1991. Attorney Keiser is also frequently called upon to serve as a neutral arbitrator and he has been a lecturer in programs run by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Luzerne County Bar Association.

Attorney Keiser is solicitor for the Jackson Township Planning Commission and he is listed in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

In addition to having served as a Temple Israel board member and officer, Attorney Keiser has served terms on the boards of the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre and the Jewish Family Service. He has served several terms on the Federation Allocation Committee and is a past president of the United Hebrew Institute and the S.J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 of B'nai B'rith.

Attorney Keiser is married to the former Lynn Kaufman, who is the owner/chef of Supreme Cuisine catering. They are the parents of Jonathan, OBM; Lauren, an implementation manager for a software development company and Daniel, a student at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Keiser on this auspicious occasion. His leadership and commitment to Temple Israel has been an inspiration to all whose lives he has touched.

HONORING DAN MEYER RECEIVING
THE "LEADERS IN LEARNING"
AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, tonight, Dan Meyer, a high school teacher from Mt. Hermon, California, will be honored with an annual Cable's Leader in Learning Award at a ceremony in the Library of Congress.

Dan Meyer, who teaches at San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, is one of just ten educators in the country receiving this prestigious award—and the only teacher to receive the award in his category, "Pushing the Envelope." Awardees in this category are recognized for the inventive and creative incorporation of video media to achieve greater learning and growth in the classroom.

As an algebra teacher, Meyer began producing short videos to demonstrate algebra equations to his students. The result of his pioneering technique was profound—Meyer reports students began picking up the algebra with shocking speed. When Meyer posted his instructional videos online, thousands of teachers began downloading the videos to take advantage of Meyer's innovative approach.

Education is one of the world's noblest professions. And Meyer reminds us all that education is not an act but a process—a process that thrives on the passion and innovation of those trusted with this great responsibility.

And so I am thrilled today to recognize Dan Meyer for his important achievement. As America continues its march into the 21st century I know that our future is secure so long as we have people like those being honored tonight to help educate our next generation of leaders.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAFAEL ANGEL
RIVERA COLLAZO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rafael Angel Rivera Collazo for his contributions to photojournalism.

Mr. Rivera, a native of Puerto Rico, displayed a passion for photography early in life. Coming from a humble background, Mr. Rivera sold newspapers during high school and cleaned shoes to help support his family. It was during this time that Mr. Rivera met Mr. Millo Seijo, a well-known photographer, and his son, Mr. Bey Seijo. These individuals introduced Mr. Rivera to the world of photography. Soon after, local newspapers such as "El Mundo" and "El Imparcial" published Mr. Rivera's first photographs as a collaborator.

Mr. Rivera's increasing involvement in photography was temporarily halted when he voluntarily joined the United States Army in 1966. He was eventually sent to Vietnam in 1967, where he served with distinction in the Ninth Infantry Division, and earned various recognitions, including two Purple Hearts.

Well respected among his peers, Mr. Rivera has displayed as much valor and courage in photojournalism as he once did in combat. His 1980 photograph capturing a store owner and an assailant under fire earned him the widely acclaimed international award for photography from the Agencia E.F.E. of Spain, becoming the first Puerto Rican to do so. This award was presented to Mr. Rivera by King Juan Carlos I an Queen Sofia of Spain. His photograph was also shown at the "Expo 92" in Seville.

Mr. Rivera's latest photographic accomplishment is "Motín en el Capitolio," where he captures commotion in the Rotunda of the Puerto Rican Capitol. Mr. Rivera won an award from the Photojournalist Association of Puerto Rico for this photograph.

He has also received numerous awards from other organizations; such as the Madín Rodríguez Award sponsored by the Puerto Rican House of Representatives and the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico; and recognitions from the Puerto Rican Senate, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club. In 2006, he was selected by the Governor of Puerto Rico's Office of Veteran Affairs as one of the most accomplished and outstanding Puerto Rican veterans.

Mr. Rivera has also been actively involved with the community I represent in Congress. He has served as ambassador to the Bronx Puerto Rican Parade and provided press coverage to the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City for the past 18 years. His vivid photographs bring our communities together by capturing the rich Puerto Rican culture in New York.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Rivera, who currently resides in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. His service to our Nation is commendable. His contribution to photojournalism is invaluable. Mr. Rafael Angel Rivera epitomizes professional excellence and is an inspiration to us all.

IN SUPPORT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY BILLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for these six bills brought forth by the Committee on Homeland Security. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their continued efforts and leadership on presenting legislation to enhance and strengthen our Nation's security. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues on the committee who authored these bills—Chairman THOMPSON, Congresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congressman DENT and Congressman LANGEVIN.

The enactment of H.R. 1, The Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act, was a major milestone for this Congress and I was proud to be a conferee to H.R. 1. With the passage of H.R. 1, Congress took the lead in making America more secure. H.R. 1 was a comprehensive measure to enhance our Nation's homeland security capabilities in profound ways.

The Homeland Security Committee has conducted numerous hearings to investigate the many areas covered by H.R. 1 and has worked diligently at developing legislation that focuses on specific areas of homeland security that require fine tuning in order to make H.R. 1 as effective as possible.

The bills being considered today will do everything from providing redress to Americans misidentified against the terror watch lists to enhancing DHS' capability to address the threat of improvised-explosive devices to ensuring the integrity of aviation security covert tests.

H.R. 4179, the Fast Redress Act of 2008, would enhance information sharing at DHS and between DHS and other Federal agencies that use the terrorist watch list or database. The bill also includes measures that would make the redress process more efficient and protect the civil rights of individuals on TSA's "Cleared List" and "No Fly" or "Selectee" lists.

H.R. 5909 is vitally important given the Committee's knowledge of at least three incidents that compromised the integrity of covert tests at TSA's screening checkpoints. It provides for security measures that would prevent disclosures that will jeopardize covert testing. H.R. 5982 will also enhance airport security by requiring information sharing on best practices for using biometrics to improve airport security. H. Res. 1150 recognizes the continued importance of rail security and ensuring that it is given equal importance in our national transportation security plans.

Bombing prevention is an integral part of our national security and requires that we provide the necessary resources for this purpose. H.R. 4749 does this by increasing funding and the capabilities of the Office of Bombing Prevention. Along similar lines, The Nuclear Forensics Attribution Act authorizes programs within DHS to develop an international framework to identify and intercept nuclear materials further reducing the possibilities of nuclear threat worldwide.

Lastly, I support H.R. 1333 which calls for both GAO and the DHS Secretary to examine and prepare a report on how the Civil Air Patrol can be integrated in our efforts to enhance national security and our war against terrorism. This is a positive effort in using local resources in supporting our homeland security mission.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills that have been thoughtfully crafted to enhance national security measures that are important to the implementation of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

FAREWELL TO ROC AMBASSADOR
WU

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my best wishes to Dr. Joseph Jaushieh Wu and his family. After representing the Republic of China (Taiwan) for 1 year and 2 months, the Wu's will be leaving Washington this month.

Ambassador Wu graduated from National Chengchi University in Taiwan and earned his

Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University. He taught briefly at Ohio State and later at his alma mater, National Chengchi University. In 2002, he began his government career as Deputy Secretary-General to President Chen Shui-bian. From 2004 to April 2007, he was the chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council. He is the author of a number of publications, most notably, Taiwan's Democratization, published by Oxford University Press. In April 2007, he was appointed Taiwan's Representative to the United States.

As we all know, Taiwan has been undergoing profound political changes in recent years. With his strong communication skills, Ambassador Wu has given countless briefings to administration officials, senators, representatives and the media about Taiwan's internal politics, while at the same time, deftly highlighting Taiwan's willingness to negotiate with the People's Republic without pre-conditions. He has rightly emphasized Taiwan's strong political and cultural ties to the U.S., its trade relations with us, and its cooperation in combating global terrorism.

Today our government maintains a robust relationship with Taiwan because of leaders like Dr. Wu. We consider Taiwan a democratic ally and a strong trading partner. Nevertheless, due to the lack of official diplomatic relations between our two countries, it has not been always easy for Ambassador Wu to serve as interlocutor between our two governments. Despite all the challenges, Ambassador Wu has served his country with distinction and helped to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

I wish Ambassador Wu and his family the very best.

2008 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD
RECIPIENT'S

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2008 Congressional Award recipients, honoring our Nation's young people who have achieved personal goals in the areas of volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration/development.

As public service volunteers, this year's recipients shared their time and talents for the benefit of others. Through selfless acts, they have demonstrated their devotion to community, displaying dedication, perseverance, and compassion.

In the area of personal development, recipient of the Congressional Award have gained life skills and knowledge as they developed a particular interest. While striving to achieve a personal goal of improvement, recipients exhibited immense personal growth.

As balanced individuals, recipients of the Congressional Award also strive for personal improvement in physical fitness as an effort to improve their quality of life, understanding the need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The process of exploration/development presented recipients with the opportunity to gain a sense of independence as they became engaged in the world around, whether

that experience occurred through an immersion in nature or through exposure to an unfamiliar culture.

Recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award have time and again shown their dedication to community, having learned the value of making a difference for the greater good. They are dedicated to all they do, striving for improvement while setting goals for personal achievement. I commend them as individuals of inspiration, a group worthy of the highest praise.

I would like to make special recognition of Caroline McMullen from Chesterland, Ohio. Caroline is a driven individual, having the conviction to reach out and achieve her goals. Her profound dedication to public service is integral to the betterment of her community; her actions are exemplary. As a fellow Ohioan, I am extremely proud of Caroline's accomplishments.

The following are honored recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award:

Mary-Lynn Piper, Chelsea Green, Sabrina Ilich, Zachary Somers, Katherine Connett, Erica Tong, Joseph Hall, Norman Hall, Cody Christie, Evan Hess, Ryan Krebs, Joslyn Wood, Greg Woodburn, Shaheen Lakhani, Gohar Minassian, Jairek Robbins, James Broadhead, Kyle Fittle, Katherine Tse, Kathleen O'Brien, Tammy Lang, Mackenzie Martin, Sarah Choi, Lauren Penticuff, Sarah Wagner, Christine Chady, and Julie Vernon.

Phillip Vernon, Lindsey Wilber, Emily Cortright, Diana Roycroft, James Martin, Ashley Persico, Timothy Medeiros, Michael DiTerlizzi, Philip Doumar, Andrew Gorodetsky, Daniel Harvey, Audrey Hill, Taylor Hilo, Bianca Kahlenberg, Leighton Norvell, Brett Pere, Veronica Richter, Melissa Roos, Bryan Spurgeon, Addison Craig, Angela Boyd, and Gregory Kraus.

Elizabeth Lott, Christopher Puchferran, Jacob Schattie, Shetty Shohan, Stephanie Martinez, Chelsea Jarrell, Katherine McClellan, Breona Jenkins, Bernard Underwood, John Langdon, Amanda McGehee, Anna Sali, Robyn Watson, Maryanne Barrott, Rebecca Goodwin, McKay Nield, Grayson Stone, Mara Truslow, Brittany Ward, Dana Wright, Michael Noh, Andrew Sze, Erin Stein, Carolyn Bartley, and Austin Stuart Hamner, Jr.

Patrick Ketchum, Joseph Bricker, Karen Bricker, Sydney Ayers, Benjamin Thomas Connell, Christopher Connell, Nicholas Adam Connell, Laura Webb, Megan Lecompte, Margaret Downing, Reeve Fidler, Anthony Serrano, Richard Prevatt, Kimberly Shupe, Liam Swords, Jesyka Palmer, Stephanie De Young, Brandon Spratt, Lauren Boldon, Ashlee Kephart, John Rasmussen, Elizabeth Doyle, Grace Minton, Andrew Robinson, and Victoria Willingham.

Scott Florence, Mollie Frazier, Michelle Gourley, Laura Owen, Brittany Simpson, Iver Vandiver, Nolan Webb, Jonathon Whitlock, Brad Young, Lynice Higgins, Thomas Kazery, Tiffany Holder, Amanda Layton, Holly Webb, Kaylee Keith, Michael Atkins, Rachel Goodrich, Jimmy Van Eerden, Charlotte Lindemanis, Bridget Castor, Kimberly Baker, David Michael Bales, Erin Murowany, Bryan Quay, Rebecca Winterburn, and Rosalyn Wodlinger.

Tina Sankhla, Matthew Pierson, Katelyn Benedit, Ronald Dukes, Sydney Keller, Brian Kelly, Brittany O'Hare, Adam Sferlazzo, Lisa Washakowski, Amoha Bajaj, Mark DeGaetano, Margaret DeOliveira, Maria DeOliveira,

Shabnum Gulati, Lydia McGinnis, Brittany Waser, Kevin Williams, Sean Kennedy, Kyle Campanile, Emily Morgan Farber, Alexa Kretsch, Aditya Madhusudhan, Shefali Madhusudhan, Lindsay Steiner, and Stephanie Tietz.

Sheren Tsai, Jill Coulson, Alexei Brandt, Alexander Long, Kevin McAllister, Tristin Turner, Sheel Tyle, Karoline McMullen, Kelly McLaughlin, Minh Lac, Sambath Luong, My Sy, Pisey Hour, Pisith Hour, Xinpei Jiang, Kunvatha Theth, Dieu Truong, Ky Truong, Carol Lin, Miguel Leon, Ben Calhoun, Katelyn Fenerty, Katherine Suyo, Jonathan Webster, and Conor Dolan.

Benjamin Dumphrey, Bonnie McDevitt, Jacob Zimmerman, Chao Long, Aydan Ortiz, Jose Romero, Thais Ridgeway, Donald Groves, Jeffrey Yeh, Audra Piotti, Caroline Mailloux, Eric Shim, Lillianne Harris, Rebecca McMenemy, Andrew Fryml, Stefan Zollinger, Jacquelyn Cox, Keome Rowe, Mary Day, Ana Lopez-Cordell, Kiely McGuire, Alexandra Faulk, Rebecca Nock, Evan Purcell, Katharine Folger, and Jamie Drillette.

Vinson Valdez, Paul Zwicker, John Corbett, Jonathon Hillis, Carly Stevens, Drury Evans, Christina Marmol, Evan Levine, Ian Painter, Allante Nelson, Emily Rinker, Olivia Shuck, Alexander Smith, Ian Gibson, Samuel Keltner, Sean Warren, Kathleen Burch, Ashley Tate, Daniel Adams, Michael Heyer, and Bethany Klicka.

Maggie Marshall, Elizabeth Sharkey, Carly Stuart, John Caridad, Megan Freeman, Crystal Marshall, Keren Steward, Daniel Courtemanch, Jory Lehman, Katie Beckmann, Nicholas Porter, Ellis Calvetti, Jenna Farrester, Valerie Watters, and Shana Marie Wolff.

AIR FORCE TANKER DECISION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Air Force's decision to award the tanker contract to EADS/Northrup Grumman (NG) instead of Boeing.

I understand that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is reviewing that award and a decision is expected this week.

I wanted to highlight that the footprint of the EADS tanker is 53 percent larger than the Boeing version, requiring much more military construction money for larger runways, taxiways, and hangars.

Further, Boeing would create 28,707 jobs per year at full production, at least twice as many U.S. jobs as EADS/NG, which would support an estimated 14,353 jobs if it were to win the contract. Boeing's KC-767 would create twice as many U.S. jobs as EADS/Northrup. The EADS award will result in "loss" of new jobs.

At a time when unemployment is skyrocketing in the US, I believe we should be fighting to maintain as many jobs here in the US instead of sending them overseas.

It has come to light that the Air Force did not review the impact of the contract award on US jobs and I believe this is an important component given that should the contract go to EADS/NG, we would be sending billions of American taxpayers' money overseas at a

time when the US economy is faltering. I question whether the EADS tanker provides the best value for our military and the American taxpayer.

I do not support this contract being awarded to EADS because of its adverse affects on American jobs and I question whether it will meet the long term requirements of our military.

SARATOGA COUNTY BLOOD DRIVE

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two organizations from my home district, the State Employees Federal Credit Union (SEFCU) and American Red Cross Adirondack Saratoga Chapter, who are partnering to sponsor a community blood drive to help save lives in my district on Monday, June 23. The blood drive will be held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The theme for the event is "Give Some Red and Help Save Some Green." In keeping with its commitment to the community and the environment, SEFCU will plant a tree for every donor who gives blood on the 23rd. This is one in a series of blood drives within the "Give 'n Take" Campaign, which schedules community-based blood drives throughout the calendar year to highlight the importance of donating blood. I note its significance because:

Only about 5 percent of the population in the United States donates blood, though about 60 percent of the population is eligible.

Just one pint of blood can help save as many as three lives.

Approximately every 2 seconds, someone in America needs blood. Every day, about 34,000 donations are needed to help save the lives of cancer patients, accident victims and children with blood disorders in the United States.

Approximately 1 out of 3 people will need blood in their lifetime.

Type O blood can help anyone in need. All patients can receive Type O during an emergency when there is no time to test a patient's blood type.

Donors can give blood every 56 days.

The American Red Cross Adirondack Saratoga Chapter is dedicated to saving lives and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. It is led by a volunteer board of directors with 250 other volunteers and 10 paid employees. The local Red Cross is supported by community donations and provides services to Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Hamilton and southern Essex counties. Last year the Red Cross ran 650 aquatic courses and 1,048 first aid and CPR courses, collected over 19,000 units of whole blood, helped deliver 230 emergency messages for members of our armed forces, and assisted more than 1,200 neighbors who were affected by local disasters.

I am proud to call on residents in New York's 20th Congressional District to join these two partners to help save lives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN GRAYSON COUNTY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor the Senior Citizens of Grayson County for all of their services rendered to the community, and I would especially like to acknowledge the dedication exhibited by Harold and Hazel Wright of Sherman, Texas.

Harold and Hazel have been extremely active and influential in their community for over 20 years. They represented the Texoma Council of Governments at the White House Conference on Aging two years ago and were crowned Mr. & Mrs. Senior Citizen of Grayson County. It is because of dedicated individuals such as the Wrights that President George W. Bush fittingly proclaimed the month of May, 'Older Americans Month' on April 22nd of this year.

During Older Americans Month, we recognize the many ways older citizens have enriched our Nation through their character, wisdom, and service. America's seniors provide an example for younger generations, and during Older Americans Month, we reflect on their efforts toward building a stronger and brighter future for all. Our country remains forever in their debt, as older Americans have provided a guiding light for the rest of the Nation to follow.

With this in mind, I and Rep. FRANK PALLONE introduced H.R. 3701, Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act in September of 2007. I was pleased when Congress approved the bill, which was later signed by the President of the United States and made public law. This legislation will develop effective strategies to raise awareness about elder falls, encourage research, and support demonstration projects to help prevent falls among senior citizens, as Elder falls are one of the leading risks for Americans 65 years old and above. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will oversee and support demonstrations, research projects, and grants for local and state education campaigns to help achieve these goals. The legislation was endorsed by the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, led by the National Council on Aging, the National Safety Council, the Home Safety Council, AARP, the American Occupational Therapy Association, and the American Physical Therapy Association.

Our country remains strong because of the foundation our elders have helped lay, and we commend older Americans for the many contributions they have made and will continue to make to our Nation.

IN TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. MICHAEL HAMEL

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Lieutenant General Michael Hamel,

who will officially retire from the United States Air Force on July 1 after 36 years of distinguished service.

I first met General Hamel when he commanded the 14th Air Force, Air Force Space Command, and the Space Air Forces, U.S. Strategic Command, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, which is in my district. With a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a master's in business administration, and a lifetime of service to the Air Force and its role within and beyond our atmosphere, General Hamel impressed me not only with his knowledge, but also with his ability to explain it in conversational terms. We quickly became friends.

General Hamel's illustrious career included assignments in a variety of command, acquisition, operations and policy positions involving space, system development, intelligence, space operations and launch. General Hamel has served in senior staff positions at Headquarters U.S. Air Force and Air Force Space Command, and he was the Vice President's military adviser on defense, nonproliferation and space policy.

General Hamel's final assignment was to command the Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base. While there, he was responsible for managing the research, design, development, acquisition and sustainment of space and missile systems, launch, command and control, and operational satellite systems.

General Hamel also was the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Space and was responsible for the Air Force Satellite Control Network; space launch and range programs; the Space-Based Infrared System Program; military satellite communication programs; the Global Positioning System; intercontinental ballistic missile programs; Defense Meteorological Satellite Program; the space superiority system programs and other emerging transformational space programs.

Madam Speaker, in his nearly four decades as an Air Force officer, General Hamel has played a major role in our nation's military and civilian space program. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking General Hamel for his many years of dedicated service and in wishing him a long and fruitful retirement.

RECOGNIZING MONICA NELSON FOR REPRESENTING MINNESOTA AT THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special Minnesotan. Sixth grade student Monica Nelson from Ham Lake, Minnesota has been chosen to represent Minnesota at the National History Day competition taking place at the University of Maryland this week. Monica was selected from the nearly 30,000 students from Minnesota who take part in History Day every year.

The theme for this year's competition is "Conflict and Compromise in History." At this competition, participants get an opportunity to finally present their findings after an exhaustive and critical analysis of facts and figures

relating to their chosen topic. Monica presented her research on a famous St. Cloud, Minnesota resident, early abolitionist and women's rights advocate, Jane Grey Swisshelm. Presenting her research through an acted performance, Monica gave an account of Jane Swisshelm's life and contributions from the perspective of her daughter.

Thank you, Monica, for your hard work and passion for our Nation's history. You have paid a great honor to our American heritage, and your very own contributions have ensured that this early patriot's contributions to our Nation will never be forgotten. Minnesota thanks you and wishes you the best during the competition. We are all proud of you, Monica, and we look forward to seeing all that you do with your God-given talents in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER R. TREVOR KING, U.S. NAVY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Commander R. Trevor King, United States Navy, for his service to the House Armed Services Committee as a member of the Navy's congressional liaison team.

A native of Thousand Oaks, California, in 1991, Commander King earned an economics degree from the U.S. Naval Academy. Since that time, he has served his country well in various posts and in numerous operations. He has received the Commander Naval Surface Forces Battle Efficiency "E" for excellence award two years in a row.

In August, Commander King will begin the curriculum at the National War College during which time he will complete his Joint Professional Military Education. Following that assignment, he will likely be assigned as commanding officer of one of the Navy's surface combatants.

I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring Commander R. Trevor King, his wife, Robynn, and his daughters, Erika and Caitlynn, for their outstanding and continued service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK MOUNT HOOD WILDERNESS ACT OF 2008

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my Oregon colleagues in introducing the "Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2008."

In 2003, we held the first Mt. Hood Summit at Timberline Lodge, inviting local stakeholders to share their vision for the challenges and opportunities facing the Mt. Hood National Forest. Over the past five years a committed group of citizens, organizations, Native Americans, local, state and federal jurisdictions, and private interests have spent countless hours negotiating a long term stewardship and protection plan for Mt. Hood's forests and rivers.

Today, this legislation designates over 132,000 acres of Wilderness, almost 80 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 34,000 acres of National Recreation Areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest. It would create a long term transportation plan to address the challenges of getting to and from the mountain, establish a special watershed protection area for the Crystal Springs Watershed, focus on a forest-wide vegetation management strategy which includes biomass utilization, establish a working group to advise the Forest Service on recreation enhancements, respect Native Americans' treaty reserved gathering rights and honor the United States' cultural foods obligations to those Tribes. Lastly, the bill directs the Forest Service to participate in three land conveyances. These exchanges will provide additional protection for the North side of Mt. Hood, the Pacific Crest Trail, and a parcel of land that is critical to the community in Clackamas County.

In keeping with the spirit of our well-established and participatory process, I look forward to working with our stakeholders as the legislative process moves forward. I hope that this bill is not the last word when it comes to protecting Oregon's most beautiful, scenic and at-risk places. I hope that the Natural Resources Committee will quickly schedule a hearing on it so that we can pass and implement it and begin working towards protection for other "Oregon Treasures" in the years to come.

HONORING GLENDA GRAY ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who has touched the lives of countless people across northern Michigan over the past quarter century. Glenda Gray will retire on June 30 after more than 25 years of dedicated public service to the residents of the 1st Congressional District of Michigan.

Glenda, known as "Glink" to her friends, has worked in my Marquette, Michigan, district office since I was sworn into office in 1993. The decision to hire her was an easy one. Having worked for my predecessor, former Congressman Bob Davis, for 10 years, Glenda brought to the job experience and know-how that couldn't be matched.

A lot has changed in the more than 25 years Glenda has served the people of Michigan's 1st Congressional District. As a matter of fact, even the borders and designation of this district have changed. She has seen the transition from business conducted largely on paper and by typewriter, to a system where computers, copy machines, Blackberrys and video conferencing dominate.

Throughout her tenure, Glenda has handled casework on postal and passport issues throughout the expansive 1st District. She has been responsible for casework on Medicare, Social Security, disability and other senior's issues for six of the 31 counties in the district. She has evolved into an expert on Social Security and is proud of the individuals and families she has been able to help through difficult situations over the years.

This list does not do justice to the thousands of phone calls and walk-in visitors Glenda has spoken with about their problems or their views on a particular issue. I have known her to give each individual's concern the time it deserves and treat every person with courtesy and respect.

Since 1997, my district director has been stationed out of my Marquette office, making it the de facto headquarters for my district operations. This has placed increased responsibility on Glenda, who—in addition to continuing to handle casework and assist constituents in Marquette and the surrounding counties—is tasked with the duty of covering the busy office alone when my district director, Tom Baldini, is away.

Evident from her seamless transition from working for a Republican Congressman to a Democrat, Glenda never viewed casework as a political or partisan issue. For her, it has always been about helping the individual. Over time, Glenda has seen other staff members come and go. Throughout, she has been a valuable asset in helping new staff with her sound and kind advice on assisting constituents—even the challenging ones—while maintaining a sense of humor.

Shortly after I took office, we lost one of our young staff people, Brian Schlientz, to brain cancer. This was a difficult loss for all of our staff, but especially for Glenda, who had trained Brian and mentored him during my first year in office. Glenda provided untold support to Brian both in the office and throughout his courageous battle.

Glenda can relate to the unique challenges facing my constituents in northern Michigan—and particularly the Upper Peninsula—because it is has long been home for her. She was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in 1943, one of 11 children raised there by her father, Harry, and stepmother, Eva Gilroy. She attended and graduated from Sault Area Schools before marrying her husband of 45 years, Joe Gray, who is also a Sault Ste. Marie native.

Joe and Glenda moved south to Dearborn, Michigan, where they lived for 8 years and began to raise two children, Joe Jr. and Kelly. They returned to Marquette in the Upper Peninsula in 1970 and have resided on Lakewood Lane in Chocoley Township for the past 38 years. Before going to work for Congressman Davis, Glenda worked for 7 years at Silver Creek Elementary School in the Marquette Public School District.

After more than 25 years of devoted service, Glenda plans to enjoy her retirement with her husband, children, grandchildren, extended family and friends. And while I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends, she will be greatly missed by those who work with her day in and day out and by the countless Michiganders who have come to turn to Glenda when they need assistance.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking Glenda Gray for her outstanding quarter century of service and in wishing her well as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF
THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Paycheck Fairness Act introduced by Congresswoman ROSA DELARO on March 6, 2007.

The first step towards the achievement of equal pay for women was made with the passage and signing of the Equal Pay Act by President John F. Kennedy on June 10, 1963. President Kennedy understood the importance of addressing the "unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job." As a result of the enacting the Equal Pay Act, the wage gap between women and men has shrunken significantly. At the time the Equal Pay Act was signed, women's average wage was roughly a half of what men earned. At the present time, women earn around ¾ of the wage paid to men. Undoubtedly, the gap is narrowing consistently, but the rate of such improvement is quite slow. The inequality of payments between women and men not only affects American families, but also American society and the American economy. Despite the fact that the enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and many other civil rights laws contributed to narrow the wage gap, many important disparities remain and need to be addressed. The enactment of the Paycheck Fairness Act creates the opportunity for the Federal government to be more active in preventing and fighting wage discrimination.

I hope that many Americans understand how crucial it is to have equal workplaces with equal opportunities for workers and equal pay for comparable jobs, regardless of gender. The American government should take firm actions in delivering concrete steps proposed by the Paycheck Fairness Act in narrowing the unequal wage gap.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill H.R. 6063, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Chairman, I am proud to support H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Authorization Act of 2008. As NASA celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, I would like to express my strong support for a program that has contributed so much to our Nation's educational, scientific, and economic interests.

H.R. 6063 authorizes \$20.21 billion in funding for NASA in FY 2009, including \$1 billion in augmented funding to reduce the five year

gap between the retirement of the current space shuttle in 2010 and the launch of the new Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle in 2015. During this time, the U.S. will lose all human spaceflight capability and will be forced to rely on foreign nations to carry our astronauts to the International Space Station. These outsourced space flights are estimated to cost around \$700 million to \$1 billion. The gap is also expected to have adverse effects on our national economy. NASA estimates that as many as 2,300 people could lose their jobs at Johnson Space Center in Houston as the shuttle fleet is retired. The funds that are included in this bill will help to accelerate the development of our next generation human spaceflight systems and minimize the undesirable consequences of this transitional period.

H.R. 6063 also includes funding for a wide range of different NASA initiatives such as space weather research and robotics development. The bill allows NASA to maintain a diverse portfolio of projects in science, aeronautics, and space exploration. By creating more quality jobs in this technical sector, we will be able to encourage future generations of students to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related fields. Creating this skilled workforce is an important step towards protecting our economic strength, our global competitiveness, and our national security.

Since its inception in 1958, NASA has been responsible for countless innovations and scientific breakthroughs. For decades, it has symbolized our Nation's position as the global leader in space exploration and research. I am proud to support H.R. 6063 so that NASA will be able to build upon its own prestigious legacy as we move forward into this new millennium.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY
JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a staple in the American household on Sunday mornings, a political commentator, Tim Russert, whose untimely passing on Friday, June 13th in a Washington Bureau of NBC News has been a devastation for Americans everywhere. Tim Russert, 58, was a native of Buffalo, New York and the NBC News' Washington Bureau Chief.

Russert was an advocate of strong family values founded on principles of love and support as displayed in his dedicated marriage with his wife, Maureen Orth, and his continued encouragement of his son, Luke.

A passionate news journalist and attorney, Tim Russert accomplished many accolades throughout his lifetime. As a bestselling author and inspiration to many, Russert also devoted his time to athletics as an elected member of the Baseball Hall of Fame board of directors and as an avid supporter of the Washington Nationals and Washington Wizards.

Tim Russert was a devout Catholic that spent much of his time giving back to the community by offering aid to non-profit organi-

zations and Catholic charities. Russert was concerned with the welfare of children in the community, and specifically those who lost their lives to gun violence.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District in Ohio and the United States Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF HARMON MASSEY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FLORIDA STATE ATTORNEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Harmon O. Massey, Jr., upon his retirement from the office of the Florida State attorney.

Mr. Massey's commitment to his country and community spans several decades and has taken on many forms. In 1965, Mr. Massey was awarded wings as an Air Force pilot. With over 950 hours spent in combat and 150 missions, Mr. Massey has dutifully devoted his time to assignments across the globe including the ARC Light mission in Southeast Asia. As a reflection of his immense bravery, valor, and dedication, Mr. Massey was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as six Air Medals commending his outstanding service. Despite his resignation in 1973, Mr. Massey continued his military service by enrolling in the Air Force Inactive Reserve and serving as an Air Force Judge Advocate.

In addition to his military service, Mr. Massey vigorously dedicated himself to the civic aspect of his community. From 1999 to June 2008, Mr. Massey served as a misdemeanor and felony prosecutor as well as a supervisor for the office of the Florida State attorney. Mr. Massey participates in a number of community groups including ARC Santa Rosa, in which he was chairman of the board, Kiwanis, in which he was president of the Santa Rosa Chapter, and the Santa Rosa Kids House in which he is currently the chairperson of the board of directors.

The civilian duties Mr. Massey has performed, as well as his outstanding tenure in the Air Force, is a sign of his dedication and valor. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Harmon O. Massey for his enduring allegiance to our great Nation and the State of Florida.

HONORING DR. THEODORE PAUL
VOTTELER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the passing of Dr. Theodore Paul Votteler of Dallas, Texas. Named to Best Doctors of America from 1996–2000, Dr. Votteler performed over 25,000 operations before his

retirement in 1993 and was one of the first surgeons in the Nation to successfully separate conjoined twins. Deeply committed to his practice and the pursuit of education, Dr. Votteler's compassion, skill and spirit will be deeply missed in the community.

Born in 1927 in Portland, Oregon to Theodore and Mary Gladys Parry Votteler, the family moved to the Dallas area in 1939. Mr. Votteler graduated from Highland Park High School and was attending the University of Texas at Austin when he enlisted for the Navy in 1945. After serving his country, he went to Tulane University School of Medicine where he graduated in 1951.

In 1960, he was appointed medical director of surgical services and director of general surgery at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Votteler performed one of seven successful separations of conjoined twins in 1978 and became an international authority on conjoined separations and pediatric surgery.

In 2007, Dr. Votteler returned to the University of Texas at Austin to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. During his career, Dr. Votteler received many awards including the Children's Medical Center Distinguished Service Award and the Tulane Medical School Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, the medical field has lost an astounding surgeon; I send my condolences to his wife, Vermelle Votteler, and his sons and daughters-in-law, Tad and Sally Anne Votteler and Todd and Sharmon Sullivan Votteler. In addition, he is survived by his grandchildren Alexis Sutton Votteler, Theodore Paul Votteler III, Anna Grace Votteler, Vitoria Frances Votteler, and one granddaughter on the way, Carol Elizabeth Votteler.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT KEMBLE
HOME, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW
JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Kemble Home, of Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. On June 22, 2008, the residents and staff at the Mount Kemble Home will be celebrating its 125th anniversary.

The Mount Kemble Home was founded in 1883 by a group of parishioners from the Morristown Presbyterian Church as a refuge for women in need of a home. The Mount Kemble Home has been assisting women in the lower income bracket for over 125 years.

The Mount Kemble Home provides each resident with a quality one-room apartment, complete with cooking facilities. There are two living rooms with comfortable chairs for reading, watching television, or playing the piano. The front and back porches further enhance the Home with wonderful views of the surrounding neighborhood.

The Mount Kemble Home relies on donations from the community and volunteer work to keep the Home open, as the rent charged is only 25 percent of the residents' income.

For 125 years the Mount Kemble Home has been providing women in Morris County the opportunity to afford quality housing in a comfortable and safe environment. Its staff, volunteers, and charitable donors are to be commended for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Kemble Home on the celebration of 125 years of serving Morris County's women, in one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

HONORING MR. SY STERNBERG

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sy Sternberg and to congratulate him on his retirement as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of New York Life Insurance Company, the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States and one of the largest life insurers in the world.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Sternberg earned a bachelor of electrical engineering degree from the City College of New York in 1965 and an M.S.E.E. degree from Northeastern University in 1968.

Before joining New York Life in 1989, Mr. Sternberg spent 13 years at the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, where he was most recently senior executive vice president.

Mr. Sternberg is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Business Roundtable and serves on its Task Forces on International Trade and Investment, Security and Fiscal Policy and the Leadership Committee of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund. Mr. Sternberg is also a Board of Trustees member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Northeastern University and the Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY.

In 1999, Mr. Sternberg was appointed by President Clinton and served through 2002 as one of three United States representatives to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC). In January of this year, Mayor Bloomberg of New York City appointed Mr. Sternberg as co-chair, along with former Mayor Dinkins, of the Mayor's task force on Career and Technical Education Innovation.

Mr. Sternberg is most importantly the proud father of two grown daughters, Jodi and Donna, and resides in Purchase, NY, with his wife, Laurie, and their son, Matthew.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sy Sternberg for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION
LEGISLATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would close a loophole in the Department of Defense's whistleblowers' protection statute (10 U.S.C. Sec. 2409) and expand this safeguard

to include the men and women of the DOD contracting business who report abuses to their superiors.

Under current law, an individual is only protected—and therefore eligible for remedies—if he or she reports workplace security concerns to “a Member of Congress or an authorized official of an agency or the Department of Justice.” While I understand the importance of encouraging individuals to take their concerns to certain authorities, I believe it is imperative that we include in this authority an employee's superiors.

It seems only natural, that once someone recognizes a problem within their work environment, they report it to their superiors. This is part of a normal progression of attempting to resolve issues and challenging tasks on the job. Few people initially contact their Congressman or the Department of Justice when they first observe an irregularity on the job.

It is also important to note that many former military members migrate to the security contracting industry. Many of these men and women have years of previous service to our nation, have grown to respect their chain of command and understand the benefit it can provide in the workplace. When they have come to the conclusion that additional steps must be taken or when they have identified a significant problem in the work environment, these professionals are trained and encouraged to report their concerns to their superiors to enable them to assess the situation and foster a solution.

Similarly, many in the federal security contracting industry come from a law enforcement background with a comparable command structure and respect for their superiors.

The legislation I introduced today will ensure that those who identify problems within firms subcontracted by DOD are still afforded standard whistleblower protections even if they notify their employer about possible violations before they notify an agent of the federal government. The legislation does not require employees to notify their employer first and it does not preclude them from contacting federal officials, it simply protects employees who point out potential violations to their employer, the federal government or both. If an employee is dismissed prior to his/her notifying the government, but after notifying their employer, they will receive the necessary protections as well.

The current loophole was brought to my attention by a New Jersey resident who worked for a private security firm that guards military installations in my district and throughout the country. This individual witnessed and documented a number of events that raised serious concerns regarding the contractor's ability to ensure the safety and security of the base and the surrounding community.

Base security is not an issue to be taken lightly—anywhere and including in my state of New Jersey. As we all recall, in May of last year, the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office arrested five men who were planning to attack another New Jersey installation, Fort Dix. After a thorough and aggressive law enforcement effort to thwart this attempted terror attack, the men accused have been detained and are awaiting trial. Still, the vulnerabilities at our military bases exposed by this incident cannot be minimized or dismissed.

The individual who brought this loophole to my attention reported to his employer what he

believed were unfulfilled contract requirements that resulted in questions regarding the firm's ability to provide adequate security. After his boss dismissed his concerns, he then scheduled a meeting with the base security personnel to discuss the matter. Before this meeting could occur, the individual was fired by the firm and barred from the base. At that time, he brought these concerns to me. However, since the law requires that a potential whistleblower be a current employee at the time he/she discloses pertinent information to a federal official, it was too late for him to be eligible for protections and/or remedies. Specifically, my legislation would expand the universe of those to whom an individual can properly report concerns to include the individual's chain of command, before and after any retribution, so that the individual will be protected and have the right to be reinstated if an investigation shows that the individual was punished for bringing the matter to the attention of proper authorities.

As we are all aware, in recent years the Department of Defense has looked increasingly to private security contractors to guard and police our military installations across the country. The men and women filling these positions deserve to be protected when they report violations and concerns to their superiors and especially if they are subsequently punished in an attempt by their employer to downplay or even cover up a violation. It is imperative that we amend the law to ensure that these employees are eligible for the same remedies as other whistleblowers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RETIREE
HEALTH ACCOUNT ACT OF 2008
(H.R. 6288)

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation, the Retiree Health Account Act of 2008 (H.R. 6288), that I introduced yesterday, June 17, 2008. This bill is designed to help Americans prepare for the medical costs they will incur in retirement.

When Americans engage in retirement planning, too often they don't contemplate the medical expenses they will incur. If they do, they often make significant underestimates or mistakenly believe that such expenses will be entirely met through Medicare. Often, they fail to recognize that Medicare coverage contains numerous gaps and that beneficiaries must pay deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. For example, the monthly Medicare Part A premium currently ranges from \$233 to \$423 while Part B and average Part D premiums are \$96.40 and \$27.93, respectively. In addition, under Part B, beneficiaries must pay an annual deductible of \$135 and 20 percent of covered services. At the same time, Part D beneficiaries have a \$275 deductible and then must pay a 25 percent coinsurance levy for drug costs up to \$2,510, the entire amount for purchases between \$2,510 and \$5,726, and approximately 5 percent of all drug costs thereafter.

Current estimates indicate that an average American couple both aged 65 could need as much as \$295,000 to cover premiums for

health insurance coverage and out-of-pocket expenses during retirement. Moreover, these costs are increasing. For example, between 1985 and 2005, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care rose by 185 percent compared to 82 percent for all other goods and services.

During this time period, families headed by persons aged 55 to 64 saw their real expenditures on health care rise from \$2,459 to \$3,410 (about 40 percent) while average spending by families headed by persons aged 65 to 74 likewise increased from \$2,993 to \$4,176. Similarly, families headed by persons above age 75 saw their annual health care spending increase from \$3,006 to \$4,210.

Through all of the above, the health insurance coverage provided to retirees has been shrinking. From 1993 to 2004, the percentage of employers with 500 workers or more offering health insurance to pre-Medicare eligible retirees fell from 46 percent to 28 percent. At the same time, the number of employers offering retiree health insurance to Medicare eligible retirees also decreased from 40 percent to 20 percent.

In this environment, it is important to note that, while the United States tax code provides incentives for the prefunding of both pension benefits and retirement savings, it does not provide similar incentives for the prefunding of retiree health benefits.

Accordingly, the Retiree Health Account Act would provide Americans with tax incentives to set aside funds for health costs. It would accomplish this by establishing Retiree Health Accounts (RHAs), which would be structured very similarly to 401(k) plans. For example, RHAs would have, the same maximum employee inflation-indexed contribution and annual addition limits. In addition, individuals 50 years or older would be allowed to make annual catch-up deferrals of up to \$5,000.

Once a RHA account owner reaches age 55, he or she would be able to withdraw monies tax free, provided the funds are used to purchase qualifying medical care. Prior to age 55, monies could be withdrawn, but would be subject to a 10 percent penalty and ordinary income taxes. This penalty would be suspended, however, if the owner had become disabled or if the monies were used to cover health insurance premiums during periods of unemployment or to defray unreimbursed medical expenses. Similarly, RHA funds could be withdrawn without penalty, but subject to taxation, pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order. Finally, upon death, while a spouse could inherit a RHA without paying taxes, RHA funds would otherwise be subject to applicable income or estate taxes.

In addition to Retiree Health Accounts, this legislation would also allow individuals to establish Individual Health Accounts (IHAs). These accounts would be similar to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) in structure and provide for the costs of retiree health care. For example, like IRAs, IHAs would have an annual contribution limit of \$5,000, indexed to inflation, with individuals age 50 or older eligible to make annual catch up contributions of \$1,000, also indexed for inflation. Unlike IRAs, however, contributions to IHAs would be prohibited once an individual becomes Medicare eligible. In addition, as with RHA funds, IHA funds could be withdrawn tax free if used to purchase medical care by an owner age 55 or older and without penalty if used before age

55 to meet the special circumstances of disability, unemployment, and extraordinary medical expenses. Likewise, IHA funds would not be subject to penalty if distributed pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order and could be inherited tax free only by a spouse.

To encourage lower-income Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to RHAs and IHAs, the Retiree Health Account Act would provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 for eligible individuals. This tax credit would be indexed to inflation and the maximum lifetime credit would be \$5,000.

Health care costs continue to increase while employer-sponsored retiree health benefits erode. However, we can help Americans prepare to meet their future health care costs by giving individuals an incentive and mechanism to help themselves. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact legislation authorizing Retiree Health Accounts.

PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6003) to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes:

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. And I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, as gas prices continue to rise and our highways become more congested, it becomes even more critical for us to support and encourage mass-transit alternatives. Amtrak will surely continue to play a significant role as one of these alternatives.

My home State of New Hampshire is served by the Amtrak Downeaster, connecting Portland, Maine to Boston. The Downeaster has truly been a success story from the beginning of its service in 2001. Ridership numbers have continued to increase year after year, highlighting the importance of Amtrak service to the region. In fact, so far this fiscal year, ridership of the Downeaster has reached nearly 300,000.

Yet even a rail line as successful and as important to our region as the Downeaster has difficulties turning a profit. While there are improvements to be made at Amtrak overall, passenger rail service in general requires investment and dedication. As we have seen with the Downeaster, this dedication yields significant returns in tourism and business dollars that come as a result of improving access to the communities served.

I look forward to voting in favor of H.R. 6003 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GREY FLOWERS
FERRIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute one of Mississippi's finest politicians and agriculturist, former State Senator and farmer, Mr. Grey Flowers Ferris. Grey was a lifelong advocate for public education and a marvelous steward of farmland. His steadfast devotion to his family, friends, and farming are remarkable and will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, not long after graduating from college and pursuing a career in politics, Ferris returned to his passion of farming. As a child he grew up on a farm with four other siblings and it was then when he discovered his love for farming.

Madam Speaker, as a local farmer and family man, Ferris developed a passion for creating a better future for the children of Mississippi. Ferris was elected to the first board of the Vicksburg-Warren School District and served working to unite the school systems. With the deep divisions in local education in the Warren County, Mississippi, region, Ferris decided to run for State Senate to better address the State's education challenges. During his two terms in MS State Senate, Ferris was elected to serve as chairman of the Senate Education Committee and worked to reform education in rural and underfunded areas in Mississippi. He served as a lead author of the Adequate Education Act, which regulated the way money was allocated and spent among public schools.

Madam Speaker, Grey not only worked hard to advocate for education but he was lover of the environment and a first class citizen. He was well-respected by his peers not only for who he was but more so for what he did.

Madam Speaker, Grey saw the need to and retained the desire to change the world. Grey stared racism in its ugly face and combated it. The people of Mississippi hold him with high regard and respect.

Madam Speaker, Grey Ferris was a man who saw the ability to serve the public as a privilege—not just an obligation. He served the citizens of Mississippi well through his continuous efforts of seating on the board of the Vicksburg Art Association, the Mercy Regional Medical Center, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Mississippi School Board Association and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

Grey Ferris wore many hats—an advocate of education, a protester for equality, devoted family man, committed farmer, and fine and just politician who worked to ensure fairness among all citizens of Mississippi. Today, Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to recognize and honor the many contributions and continuous service of Grey Flowers Ferris to the State of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of 332, which commemorates the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On December 10, 1948, only three years after the end of the intolerance, oppression, death and destruction of World War II, the United Nations General Assembly created the first universal statement on the basic principles of inalienable human rights. The Declaration, with its core values of non-discrimination, equality, fairness and freedom, was to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and save succeeding generations from the devastation of war.

Sixty years later, this document has become a standard to measure how nations govern. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has led to progress in banning torture and rape as weapons of war and protecting Children from economic and sexual exploitation. The Declaration has served as a means of achieving self-determination for millions under colonial rule and has moved nations to guarantee legal justice and racial and gender equality for all their people.

While the last sixty years have brought many advances in human rights, there is still work to be done. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that 'motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance'. Such a right cannot be realized, however, when more than half a million women continue to die every year in childbirth having been unable to receive health care. Nor has it been guaranteed when over 28,000 children under the age of five die per day from easily preventable and treatable causes.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created to ensure the human rights of all but, in particular, those with relatively little power in society. While ensuring the rights and prosperity of all peoples and all nations was once an aspiration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is now a necessary reality. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and is confronted with the new global challenges of pandemic disease, terrorism, and hunger, injustice anywhere endangers peace, prosperity and security everywhere. If we wish to combat these challenges, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be the foundation of our cooperation in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to renew their commitment to ensuring human rights for all people, everywhere and join me in supporting this Resolution.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hodes amendment to H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008, establishing a scholarship program in honor of Christa McAuliffe, the teacher-turned-astronaut whose journey captivated a nation and sparked a renewed interest in space exploration. Chosen out of 11,000 educators to participate in the Teacher in Space program, Christa represented the hopes and dreams of every teacher and every student around the country. Despite the tragic *Challenger* explosion that claimed her life along with the lives of her fellow astronauts, Christa's courage, creativity and curiosity embodied the best values of our educational system and remain an inspiration to students around the world. Christa grew up in my congressional district in Framingham, Massachusetts and later attended Framingham State College, where the Christa McAuliffe Center promotes science education and teacher training. While Christa's inspirational life was tragically cut short, along with her fellow passengers on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, her legacy lives on inspiring the next generation of space explorers. This scholarship will be established to promote women in space sciences, a fitting goal considering Christa's life work. While women have made significant gains in the last few years, they continue to be underrepresented in space sciences and aeronautics. There is no better way to honor a true pioneer that inspired millions while promoting education and space exploration than a scholarship to advance that very cause.

I urge my colleagues to support the Hodes amendment and I thank my colleague from New Hampshire for this fitting tribute to a true American hero.

HONORING MR. ARTHUR C. (SKIPPER) TONSMEIRE, III ON THE DEDICATION OF THE WEEKS BAY RESOURCE CENTER IN HIS HONOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Arthur C. (Skipper) Tonsmeire, III on the occasion of the Weeks Bay Resource Center dedicated in his honor.

Skipper Tonsmeire was born in Mobile and grew up in a house of eight boys on Dog River. Skipper loves the outdoors more than

anyone I know—he walks, runs, bikes, and swims at Johnson Beach Park every day, and he loves to fly. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1965 and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Denver in 1967.

Skipper, who serves as president of the Coastal Land Trust and Weeks Bay Foundation, has been an integral force in land conservation and environmental stewardship throughout the United States and especially in southwest Alabama. The Weeks Bay Foundation supports the Weeks Bay Estuarine Research Reserve in its efforts to protect the pristine coastal area of Baldwin County, Alabama. Skipper actively serves in many other associations and organizations. For instance, he has been the director of the Boys and Girls Club in Baldwin County since 1997. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Rotary Boys and Girls Club of Fairhope as well as the Point Clear Rotary Club.

Skipper has also been extremely instrumental in the protection of 30,000 acres of property in the Mobile Tensaw Delta and has worked extensively with The Nature Conservancy of Alabama on land protection projects throughout the state of Alabama.

Skipper was honored with the 1994–1995 Calder Conservation Award for building alliances over the past 20 years between the local business community, public agencies, and nonprofit conservation groups to protect the environmentally and economically important wetlands of the Alabama Gulf Coast. He also received The Nature Conservancy Distinguished Service Award for Gulf Coast land preservation and was awarded the Gulf Oil Conservation Award and Conservationist of the Year by the state of Alabama.

The property on which the Weeks Bay Multi Purpose Classroom Building was constructed was purchased by the Coastal Land Trust and the Weeks Bay Foundation. In addition to this property, the foundation purchased the former Safe Harbor RV Park and numerous other parcels—all of which have been conveyed to the state of Alabama. As foundation president, Skipper took what was once only a dream and turned it into a reality for the Weeks Bay Reserve. His leadership on these land acquisitions was the driving force behind the success of the project.

Skipper's diligent efforts to preserve our natural resources have ensured that future generations will enjoy coastal Alabama for many years to come. While Skipper would vehemently deny this fact, we all know that had it not been for Skipper Tonsmeire's vision, there would be no Weeks Bay Reserve or Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. His quiet unassuming way has served the treasures of Alabama and our coast well.

Madam Speaker, I cannot imagine a better person whom the Weeks Bay Resource Center should honor other than Arthur C. (Skipper) Tonsmeire, III. It will forever recognize his long-standing commitment to the reserve and to natural resources in the state of Alabama.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family and his many friends and colleagues join me in extending thanks for his service over the years. On behalf of a grateful community, thank you, Skipper, for everything you have done and continue to do for coastal Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of June 17, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in returning to Washington, DC. As a result, I did not cast votes on roll-calls 414, 415, 416.

Had I been here, I would have voted:

“Yea” on rollcall 414, a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act;

“Yea” on rollcall 415, a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3702, the Montana Cemetery Act;

“Yea” on rollcall 416, a motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1275, honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

THE DAILY 45: ULYSSES SIMMONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. On Monday, June 16, the first day of summer vacation for Chicago Public Schools, 14-year-old Ulysses Simmons was fatally shot. He is the 27th CPS student slain since last fall. According to news reports, young Ulysses was killed over his bike. He had just gotten his first job, working with young children this summer at a local church. “When will this killing stop,” asked his grandmother. “It needs to stop.”

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of “The Daily 45” and the dozens more unnecessary accidents and injuries related to guns. I join Ulysses’ grandmother in saying: When will we say “enough is enough, stop the killing!”

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 20

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Elaine C. Duke, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security.
SD-342

JUNE 24

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold an oversight hearing to examine trade functions, focusing on customs and other trade agencies.
SD-215

10:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine climate change impacts on the transportation sector.
SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the emergence of the superbug, focusing on antimicrobial resistance in the United States.
SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine ending excessive speculation in commodity markets, focusing on legislative options.
SD-342

Judiciary
Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine from Nuremberg to Darfur, focusing on accountability for crimes against humanity.
SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider H.R. 176, to authorize the establishment of educational exchange and development programs for member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), H.R. 2553, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history, S. 2120, to authorize the establishment of a Social Investment and Economic Development Fund for the Americas to provide assistance to reduce poverty, expand the middle class, and foster increased economic opportunity in the countries of the Western Hemisphere, S. 2166, to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, S. 3097, to amend the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000, and International Convention Against Doping in Sport,

adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization on October 19, 2005 (Treaty Doc. 110-14).

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR-253

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 2907, to establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, an original bill entitled, “the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008”, an original bill entitled, “the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008”, and promotion lists in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard.
SR-253

JUNE 25

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Constitution Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine laptop searches and other violations of privacy faced by Americans returning from overseas travel.
SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the increased global energy demand, focusing on the challenges for meeting future energy needs, while developing new technologies to address the current and future global climate change.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the future federal role for surface transportation.
SD-406

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine solutions to cope with the rise in home heating oil prices.
SR-428A

11 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Energy Information Administration, focusing on forecasts for oil and gasoline prices.
SD-192

JUNE 26

9:30 a.m.
Veterans’ Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending calendar business.
SR-418

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine effective ways to catch fugitives in the 21st century.
SD-226