

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOMING THE 39TH BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I would like to welcome more than 700 delegates and 1500 total participants to the 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Church of America to Washington, DC. The theme of the 39th Biennial Congress is Gather My People to My Home, which recognizes the value of each person and, as Archbishop Demetrios of America has written, acknowledges that many people are struggling and seeking a spiritual home where they can find peace and hope.

The Greek Orthodox community in San Francisco is an example of the beautiful diversity of my hometown. I am proud that several of my constituents, including Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and Fathers Stephen Kyriacou and Aris Metrakos and lay leaders from the Holy Trinity Church and Annunciation Cathedral of San Francisco, will be in Washington for the Congress this week. I would also like to congratulate my friend Andy Manatos who will serve as the Chairman of Clergy Laity Congress during this conference.

The House of Representatives is blessed to have had many Greek Orthodox members of Congress over the years. Today, the community is well-represented by leaders such as JOHN SARBANES of Maryland, ZACK SPACE of Ohio, NIKI TSONGAS of Massachusetts and GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida.

Members of Congress have expressed strong support for the Greek Orthodox community through the years including awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the Congress, to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace.

The religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox community continues to be a top priority for Members of Congress. A bipartisan group of members on the House Foreign Affairs Committee recently sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Turkey urging him to do everything possible to preserve the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to end restrictions and practices which threaten the viability of this nearly 2,000-year old spiritual beacon. The millions of Orthodox Christians in America and around the world can be assured that Congress will continue to advocate for their right to worship and practice their faith without undue government interference.

As Greek Orthodox clergy, parishioners, and hierarchs visit our nation's capitol this week, I thank them for their leadership and wish them a successful conference.

ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND SELF-ESTEEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a bill I have just introduced, H.R. 6457, the "Encourage Initiative and Promote Self-Esteem Act".

There are many people in our country who receive Social Security Disability benefits (SSD) because they have a "waxing and waning" disease—Behcet's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Parkinson's, Cancer, AIDS and Arthritis are examples of "waxing and waning" diseases.

This process of seeking SSD and keeping it is often times an adversarial one. The climate of suspicion that applicants and recipients say they feel leaves many to view the Social Security Administration (SSA) with a jaundiced eye. Everyone who actually gains disability benefits remembers the hoops of fire they had to jump through during the application process. As a result, many people often do not consider a try at working, fearing that the SSA will use that against them to deny future benefits. With concerns over fraudulent claims, I can understand how this environment came to be. But that doesn't make it right.

For people with "waxing and waning" diseases and conditions, they know that they will have good days and bad. They know that, barring a cure, they will always be sick, but that does not diminish their spirit. There needs to be a program that encourages people in this situation to secure temporary employment when they feel they can work without placing their SSD at risk for the times they cannot work.

H.R. 6457 would install a system based on a sliding scale. The more money one earns, the fewer benefits he or she receives. But there will be a built-in incentive to stay the course because the total monthly income when working will be more than either the work income or SSD.

Imagine a situation where those on SSD who have diseases that "wax and wane" could work, without fear, when able. That would be a lot of money put back into the Treasury in payroll withholdings and taxes—and more money put into the economy in increased purchasing, not to mention the contribution to society and elevated self-esteem of the workers. Think about the faith these people would have in a system of government that treats its people with dignity and respect instead of suspicion and contempt.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6457 to improve the lives of thousands of Americans.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM T. MUNS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William T. Muns, a native son of Beaver County, Pennsylvania who is an outstanding champion for veterans.

From 1965 thru 1968, Bill proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army. This service included a one year tour in Vietnam, serving as a Financial Liaison Specialist with the 709th Maintenance Battalion in the Mekong Delta Area. Upon his return stateside, he completed his enlistment with the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

In September 2001, Bill accepted his current position as Beaver County Director of Veterans Affairs. Since taking this position, Bill and his staff have increased the federal benefits for county veterans from \$14 million to \$42 million. This exceptional service has been recognized by the Pennsylvania State Adjutant General.

As a charter life member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 862, Bill has served as treasurer and was recognized as Vietnam Veteran of the Year for 2002. In addition to this prestigious award, Bill has also received a number of honors from the community, including being named Beaver County Jaycees Man of the Year 2003, the State Veterans Service Officer Award for 2005–2006, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 862 Distinguished Service Award for 2001.

Bill is also a husband, father, and grandfather. He is married to Virginia Martin Muns and together they have three children—Laura Evangelista, Ted Muns, and Jenn Basinger. Bill and Ginger also have five grandchildren—Rebecca, Gabriella and Adam Evangelista, and Mason and Ethan Muns.

Bill and Ginger will be missed and treasured by the Beaver County veterans' community for years to come. I want to commend them for their long and distinguished commitment to helping America's heroes. I wish them a wonderful retirement in their new home of Sarasota County, Florida and thank them for the tremendous service that they have provided to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BASF
FREEPORT ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the BASF Corporation's Freeport, Texas facility. Freeport

• 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.

is located in Brazoria County in my congressional district. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the management and employees of BASF Freeport on 50 great years, and thank the people of BASF Freeport for their contributions to Freeport's economy.

The story of the BASF Freeport began when the owners of BASF Overzee N.V., a subsidiary of Badische Anilin- & Soda Fabrik A. G. (BASF), Ludwigshafen, Germany, and the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, agreed to form Dow Badische Chemical Company. Dow Badische was endowed with the chemical process technology of the European parent as well as the managerial and marketing knowledge of their U.S. parent.

The new company chose a site adjacent to Dow Chemical's Texas Division of Freeport, Texas for its initial production. In December of 1959 the plant began producing Acrylic Acid and Acrylic Esters. In 1960 and 1961 the plants added production units for butanol and caprolactam.

Through the years, the BASF facility experienced tremendous increases in its capacity as well as in the number of production plants and employees that comprise the BASF Freeport workforce. For example, in 1967 BASF built a continuous butyl acrylate plant, while a new caprolactam complex was completed in 1968; and a new oxo alcohol facility was completed in 1970, adding 2-Ethylhexanol to the product line.

BASF acquired 100 percent ownership of Dow Badische in 1978. Soon after the change in ownership took place, two new chemical plants were constructed in Freeport, one an acrylic acid facility and the other a neopentyl glycol facility. Further significant expansions have included two acrylic monomers plants, an expansion to the polycaprolactam unit and most recently a new superabsorbent polymer plant.

In addition to its contributions to Brazoria County's economy, BASF has improved the life of the residents of Brazoria County through its steadfast support of numerous civic organizations. BASF has also earned the trust of its neighbors by making every effort to observe basic principles of safety and environmental performance in all its operations.

BASF Freeport's success is due to the commitment, hard work and innovative ability of its employees. I am certain that these same attributes will ensure a continued healthy growth for the company, which will, in turn, continue to benefit all of Brazoria County. It is therefore my pleasure to congratulate BASF Freeport on their 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND BONNIE ENSTROM FOR CREATING VETERANS LAKE PARK IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two of my constituents, true community servants, Mr. John and Bonnie Enstrom.

The Enstrom's built the Veterans Lake Park in Ramsey, Minnesota to honor our fallen heroes. The park hosts the only monument in State dedicated to all Minnesotans who lost

their lives as a result of the global War on Terror. The monument also contains a list of veterans who died in the Iraq war to protect our Nation's freedom.

Over \$1 million has been personally invested by the Enstrom's to ensure that the park is well-kept and beautiful. Veterans visit the park and enjoy its quiet, relaxing environment. It has been seen as a safe haven to help the Vets mentally and emotionally recover.

Our Nation's heroes sacrificed their comforts and safety so that Americans can enjoy their continued freedoms. For their great efforts, veterans deserve much from the American people. Its efforts like those of the Enstrom's that truly show our appreciation for these heroes.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. John Enstrom for their exemplary service to our Nation's heroes. The time and work that they both have sacrificed to serve the military men and women of our great State of Minnesota will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on July 8, 2008, I was avoidably detained and missed three votes: H.R. 3981, H.R. 1423, and H.R. 4199.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3981, "yes" on H.R. 1423 and "yes" on H.R. 4199. (vote Nos. 471, 472, 473)

HONORING COLONEL PAUL J. KENNEDY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor COL Paul J. Kennedy of the United States Marine Corps. Colonel Kennedy is finishing his tenure as the Marine Corps liaison to the House of Representatives, and will soon head to my home State to take command of the Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

During the last 2 years, Colonel Kennedy has led the small contingent of Marines that serve as the direct interface between the Marine Corps and the members and staff of the House. Under his leadership, Colonel Kennedy and his colleagues have established strong professional relationships throughout this body, building trust, confidence, and mutual commitment between the Marine Corps and congressional leaders. His integrity, knowledge, and personal attention to the needs and interests of members have garnered great respect and appreciation throughout this Chamber.

I have particularly benefited from Colonel Kennedy's leadership as he has become an integral part of the efforts of the House De-

mocracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), which I lead along with Representative DAVID DREIER. During the last 2 years, our Commission has traveled to numerous far-flung destinations in the service of our mission to strengthen the capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. Not only has Colonel Kennedy organized and escorted every single HDAC delegation, he has jumped at the chance to do so, foregoing travel to more luxurious destinations in favor of our trips to developing nations like Liberia, Afghanistan, and Haiti. He has strongly supported the mission of our Commission, and has moved mountains to ensure that we can carry out our work, no matter what complications arise.

As I have gotten to know Colonel Kennedy, I have been tremendously impressed, not just by his professionalism and integrity, but also by his commitment to the United States Marine Corps. He treats the men and women under his direction in the Marine Liaison office with great respect and has taken particularly seriously his duty to mentor young Marines of lower rank. As he leaves to take command of a 5,000-Marine unit, his attention to the development of younger Marines will no doubt be greatly valued.

Colonel Kennedy has also been able to share with members of Congress detailed and valuable insights into the war in Iraq. Having served as a Battalion Commander in Anbar Province in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Colonel Kennedy gained first hand experience in helping our nation confront the new and complex challenges that war has highlighted.

While Colonel Kennedy will be sorely missed by this institution, we can take comfort in the knowledge that a man of such tremendous personal character and ability will continue to serve and strengthen the United States Marine Corps and the 5,000 Marines under his command at Camp Lejeune. Let me offer my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to Colonel Kennedy as he embarks on this new assignment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues GEORGE MILLER (CA-7) and SAM FARR (CA-17) to introduce the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act. As its title indicates, this bill would unite the Bay Area's seven separate national wildlife refuges into a single wildlife complex in order to leverage greater federal funding for these unique habitats.

The Antioch Dunes, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay, Ellicott Slough, Farallon, Marin Islands, Salinas River, and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuges together constitute our nation's largest collection of urban wildlife refuges, totaling more than 46,000 acres. Together, they are home to hundreds of wildlife species—including over 128 threatened or endangered animals and marine mammals that depend on these refuges to survive. Because they support endangered wildlife in close proximity to millions of people, these refuges face unique and growing challenges.

Unfortunately, federal resources have not kept pace with the massive increase in refuge size and management demands. That shortfall puts the refuges at risk. For example, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was identified by Defenders of Wildlife as one of the nation's ten most threatened wildlife refuges in 2004. Its wetlands have been drastically altered by urbanization and many areas have been filled to create more land. As a result, the San Francisco Bay is now one-third smaller than its original size.

In addition to rare flora and fauna, these refuges offer other benefits. In hosting more than 1.5 million visitors every year, they serve as powerful economic engines for northern California. Their urban setting provides opportunities to educate surrounding communities about the need for environmental preservation. Restored wetlands also provide cost-effective shoreline protection and counter sea-level rise caused by global warming. In fact, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that restoring wetlands and protecting those that remain represents an immediate opportunity for enhancing carbon absorption—a key to combating global warming.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act is very simple. It authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the development, recovery, and acquisition of refuge lands and the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. This bill is endorsed by Save the Bay, an environmental organization that has been fundamental in protecting and restoring the wildlife oases in the Bay Area's urban environment.

I urge Members to join us to protect this crucial part of our environment. By enacting this bill, we are taking an important step toward saving rare California wildlife from extinction, fighting global warming, and preserving a beautiful part of our country that can be enjoyed by future generations.

HONORING U.S. COAST GUARD
CAPTAIN ROBERT W. DURFEY, JR.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the notable career of a distinguished member of the United States Coast Guard, and a constituent, Captain Robert W. Durfey, Jr.

Captain Durfey has led an exemplary career, having served in the United States Coast Guard for over 30 years. He has amassed a vast institutional knowledge after decades of experience in a wide variety of operational, command, and staff assignments. In addition, his dedication to his fellow man and community is deep and ingrained, as evidenced by his volunteer work rebuilding housing for victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Captain Durfey graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in History/Government. In 1994, he earned his Masters in Public Admin-

istration from the J.F.K. School of Government at Harvard University. He has served at six Air Stations and five Groups along the west, gulf and east coasts as well as Puerto Rico. He has logged over 4800 helicopter flight hours and has flown more than 400 Search and Rescue missions.

He served as a Deck Watch Officer on a Buoy Tender in Alaska before going to Naval flight training to become a helicopter pilot, where he became Coast Guard Aviator #2113. Just prior to his Boston assignment, Captain Durfey commanded the Coast Guard's largest Group-Air Station combination, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. His helicopter and boat crews prosecuted over 1,800 search and rescue cases annually. He also commanded Group-Air Station Humboldt Bay, in northern California, between 1998 and the summer of 2000.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain during a year of strategic studies at the Air War College (2000–2001), which included training on terrorism, intelligence and overseas travel to Israel and Syria. He has had two major commands and most recently served as the Chief of Governmental Affairs and Public Affairs for the Admiral of First Coast Guard District, which oversees the northeast portion of the United States. The area of responsibility includes eight States from Maine to New Jersey.

As the United States Representative for the Tenth District of Massachusetts for the last twelve years, I have had the opportunity to work with and get to know Robert Durfey both as a professional and as a man. He has lived his life with a concern for others and the safety of our country. Robert Durfey is a gifted individual whose interpersonal skills are unsurpassed and who commands the respect of his subordinates and peers. As he retires from the United States Coast Guard, I want to add my best wishes to the chorus of accolades he has already received. I salute him and may God bless him in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE BOAT LIVERY OF
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE, NEW
YORK, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake, which next month will celebrate its 100th birthday. Throughout the past century, the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake has continuously provided services in boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and other recreational activities to residents and visitors alike in the glorious Adirondacks region of New York State. I would like to join with my distinguished colleague from the New York State delegation, the Honorable JOHN MCHUGH, who represents Blue Mountain Lake in Congress, in saluting the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

Blue Mountain Lake lies in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park. Inspired by the Rev-

erend William Henry Harrison Murray's best-selling 1869 edition of "Adventures in the Wilderness" or "Camp Life in the Adirondacks", vacationers started to visit Blue Mountain Lake after the conclusion of the Civil War, and it became a tourist "hot spot." As visitors arrived in droves, an entire industry developed in response, spawning stately inns and travel guides who offered boat tours and facilitated participation in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and camping.

The Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake was founded on August 2, 1908 during the heyday of the great camps established by prominent Americans such as Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, Dr. Thomas Durant, Coulis Huntington, Alfred Vanderbilt and the Hochschild family, many of whom resided in what is now the 14th Congressional district of New York. Since then, the Boat Livery has made available a wide array of rental pleasure craft to visitors to this uniquely beautiful part of our great Nation. It also has offered scenic boat cruises on original wooden launches.

Blue Mountain rises to a majestic height of 3,759 feet, offering stunning views of the shimmering Blue Mountain Lake dotted with islands. With a year-round population of fewer than 200 people, the tiny town surrounding the mountain remains picturesque, preserving its rustic charm despite the presence of thousands of visitors who pass through each season. Blue Mountain Lake is one of the cleanest, clearest lakes in the 48 contiguous states. It continues to draw thousands of city dwellers who are seeking refuge from their muggy, urban homes.

In 1933, Richard Collins and his wife Hectorine purchased the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake and operated it until 1955. In 1955, Russ and Edna Barrowman purchased it and managed it until 1977 when it was bought by Robert and Judi Booth. Robert, Judi, Quin and Parker Booth currently operate the Livery's rowboats, canoes, steamboats, conduct tours and make available to tourists small and large pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, windsurfers, day-sailers, sunfish, water skis, tubes, wakeboards, and many other vessels. In addition, they organize the special scenic trips in historic antique tour boats: the Towahloondah, dated 1920; the Osprey, dated 1916; and the Neenykin, dated 1916. These authentic vessels are inspected yearly by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and remain an integral part of the rich diversity of recreational activities at Blue Mountain Lake. On 2-hour tours across Blue Mountain on the old wooden launches, Eagle and Utowana Lakes, guides regale visitors with stories of the 19th century's great camps, recounting the history of the area's lumberjacks and celebrated fishing and hunting guides. Their stories feature the camps, hotels, steamboats, workers and players of the era.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the tremendous contributions to the preservation and enjoyment of the Adirondacks region made by the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS LONE STAR
COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Lone Star College System on its successful name change last year, and on surpassing the 50,000 student mark. Today, the Lone Star College System is the largest community college system in the Houston area and the second largest in the state of Texas. One in five high school graduates from area-wide school districts attend one of their branch campuses. Several of the system's campuses are in my district. The system also offers dual credit courses to over 5,000 high school students, giving students the opportunity to graduate high school with college credit.

Lone Star College System was established in 1972 when the voters of the Humble, Aldine, and Spring Independent School Districts voted to meet the need for a junior college to serve their communities. In the fall of 1973 the college was formed. Aldine High School hosted the first classes. In its first year the school enrolled 613 students led by 16 staff members.

Between 1981 and 2003, the college underwent a series of expansions and adopted the name of North Harris Montgomery Community College District. In November 2007, students and community members voted to rename the college Lone Star College System.

With graduates contributing in vital areas of our society upon graduation, this college has become a very valuable institution of education for my district and for Texas.

HONORING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORCESTER TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 275th anniversary.

Worcester Township, Montgomery County, was established in 1733 by 22 landowners on roughly 10,000 acres originally part of the land grant given to William Penn by King Charles II of England.

English, Dutch, German and Welsh immigrants, many seeking religious freedom, settled the Township, which was a mostly wooded wilderness at its inception. Eventually, the Township was transformed into a farming community that came to be known as a breadbasket for nearby Norristown and Philadelphia.

Worcester also played a role in the founding of our nation. General George Washington's troops camped at the Peter Wentz Farmstead before and after the Battle of Germantown. And the cemetery across from Bethel Hill Church serves as the final resting place for patriots who gave their lives in the pursuit of liberty.

While the population has grown to nearly 8,000 residents today, the Township remains

committed to preserving acres of scenic farmlands and open space.

Residents will mark the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, July 12, 2008 during a Community Day celebration in Heebner Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Worcester Township on its historic anniversary.

OP-ED SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF CARIBBEAN NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an Opinion Editorial from the New York CaribNews that reflects support for the development of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) states. CaribNews is a New York based publication that serves as the voice of the Caribbean community.

The editorial which was published on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 is entitled; "The Diaspora And The Rolling Heads of State". The author of the Op-Ed, Dr. Basil Wilson, recognizes the achievements made by CARICOM nations to improve trade relations within the region and globally. "In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy".

Dr. Wilson also addresses the New York based Caribbean Diaspora as it relates to Caribbean economies. He explains; "Billions of dollars (from the U.S.) are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life".

This piece acknowledges the economic achievements made by Caribbean nations, therefore contributing to the region's legitimacy as a viable trading partner. At the same time, Dr. Wilson encourages entrepreneurial leadership in the Caribbean to further stimulate economic growth.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

THE DIASPORA AND THE ROLLING HEADS OF STATE

(By Dr. Basil Wilson)

It was befitting to hold the meeting bringing together the Caribbean community in New York and the Caribbean heads of state at York College, City University of New York, where the President of that institution, Marcia Keizs and the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs have roots in the Caribbean and a majority of the 6,000 student body are either first or second generation Caribbean.

As one of the Caribbean heads of state remarked, he had to travel to New York to address an audience of Caribbean people as the movement of Caribbean people within the region remains limited with the exception of the students in higher education moving among the Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine campuses of the University of the West Indies. The Friday evening meeting on June 20, 2008 was designed to facilitate an intellectual exchange between leaders and non-leaders about the Diaspora and the future of, CARICOM.

The Diaspora community already plays a critical role in the form of remittances. Bil-

lions of dollars are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life. In many islands remittances have been instrumental in reducing the percentage of people living in poverty.

The format of the exchange enabled designated heads of state to address the audience and to allow the audience to ask questions or to make comments. This kind of mass questioning tends to attract to the open microphones speakers who are long-winded and with wide ranging concerns that invariably brings a certain incoherence to the discourse.

The world economy has changed dramatically since the initiation of CARICOM. In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy. Even within the units of CARICOM, there are no economies of scale. There are opportunities for investment and for the pooling of resources. The economist, Dr. Norman Girvan, has produced a paper outlining the future for further economic expansion. Trinidad and Tobago has emerged as the economic giant in the region and is standing even taller as the price of oil soars towards one hundred and fifty dollars per barrel. T and T is overflowing with investment capital at the same time nonexporting oil countries in the region are reeling from the rapid rise in oil and food prices that are now the norm in the world economy.

CARICOM at the beginning of the year signed a trade agreement with the European Union that opens those economies to Caribbean products and European products to the Caribbean region. CARICOM and CARIFORUM can no longer look inwards. It must look outwards either as a region or as independent islands. There is the dire urgency to put together an export oriented strategy to compete in the global economy of the 21st century.

The crime calamity in the Caribbean basin is indeed an outgrowth of the economic crisis and even though some sorely needed initiatives will be able to strengthen the shaky social order, long term stability will depend on the strengthening of the export sector in relationship to the world economy.

The Caribbean entered the world economy as an exporter of sugar with African slave labor. By the beginning of the 19th century, sugar production in the old English colonies had peaked and was unable to match the yield per acre of the new sugar-cane fields in Cuba. In the post-emancipation years and post-colonial interlude, the economies of the Caribbean remained moribund, starved of British investment capital and survived through the British protectionist system reserved for primary producers of the colonial empire. That arrangement created a condition of chronic surplus labor and forced segments of the Caribbean labor force to seek their fortunes elsewhere such as in the banana fields of Central America, the sugar-cane fields of Cuba, the construction complex of the Panama Canal, and the industrialized factories in the United States at the advent of World War I. In the post-second world war, thousands fled the region to work in the industrial and service enterprises of the United Kingdom.

In the post-colonial years in an age of global protectionism, most Caribbean countries opted for the developmental strategy of industrialization by invitation hiding behind the high walls of tariff barriers. That resulted in an economy with an export producing primary sector of sugar and banana and the new sector of light manufacturing serving the needs of the domestic market. The developmental strategy accelerated the movement from country to town where the

limited manufacturing sector lacked the capacity to absorb the burgeoning labor force. Salvation came through the export of skilled and unskilled labor to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The growth in the labor force has tapered off in the contemporary period and the unemployment rate in April 2006 was estimated at 134,000 or 10.7 percent of the labor force. Nonetheless, Jamaica has a precious stratum of own-account workers estimated at 376,000. In the goods producing sector, there are 200,000 people employed in agriculture, 105,000 in construction and a mere 80,000 in manufacturing. Traditional agriculture, particularly sugar-cane, there is an effort to adapt that industry through the conversion of sugar-cane into the fuel producing ethanol. The purchase of the sugar industry by Brazilian investors should make the sugar industry more viable and contribute to reducing Jamaica's dependency on fossil fuel and with sufficient capacity to export ethanol to the United States.

Jamaica's economy in the last decade has seen the expansion of the alumina industry and a massive increase in the tourist sector. Alumina and bauxite are highly capital intensive and only 7,000 workers are absorbed in the mining industry. The tourist industry is labor intensive but has failed to absorb all those looking for work as the burgeoning squatter settlements are rampant in the parishes where tourism is concentrated.

Jamaica has made some headway in the export of manufacturing goods. That sector exports approximately 700m in 2006 and if Jamaica is going to absorb its surplus labor problem, there will have to be exponential growth in that sector of the economy, particularly in agro-products.

The Jamaica exporting sector is assisted by state policy. Members of the Jamaica Exporters Association are eligible for loans with reduced interest rates. But what is desperately needed is a strategic developmental plan that brings together venture capitalists from abroad and Jamaica's indigenous bourgeoisie aimed at creating large scale production of juices like guava, june plum, etc. aimed at flooding both the European and the United States market. Micro-enterprises cannot compete in a global market and Jamaica is in need of large scale production aimed at mega-markets to absorb Jamaica's surplus workers.

All the successful countries that have made the transition from fledgling developing countries, like Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and China, have made it through adopting an export-oriented strategy.

What is required is the emergence of an entrepreneurial class with a clear understanding of the complexity of globalization that will partner with government to build that export capacity. In this age of globalization, CARICOM must look outwards and build the necessary bridges with the Caribbean Diaspora to ensure that the Caribbean is not trapped in the backwater of globalization.

HONORING THE ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS LADY ROCKETS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Rochester Lady Rockets soccer team on their success in winning the cham-

pionship game of the Illinois High School Association Class A State tournament.

Kelly Werthwien, Kelcie Kolis, Sarah Wright, Grace Capranica, Marissa Burge, Beth Fitzsimmons, Kellse Sandercock, Amy Shackelford, Jessica Heaton, Jillian Sulcer, Mollie Edgecomb, Kassie McIntyre, Taylor Heissing, Kelcee Walsh, Amy Cassidy, Maryssa Bandy, Taylor McDermott, Alecia Mantei, Taryn Butler, Aubrey Heck, Caley Cook and Casey Turner, along with head coach Chad Kutscher, Assistant Coaches Scott Tucker, Andrew Ford and Kristi Coppernoll and Trainer Sara Powless, put together a 16-4-3 season and swept through the sectional tournament en route to their first State championship.

This is the third straight year in which the Lady Rockets reached the State tournament, and the first for Coach Kutscher.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Rochester Lady Rockets on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

“CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW”

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of this Congress the following speech by one of my constituents, 16-year-old Heidi Erbsen, of Stephenson County, Illinois. Heidi participated in an oratory contest hosted by the American Legion. Her speech won first place at the local, division and state levels, and she then moved on and completed as a quarter finalist at the national level of competition. As we face the difficult decisions of today, I hope Heidi's words will stir us to cling to our heritage as we seek to create a brighter tomorrow.

CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

(By Heidi Erbsen)

As many of you know, Abraham Lincoln is notorious for the Gettysburg Address, which states, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.” When he spoke these words in 1863, it must have been hard for him to imagine our country's future. With all of the struggles facing our nation, how could he have ever known for sure that we would continue to prosper? The Civil War had split the nation, torn families apart, and claimed thousands of American lives, yet President Lincoln still believed in a brighter tomorrow for his country and his people. This mentality has carried our country through every single struggle it has faced. It is the belief that the people of our nation can give it a brighter tomorrow. And now, for over 200 years our country has prospered because of this belief, and it will continue to do so as long as we uphold this legacy.

When the monarchy in Europe began to mandate religion and other personal affairs in the 1600s, many people began to seek ref-

uge from their oppression. The rule in Europe made it so hard for people to live without persecution that many sought to leave their homes in search of a New Life. Thousands of these people found their new life in what was then known as the New World. Since the pilgrims sailed to America, this country has been a monument of hope. This New Land represented a chance for men and women to start over new. It gave them a chance to create their own fortune and futures. It was a land not yet at the grip of a stifling ruler or government. Most of these colonists arrived here with nothing in their pockets, and a dream in their hearts. It was the dream of freedom and prosperity, and it would not by any means come easy. The first men and women to colonize America suffered more than any of us can imagine. They endured brutal wars, strife, famine, and much more, but they never gave up their dream, and slowly they began to see this dream come alive. When the same ill leadership the pilgrims had escaped in the 1600s began to take hold of the New World in the 1700s the colonists finally fought back. After the Revolutionary War plagued them with years of death and despair, a new horizon dawned on America. The Declaration of Independence was signed and what was formerly known as The New World became The United States of America.

Becoming a free nation of our own may have seemed like the end of struggle for the people of America at the time, but it was really only the beginning. After being ruled by a single monarch for so long the people in our country had no idea how to govern themselves. When they were finally declared a free nation there was a long period of struggle for guidance and rule. Many feared that any form of government would tarnish the freedom they had struggled so hard to achieve. The very men who wrote our Constitution harvested the fear that they would become their own dictator. They knew that it was entirely up to them to see that the future of their country was a bright one, free from persecution and oppression in any form. That is why they did everything in their power to dispose of any form of ultimate rule. They knew they had only one chance to set the land of their dreams into motion. They wanted a balance between the power and the people. This way the people could have a say in what was just in everyday life rather than abiding by the rules of a leader focused only on what would make things easier for him or her. As a solution, they developed a three-part system, each containing officials elected either indirectly or directly by the people, each branch having one main duty: To see that one particular person or even section of the government never gained too much power. Not only did this three-part system give them the balance they were striving for, but our writers of our constitution hoped to ensure that every man, woman, and child living in America benefited from the natural freedoms to which we are all entitled. And to this day, it does just that.

As citizens of America today, we are still reaping the benefits of the sturdy foundation that was built up by our ancestors. The men and women who came together to put a stop to persecution did so not in vain. Look around. We are still living without it today. We have preserved their efforts, but in doing so some of us have lost sight of the sacrifices that have been made. Today many Americans take the freedoms we have for granted. I've lived in the United States all my life, and I'm sure many of you have. I understand completely how hard it is to walk out that front door every morning and not take what we have for granted. When you live in a country as free and prosperous as ours how

could you not? But if we don't continue to appreciate the sacrifices that have been made, neither will the generations following us. And the more we take what we have for granted, the more we lose those values the first colonists in the new world built our country upon. Now is our time to ensure that the foundation of our nation does not crumble. I know I said previously that the United States becoming a free nation was only the beginning, but if we as a nation continue to strive for freedom and justice for all, we do not have to be the end. Our country has succeeded all these years for one reason and one reason only, and that is the effort that has been put forth by citizens just like every one of us in this room. We have the power to ensure that our country's walls do not crumble, all we have to do is remember its roots, and continue to live by its foundation.

In times like these, when there are huge obstacles facing us we need to keep our faith in our country and its foundation. The first settlers in the New World never gave up on their hopes and dreams, despite the famine and hardships they faced. Abraham Lincoln never lost sight of the bigger picture, regardless of the alarming death tolls brought about by the Civil War. He knew that our founders had structured a government sturdy enough to withstand the hardships of war and strife. All he had to do was encourage the people of our nation to create a brighter tomorrow. In the United States there is always a brighter tomorrow awaiting us, all we have to do is build it.

SUPPORT FOR NASA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this year we celebrate many important anniversaries in our Nation's civil space and aeronautics programs. Earlier this year, I introduced H. Con. Res 287, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United States Explorer I satellite, the world's first scientific spacecraft, and which marked the birth of the United States space exploration program. Since the successful Explorer I launch, we have built the world's leading civil space and aeronautics enterprise. Our human expeditions into space, our robotic science probes exploring the Earth and beyond, and our aeronautical research and development initiatives continue to deliver inspiring results and provide benefits to society.

Today, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of three resolutions that mark other key milestones in our civil space and aeronautics activities: H. Res. 1315, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; H. Res. 1313, Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space; and H. Res. 1312, Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Space Foundation.

H. Res. 1315 commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which was established on July 29, 1958, through the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. NASA has achieved countless successes over the 50 years since its creation and H. Res. 1315 recalls many of the agency's accomplishments in human exploration, aeronautics, and space and Earth science. I strongly agree with the

sentiment expressed in H. Res. 1315, ". . . in the last fifty years, NASA has positively impacted almost every facet of our lives." NASA's contributions to aviation, to increased understanding of our climate, to the advancement of our knowledge of the universe, and to the development of countless technologies that have made their way into broader societal applications have fundamentally changed our lives.

Madam Speaker, the applied uses of NASA research and developments have enabled weather and environmental monitoring, commercial satellite communications, and major improvements in commercial aviation. H. Res. 1315 marks NASA's successful launches of the first American manned spacecraft in 1961, the first human expedition to the Moon in 1969, and the first Space Shuttle in 1981. NASA's international cooperative ventures have allowed many of the world's nations to join together in advancing technology and knowledge through the peaceful uses of outer space. NASA's first 50 years have yielded truly remarkable discoveries and advances. I want to thank Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, who along with Mr. LAMPSON of Texas, introduced H. Res. 1315. H. Res. 1315 is an important opportunity to recognize NASA's half century of achievements and the men and women of NASA that have made them possible, and I am pleased to support it.

As a result of NASA's human exploration program, we also celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally K. Ride. H. Res. 1313 commemorates that date in June of 1983 when Dr. Ride flew aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, making history by becoming the first American woman in space. She went on to fly a second mission in 1984. When training for Dr. Ride's third mission ended as a result of the tragic *Challenger* accident, she continued her contributions to NASA and the Nation as an educator and advisor. H. Res. 1313 honors Dr. Ride's passion and dedication as a tireless advocate for young women and girls to pursue education and careers in science, mathematics, and technology. The opportunities she is creating for our youth, especially girls and young women, to acquire hands-on learning in science will go far in training the next generation of leaders in science and engineering. That is something I care passionately about, and I thank my colleague, Mr. LAMPSON of Texas for introducing H. Res. 1313.

In addition to the important role of our Federal government in the Nation's space and aeronautics programs, many non-governmental organizations provide outreach, education, and advocacy that enhance our space and aeronautics activities. That is why I strongly support H. Res. 1312, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation. The Space Foundation, which is headquartered in Colorado Springs in my home state of Colorado, is a non-profit organization dedicated to using space to benefit humanity and furthering space exploration, development, and education. Since 1983, the Space Foundation has helped to ensure the strength and leadership of our space programs, and I am pleased that we can acknowledge the Space Foundation's endeavors in this regard. I thank my colleague, Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado, for introducing this resolution recognizing the Space Foundation for its 25 years of excellence and service.

Madam Speaker, our nation's space and aeronautics programs are critical sources of innovation and inspiration for our Nation. The contributions of NASA, our astronauts, and our space advocacy organizations provide benefits for our society, help strengthen our economy, and help train the next generation of scientists and engineers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1315 commemorating the 50th anniversary of NASA; H. Res. 1313 celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally K. Ride; and H. Res. 1312 commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF M.W. FORD UPON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his 90th birthday, I proudly salute a true public servant and model citizen of Dayton, Texas, Milo Westel Ford Jr. I would like to recognize and honor M.W. Ford for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the people of Dayton.

A native born Texan and a life-long resident of Dayton, Texas, Mr. Ford graduated from Dayton High School and later Rice University. In 1945 he retired from the United States Air Force as a captain. He retired from Dayton State Bank after 50 years of service.

During the 90 years of his life, Mr. Ford has had a long career in public service. For three years, he served as the mayor of Dayton. For over 50 years Mr. Ford has been a Rotarian in Dayton. He has been recognized by numerous organizations. Some of these include: Citizen of the Year from the Liberty Dayton Chamber of Commerce and International Paul Harris Fellowship Award from Dayton Rotary. He served on the Dayton Community Development Corporation, Legend Bank Board, Dayton Masonic Lodge, Lon Morris College Board of Development, and the Dayton Historical Society. Mr. Ford's contribution to the fundraising efforts to help build the Jones Library in Dayton will not be forgotten. Both his hard work and love for Dayton, Texas has earned him enduring respect throughout the community.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate M.W. Ford on his 90th birthday. I commend this remarkable Texan for his service, dedication, and contributions to the City of Dayton.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE READING PAGODA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the residents of Reading, Pennsylvania in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the City's most recognizable landmark.

The Reading Pagoda has stood on roughly 10 acres on the southern tip of Mount Penn overlooking Reading since 1908. The seven-

story, red brick and tile building is usually the first thing that catches the eyes of visitors as they cross the Penn Street Bridge leading into downtown Reading. At night, the glow of the Pagoda's red lights transform the building into a beacon easily seen for miles.

Most visitors are curious about why a building associated with Japanese culture is in the middle of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. A postcard from the Philippines with a pagoda on it inspired William Abbott Witman Sr. to build one in Reading at a cost of \$50,000. In 1911, the City of Reading purchased the Pagoda for \$1 after plans to open a luxury resort in the building fell through.

Today, the Pagoda remains a proud symbol of Reading thanks to the dedication and countless hours of work by members of Pagoda Skyline Inc. This group of private citizens uses donations to maintain the building and grounds and organizes events, such as the planting of perennials each spring.

Pagoda Skyline will help the City mark the 100th Anniversary of the Pagoda on Saturday, July 12, 2008 during a car show atop Mount Penn.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the City of Reading and Pagoda Skyline Inc. on the historic anniversary of the treasured Pagoda.

COMMENDING THE RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED AT THE 76TH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE U.S.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the U.S. Council of Mayors for the progress made at their 76th annual meeting in Miami, Florida.

I wish to express my full support for the three resolutions adopted by the council that call for immediate immigration reform. These resolutions: (1) Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Which Promotes the Reunification of Families, Provides Legal Status With a Path to Earned Citizenship, and a Plan for Current and Future Immigrant Workers, (2) U.S. Immigration and Customs Worksite Enforcement and (3) Increasing Customs and Border Protection Staffing and Improving Infrastructure at International Ports of Entry, all serve to address many of the challenges the U.S. immigrant community faces.

I would like to recognize and thank the U.S. Council of Mayors for their efforts in promoting immigration reform.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEFFERSON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 60th anniversary of the Jefferson Fire Protection District in southern Illinois.

From a humble beginning, with a 5½ square mile district and a tanker that was a

converted Army truck from World War II, to today's department with modern equipment covering 220 square miles, the Jefferson Fire Protection District has been keeping residents of Jefferson County, Illinois, safe for 60 years.

It is because of dedicated citizens, willing to put themselves into harm's way to help another in need, that our Nation is the great place that it is. Every time the department has responded to a house fire, an auto accident, a medical crisis or any of the myriad of other emergencies that they have been called upon to face, these brave public servants have reminded us of what it means to be a hero.

I want to congratulate the members of the Jefferson Fire Protection District, past and present, on reaching this milestone. I also want to thank them for the vital public service they render to local residents.

HONORING MR. DON C. HUBBARD

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, this weekend the Urban League of Greater New Orleans will honor Mr. Don C. Hubbard for a life committed to justice and self-help for African Americans. In honoring him, the Urban League printed the following biography of his life's work in its 2008 Annual Gala Program:

"Mr. Don C. Hubbard has dedicated his entire life to the fight for social justice. As a champion of equality, he has contributed greatly to the battle against discrimination in the public and political communities of New Orleans. From his work during the Civil Rights Movement to his commitment to provide students with an opportunity to attend college, Mr. Hubbard has selflessly crusaded to establish a voice for the voiceless in New Orleans.

Mr. Hubbard's career in public advocacy began with the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. As a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Mr. Hubbard contributed to numerous sit-ins and demonstrations throughout the South with acts of leadership and courage. In 1963, Mr. Hubbard helped organize the first march on New Orleans City Hall to deliver better jobs and greater access to public facilities. In the late 1960s, he participated in a demonstration at Southern University at Baton Rouge to protest segregated stores. As a result of the demonstration, the participants were sprayed with tear gas and water hoses.

As a community leader, Mr. Hubbard has established numerous organizations and foundations to enhance the quality of life throughout New Orleans. In the late 1960s, he established the Gently East Development Association (GEDA) to lobby the city for adequate city services, including garbage collection, underground drainage and street paving. In 1967, Mr. Hubbard organized the Southern Organization for Unified Leadership (SOUL) to grant support to African-Americans seeking public office. SOUL has remained at the forefront of the struggle to gain leadership roles for African-Americans and is also a vital organization in the political arena. As a member of the trustee board of the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, he launched the Paul S. Morton, Sr. Scholarship Fund. The foundation has provided five (5) \$5,000 scholarships a year to help students in their college endeavors for the last 19 years.

Mr. Hubbard is not only a Civil Rights leader and community activist, but also an entrepreneur. In the 1970s, Mr. Hubbard established the largest 100 percent Black-owned and operated services company in America, Superdome Services, Inc. He has also served as president and a major stockholder of Louisiana Sports, Inc., while working as vice president of managing and promoting the former light/heavyweight champion of the world, Michael Spinks. Mr. Hubbard also spent time working for Spencer Promotions managing former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe. A former state employee in the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Hubbard currently owns and operates the Hubbard Mansion Bed and Breakfast on St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans."

We, in the U. S. Congress and the people of our Nation are grateful for Mr. Hubbard's service to all of us and Join the Urban League of Greater New Orleans in honoring him for a life well lived in the service of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 471, 472, and 473.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5811, ELECTRONIC MES-
SAGE PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5811, the "Electronic Message Preservation Act," introduced by my friend and colleague on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Chairman WAXMAN.

With the advent and proliferation of electronic communication, the time has come for us to improve the methods for preserving records. Gone are the days when correspondence was sent solely using paper. E-mail has become the primary method of communication, and it is imperative that we develop procedures to stay current with the evolving technologies.

The bill before us today would direct the Archivist to establish standards for the capture, management, and preservation of White House e-mails and other electronic messages and to certify that the system meets the requirements established by the Archivist. Additionally, H.R. 5811 directs the Archivist to issue regulations requiring agencies to preserve electronic messages that are records in an electronic format. These regulations must cover, at a minimum, the capture, management, preservation, and electronic retrieval of these electronic records.

I believe that this legislation will help future administrations avoid the issues that seemed to plague this White House with reports that officials were using RNC e-mail accounts to conduct official business and then deleting those e-mails from servers. H.R. 5811 will enhance the transparency of government while ensuring an accurate historical record.

REMEMBERING BOSNIAN
GENOCIDE VICTIMS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, perpetrated by nationalist Serb forces predominantly against Bosniaks, Bosnian Muslims, it is time to pay tribute to the tragic episodes not only in Srebrenica, but also in other less-known places in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the spring of 1992, a deliberate, centrally planned, and well-organized campaign of ethnic cleansing, mass murder, rape, torture, and intimidation terrorized the civilian population throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and took the lives of 200,000 men, women, and children. Out of those, 8,000 perished in Srebrenica alone during a period of less than five days in July of 1995. In the end, 2 million Bosnians were displaced from their homes, and the country's rich cultural and religious heritage and monuments were deliberately destroyed. Shattered state institutions remain dysfunctional from the chaos and are struggling to cope with the significant loss of Bosnia's population. Today, survivors are battling post-traumatic stress disorder, orphans are still searching for their parents' remains, and new mass graves continue to be discovered. The entire western Balkans region has still not fully recovered from the violent break-up of Yugoslavia.

The human tragedy that befell Bosnia and its citizens in places less known such as Bihać, Zepa, Gorazde, and Visegrad needs to be revisited and marked in its proper place in the memory of human experience and history. If the international community had possessed the will to protect the UN-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica, it would have prevented the tragic outcome and thousands of innocent lives would have been with us here today. The world had said "never again" to genocide, only to abandon the people of Bosnia to an unspeakable nightmare. Today, let us remind ourselves of the consequences: Srebrenica was the worst single atrocity in Europe after World War II. We cannot pretend that Bosnia's struggles are simply in the past, nor that the country has fully stabilized. The people of Bosnia are still trying to rebuild their country, to reform the institutions that were responsible for the genocide, and to move beyond ethno-territorial divisions into a functional democratic state.

As we mark July 11th, we must always remember the innocent people who lost their lives while the international community failed to act. We must acknowledge that justice will prevail only when General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are apprehended, and we must never forget the horrors that befell the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES M.
LARIVIERE, REPUBLICAN STAFF
DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE ON VET-
ERANS' AFFAIRS, UNITED
STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and bid farewell to an exceptional leader, patriot, and friend, James M. Lariviere, as he retires from civilian Federal service. A Marine Corps Reserve colonel selected for promotion to brigadier general, he is returning to active duty to continue his distinguished military career.

Throughout his life Jim Lariviere has been a devoted servant to his country and fellow citizens. A native of Rochester, New York, he earned a bachelor's degree in history from the Citadel in 1979. During my freshman year at the Citadel, Jim personally ensured that I was "squared away" when I navigated the trials and tribulations of "knob year" in the Corps of Cadets. While at the Citadel, Jim distinguished himself with scholarship having worn academic gold stars, and with military bearing as a member of the junior sword drill, Summerall Guards, and as Regimental Adjutant for the Corps of Cadets.

Upon graduation, Jim was commissioned as an officer with the United States Marine Corps. During his time on active duty, Jim Lariviere commanded a force reconnaissance platoon in Beirut, Lebanon, and served as a company executive officer, company commander, assistant operations officer, and White House Social Aide. He is a graduate of the Amphibious Reconnaissance School, U.S. Army Ranger School and earned the privilege to wear the Navy Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia. In every assignment he excelled in his service, being recognized by numerous awards and medals, including: The Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Citation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with 2 campaign stars), Global War on Terrorism Medal. Jim also holds a masters degree in national security affairs from Georgetown University and he is a graduate of the Air War College.

Jim left active duty, transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve and joined my congressional staff in 1993, bringing his military values and experience to the United States House of Representatives. Jim successfully balanced his Reserve duties with a career on Capitol Hill. Initially, he worked on my office staff as the military legislative assistant handling national security, veterans', and technology issues. He also acted as the lead staff member for the House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus. In February 1999, he joined the professional staff of the House Armed Services Committee as a member of the policy group where he had responsibility for a wide variety of defense policy issues including national security and military strategy, force structure policy, on-going military operations, peacekeeping, and military readiness policy.

In 2003, Jim Lariviere joined the firm of Holland & Knight LLP as a Senior National Secu-

ity Policy Advisor, working directly with the late Congresswoman Tillie Fowler. He also served as a consultant to the Defense Policy Board. In May 2005, he returned to Capitol Hill as the Republican Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs during the 109th Congress, when I was chairman. While staff director, he was ordered to active duty in Afghanistan from June through December 2006. While in Afghanistan as part of operation Enduring Freedom, he served as Deputy Director for Training Operations, Plans and Education at the Combined Security Assistance Command. During the same period, he also served as mentor to the G-3 of the Afghan National Army. For his military service in Afghanistan he was awarded the Bronze Star.

During his tenure as staff director, he led and supervised the committee and subcommittee staffs in their legislative and oversight work, which included the enactment of the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Enhancement Act of 2005, which became Public Law 109-80, and the Veterans' Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, which became Public Law 109-461.

When I became the Ranking Republican Member in 2007, Jim Lariviere continued as the Republican staff director. He was instrumental in the minority staff development of a Republican alternative budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 and in a successful amendment to the Wounded Warrior Act, which was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110-181. His tireless efforts resulted in significant improvements in the care and treatment of injured or ill servicemembers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jim has spent his life dedicated to serving this Nation. As he takes yet another step in continuing that service, as a warrior, a leader, and a patriot in every facet, I am confident that he will do so with strong devotion to the country and to men and women who defend our freedom and way of life.

I am honored to call this family man my friend. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who know him and he embodies the principles and character that epitomizes what is expected of a model Marine Corps officer, or any officer.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the remarkable career of Jim Lariviere and to thank him for his leadership and honorable service to our country. I say to him, "Bravo Zulu" and wish him, his wife, Virginia, and their four children, much success and happiness during the next chapters of their lives. "Hit it smack"

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL EDWARD M. FORTUNATO

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Edward M. Fortunato, United States Army, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Lieutenant Colonel Fortunato, a

truly exceptional officer, has served our great Nation for more than 20 years and I am proud to call him my friend.

Over the past three years, I have had the honor of working with LTC Fortunato on a variety of issues during his tenure as the Congressional Liaison for all Army Aviation programs. As a fellow aviator, I have come to know and respect Ed and his dedication to his work on behalf of the warfighter. There is no doubt that LTC Fortunato has been instrumental in educating Members of the House Armed Services Committee on Army Aviation programs and initiatives. His tireless efforts working with members of the Committee and staff was singularly instrumental in the successful authorization and appropriation of the Light Utility Helicopter, Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, Joint Cargo Aircraft, Chinook Multi-year, Apache, Black Hawk Multi-year and numerous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Aviation Research and Development projects.

My staff and I worked especially closely with Ed on the Joint Cargo Aircraft program, and I am convinced that the success of our Congressional efforts, and the ability of the JCA program to move forward, is in large part due to LTC Fortunato.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank LTC Fortunato for his tireless efforts in the support of Army transformation. His professionalism, expertise, and efforts showcase his patriotism, and his dedication to his fellow aviators and warfighters in the field. LTC Fortunato is a true Jedi Knight.

I want to personally thank LTC Ed Fortunato, his wife Monique and his entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and the contributions they have made throughout his honorable military service. I congratulate LTC Ed Fortunato on completing an exceptional and extremely successful military career and his dedicated service to our Nation. I wish Ed and his family many blessings and much success as he begins his future endeavors and embarks on new adventures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for Rollcall votes 434 through 440 and 465 through 470. I was absent on part of the day Friday, June 20th, Monday, June 23rd, Thursday, June 26th, and Tuesday July 8th due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, "nay" on Rollcall vote 434; "nay" on Rollcall vote 435; "nay" on Rollcall vote 436; "yea" on Rollcall vote 437; "yea" on Rollcall vote 438; "yea" on Rollcall vote 439; "yea" on Rollcall vote 440; "yea" on Rollcall vote 465; "yea" on Rollcall vote 466; "aye" on Rollcall vote 467; "yea" on Rollcall vote 468; "nay" on Rollcall vote 469; "yea" on Rollcall vote 470; "aye" on Rollcall vote 471; "aye" on Rollcall vote 472; and "aye" on Rollcall vote 473.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DOROTHEA E. HOSKINS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I pay tribute to Dorothea E. Hoskins an outstanding daughter of Harlem who recently passed away. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years and under much adversity, was an ardent supporter of civil rights, human liberty and a leader in the Postal Service.

The death of Dorothea on June 28, 2008, brought immense sorrow and loss to her family and friends, and to the countless individuals associated with the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. Dorothea was respected and esteemed by all the members throughout the United States Postal Service where she served as a clerk from 1989 until her retirement from the New York Planetarium Station.

"Dottie" as she was affectionately known, was an inspiration and true symbol of strength and commitment to her church family as a faithful member of St. Luke's Baptist Church for more than 60 years. She was a shining representation of selfless love for mankind, and derived significant gratification from her years of service with St. Luke's, citing the joy of spreading the word of salvation through Jesus Christ to the lost and created support for missionaries throughout the world.

As a staunch supporter of civil rights and human liberties, she served as an Executive Committee Member of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch for over two decades, served on various committees, and frequently chaired Black History Month Programs.

Dorothea also served as a leader by encouraging the exchange of professional knowledge among Alliance members nation-wide and provided long-term service within District VIII of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees while serving as District VIII President from 1990–1992. She achieved so much during the span of her career that her comrades will continue to benefit from her work even as they miss her ongoing presence among us.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dorothea Hoskins by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way.

GREATER LAKE HOUSTON HEART WALK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, On June 30th Texans from the greater lake Houston area joined together to participate in The American Heart Association's Greater Lake Houston Heart Walk. The number one and number three killers of Americans Heart disease and

stroke do not discriminate against age, race, or gender.

By raising awareness, encouraging physical activity, and involving the community, participants are empowered with life altering information. Through initiatives like the greater lake Houston walk, the American Heart Association's goal is to not only encourage physical exercise but to also educate the community about circulatory diseases. According to the census bureau, in 2005 over 36,000,000 people reported being diagnosed with either Heart Disease or Stroke.

Participants in the American Heart Association Walks can learn about why it is important to stay healthy, and at the same time contribute to research, advocacy, and public education. Donations raised through sponsorships and citizens alike have allowed the American Heart Association to continue its mission since 1924. In the years 2005–2006 they invested more than \$543 million in the fight against heart disease and stroke.

Perhaps one of the most important means of Heart Disease and Stroke prevention is the regular maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. This measure is especially connected to regular physical exercise as many risk factors are all interrelated to a lack thereof. These include inactivity, excess weight, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure.

Through educating Americans of risk factors, symptoms, and prevention the hope is to reduce instances of heart disease and stroke 25 percent by 2010. Community involvement in the Greater Lake Houston Heart Walk and others like it encourages others to also become aware of the number one and number 3 killers of Americans. From heart healthy eating to physical activity, learning the means of prevention and passing them along, is the key to these walks' successes.

EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF MARVA ALLEN AND HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for Marva Allen and the Hue-Man bookstore's contribution to the community.

Marva Allen, entrepreneur, author and visionary, became a managing partner/CEO of the Hue-Man bookstore in 2004. Born in Jamaica, Allen earned her degrees in England and the U.S., launched a multi-million dollar computer tech company and built a very successful career in the business world. Her creative ways and fresh ideas for a new business made Hue-Man Bookstore and Cafe a successful project and a crown jewel of Harlem. In addition to being a bookstore, Hue-Man is a cultural and community center.

Marva Allen's focus is the literacy for all. She firmly believes that through her business, she is able to bring and impact change for the community of Harlem. She is a member of various philanthropic organizations, such as LitWorld, that addresses literacy worldwide, St. Hope Leadership Academy, an educational center, and Melvin Van Peebles Foundation,

that promotes worldwide access to education and research.

Despite the difficulties and hardships of competing with internet website stores and street vendors, the Hue-Man bookstore remains a thriving venture with a lot to offer. Marva Allen's plans for the future are enthusiastic and impressive. She envisions the expansion of the Hue-Man bookstore through the e-commerce project with state of the art technology, branding and global marketing.

TRIBUTE TO METRO UNITED U-17
GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young ladies from Madison County, IL.

The Metro United U-17 girls soccer team won second place in the Illinois Youth Soccer Association State Cup finals June 15 in Libertyville, IL. Their only loss was in the championship game to Eclipse Select, the number one ranked team in the nation. Along the way to the finals, Metro United beat Eclipse Select South 2-0, Illinois Fusion 3-1, and Chicago Magic 1-0.

I want to congratulate coaches Tony Segobiano and Mitch Bohnak, and the members of the Metro United U-17 team: Megan Pawloski, Brittney Dailey, Jenny Humphrey, Emily Morris, Kelli Segobiano, Tess Huetner, Allison Menchak, Ashley Juravich, Jordan Hendrickson, Kaisi Hartwick, Kaitlyn Hoffman, Sam Poteet and Maureen Nesbit.

These young ladies have devoted many hours of hard work and dedication toward reaching this achievement, and I join with the other members of the House in congratulating them.

HONORING IRENE PEVERI FOR
HER DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE
AND COMMITMENT TO THE
NEIGHBORHOODS OF NEW YORK
CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, New York lost an exceptional community leader this month when Irene Peveri passed away. Irene Peveri was not just a leader, but a mentor and innovator who helped change the very skyline of Manhattan by persuading the city to require livable streetscapes in our densely urban community.

For nearly three decades, Irene Peveri passionately advocated both growth and preservation in New York City neighborhoods, and became a leading voice for "contextual zoning"—the idea that taller buildings are appropriate for avenues with their wider boulevards and retail activity, while low scale buildings are a better fit for side streets. She worked tirelessly with community boards, grassroots organizations, neighbors, politicians, business leaders, and entrepreneurs to ensure that New

York's neighborhoods retained a human scale. When she testified, her presentations were always thoughtful, factual, impressive and delivered with persuasive sincerity.

In the early 1980s Irene joined with her neighbors in successfully challenging the construction of a "sliver building." Sliver buildings are tall slender buildings constructed on lots that have a narrow frontage, typically 45 feet or less. The effort was successful when the city adopted a law banning sliver buildings in 1983.

In 1985, local leaders in founded East Side Rezoning Alliance (ESRA), a coalition of community groups dedicated to advocating zoning changes that would scale down allowable heights for new buildings on side streets. Irene served as ESRA's co-chair for most of its existence. At every opportunity, Irene encouraged builders and community groups to work together to ensure that new developments would be compatible in scale with older buildings in the neighborhood.

ESRA funded several planning studies to change the New York City Zoning Resolution, using the proceeds from an annual street fair along Third Avenue and grants from philanthropic organizations. These studies persuaded the Department of City Planning to support the rezoning of many areas between 14th and 59th streets, and led to a permanent change in city law. The new zoning text restricted large scale development to the avenues, and imposed stricter building heights on the side streets. This mix of development allows tall buildings to rise without overwhelming the neighborhood. The latest study funded by ESRA was the CB6 197-a Plan, a community-based plan covering the entire Community Board 6 area. It was adopted by the City Council on March 26, 2008.

The model Irene and her allies developed was replicated elsewhere in the city. ESRA gave support and guidance to community groups that were trying to fend off overbuilding. With Irene's assistance, other neighborhood groups were able to persuade the city to adopt contextual zoning for their areas. As a result, most neighborhoods enjoy a mix of development, and Manhattan residents can still enjoy a glimpse of the sky.

More recently, Irene worked with the Coalition for Community Facility Reform to oppose the proliferation of rear yard incursions. New York City's zoning resolution mandates rear yards, which were intended to provide residents with unbroken, block-long swaths of green. In 1961, the law was amended to allow community facilities (a term that includes everything from doctors' offices to monasteries, from day-care centers to various non-profits) to build extensions in the rear yards of residential buildings all the way to the property line, so long as the addition is no more than 23 feet high. These rear yard incursions reduce the availability of light, air and green space for residents of neighboring properties. Irene and other community leaders worked to persuade the city to change the zoning resolution to further restrict the types of entities that are eligible for the exemption to schools, houses of worship, colleges or universities, and hospitals and related facilities.

Irene was a member of Community Board 6 and served on its Land Use Committee. During that time, Irene was a vital participant in every major zoning review and initiative of Community Board 6, from the rebuilding of

Third Avenue, to, most recently, the development proposals for the Con Edison site on First Avenue. She remained active in the Community Board until her death and was Second-Vice Chair of the Board when she passed away. The Board recently celebrated her achievements at a ceremony held May 19, 2008.

Irene Peveri had a genuine passion for and dedication to all of Manhattan's neighborhoods. She was a consensus builder who understood the importance of working in concert with her neighbors. Irene had a unique gift for empowering others and engaging them in the community. She possessed a talent for bringing people and ideas together, forging unlikely partnerships that helped achieve the goal of making sure New York remains a livable city.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to civic and political life made by Irene Peveri, a dedicated activist who made an extraordinary difference in the way New York City has developed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to note that I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3981, the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act (Rollcall No. 471). I was unable to be present during the vote for this bill because my flight from Memphis to Washington was delayed due to an air traffic control constraint.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION ON DC'S
HANDGUN BAN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the recent decision made by the United States Supreme Court upholding the right of residents of the District of Columbia and elsewhere to keep and bear arms. On Thursday, June 26, 2008, the Court rightly struck down the decades old ban on handgun possession and ownership in the District of Columbia, one of the strictest bans in the country.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have co-sponsored legislation to end this ban and to expand gun rights within the District to preserve the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to all Americans by the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, I signed an amicus brief along with 249 other members of this respected body opposing the District's gun ban and urging the Supreme Court to recognize its constitutional defects.

In issuing its decision, the Court affirmed and protected the Constitution and the right of a sportsman to have a registered shotgun in his home and renewed the right of a homeowner to possess a handgun in order to protect one's family and property from intruders.

While I certainly understand the desire to consider occurrences of violent crime when

crafting gun control legislation, our country is based on the premise that enforcement of our fundamental rights cannot be haphazard. Our Founding Fathers fought for the individual liberties we all enjoy—among them, the right to possess firearms. This right, along with the freedom of the press or the privilege against self-incrimination, must not be dismissed or diluted.

As a hunter and gun rights advocate, I applaud the Supreme Court for its decision. I look forward to continuing my work in Congress to protect the integrity of the Second Amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF
JOHN LANCASTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a historic figure in my community, Mr. John Lancaster, who passed away on July 1st at the age of 90.

John Lancaster was a man of principle and deep devotion to his community. As the first elected African-American county commissioner in the history of St. Mary's County, Maryland, Mr. Lancaster was certainly a political trailblazer. Breaking that barrier was indeed astonishing. John believed that he was accountable to all in the community as he simply but eloquently once said "I was a commissioner serving all people."

Perhaps the most important issue to John was education. A local official in my community recently dubbed him as the "education commissioner" and many regarded him as a mentor in education policy. As commissioner, John could not sit idly as public schools were decaying in front of him. Today, because of his efforts and foresight, education is a very important issue in St. Mary's County, and students are learning in first class facilities.

John Lancaster was the personification of hard work and optimism. In face of discrimination he pressed forward. Mr. Lancaster will certainly be remembered as an example for those who dare to dream the impossible. I would like to offer my condolences to his loving family, as we mourn the loss of an extraordinary person.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND THAYER
DONOVAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and mentor of mine, Raymond Thayer Donovan, who passed away on May 10, 2008. A World War II vet and engaged civic leader, Ray stood at the center of Connecticut politics. I, along with the entire State, mourn this great loss. It is with great honor that I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remarks made at his funeral by Kevin Brown and myself. Through these words, we remember the life and spirit of a truly great man.

KEVIN BROWN

First and foremost, I'd like to thank Louise and the family for the honor of being able to say a few words today in remembrance of Raymond. Like so many of you, I loved him very much.

I know that Raymond would have wanted me to be brief. For his sake, I will try. But it won't be easy. When Shelley called and asked me to speak today she told me that the family thought that I might be someone who could best tell Raymond's story. Try as I might, I couldn't do it. I felt like I was telling my story.

You see, all of my memories of Raymond are about what he did for me, how he helped shape my life, what he taught me, and the example he set. I finally realized that telling Raymond's story is so hard because it was never about him; it was always about the people in his life. Raymond was the most unselfish person I've ever met. For him, it was never about power, recognition, success or wealth. His greatest source of satisfaction came from helping others. He was never out front claiming the credit. He moved through the world without making any noise but his fingerprints were everywhere. He was always encouraging. He made us feel appreciated and a part of something.

More importantly, Raymond had this unique capacity to gaze at a room full of people and sense who was feeling left out, who was drifting from the group and who needed to be touched. Without us ever realizing why, he would suddenly appear as you turned to leave. And he would ask you to stay, telling you how smart you were, how much you were needed, and how proud he was of you. And once he knew you were back in the fold, he'd disappear just as suddenly and be on his way to make someone else feel important and wanted. And he did this without ever asking you to follow him. Quite to the contrary, he'd try to convince you to lead on the promise that he would follow. It was his reassurance that made so many of us confident to take such bold steps in our lives.

In fact, of one thing I am sure: Raymond never saw himself as a leader. If the truth be told, he was a shepherd. Someone who guided so many people through the journey of life, showing us the way and watching over us, making sure that, if possible, no harm came to us. And when we stumbled or fell, he was there to pick us up, dust us off and send us back on our way.

Whether it was his family or the Lions Club, the fourth district, the folks at Latimere Point, his co-workers at the State Capitol, or for that matter, anyone who knew him. Raymond was their shepherd, that silhouette of a man off on the hillside watching over us. A man who gave much and asked for so little; and someone who taught us the power of humility, integrity, and forgiveness.

Being a shepherd can be lonely. Standing watch can be a heavy burden. Every shepherd needs a star to guide them, a point in the distance, ever true, to fix upon, to draw strength from, and point the way. Raymond had Louise. She was his North Star and he knew he was her knight in shining armor. She was his greatest source of strength and her unconditional love was his greatest reward in life. Together, they helped us all endure our moments of doubt and enjoy ourselves along the way.

The last time that Raymond and I spoke was last year at a wonderful memorial service that my sister held for my mom in Saybrook. As always, Raymond was smiling and so happy to see me. He told me how proud he was of me and what a wonderful person I was. He spoke fondly of how wonderful my mom was and what a great job she did

raising us. This morning, I thought how ironic it was for that to be the last time I'd see Raymond. I realized that so many people go through the journey of life and never have a shepherd to watch over them. And I had two: Raymond and my mom.

Raymond, I hope that this wasn't too long!! I tried to tell your story as briefly as I could. And Raymond, I want you to know I've made the journey this far with your help and without you, I might surely have lost my way.

JOHN LARSON

A great light went out of our lives, and created an indescribable void and pang that only the warm memory of such a wonderful man can console us. On behalf of U.S. Senator Dodd and myself, it was an honor to fly a flag over the United States Capitol in memory of this Navy Veteran, elected official, and public servant. Ray Donovan's life defined civic commitment, love of country, and love of family.

My father will be gone 20 years this October. Ray and he were great friends. Ray Donovan made sure in my father's absence that he took time to share with me and my brothers and sisters the fond memories about my father. As all of my family can attest, Ray was a man of letters, a great writer, and conveyor of sentimentality and the human condition. His letters would always give you pause and make you reflect. In those letters he never failed to mention some anecdote about Dad and how proud he would be. He went out of his way to honor us, by honoring the memory of our father, and his friend. I am humbled to be asked to remember him today.

I heard of Ray and Louise Donovan long before I ever met them. Growing up in East Hartford, Democratic politics played a huge roll. For me, they were lessons learned at my mother's knee. They were, after all, the generation who elected John Kennedy. . . . The Donovans were kitchen table conversation at the Larson's house long before I ever met them in person.

My mother would talk of Ray Donovan in the most respectful tone. What a gentleman! What a thoughtful, intelligent man! What a loyal and good friend! What patience, what a calming force!

Through Mom's eyes and words we learned of a man who seemed like John Forsythe, Jimmy Stewart, and Ozzie Nelson rolled up into one. He did not disappoint. . . .

Louise and Ray . . . like . . . well . . . Tracey and Hepburn; Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers, or as we say in East Hartford, Herb and Reggie; Burns and Allen; Ricky and Lucy; Bill and Hillary, or Nikki and Bill: take your pick . . . in East Hartford; it was Louise and Ray, the political power couple of the day! Louise, unafraid to assert her view and giving new meaning to the word candor, Ray, diplomatic and ever gracious. They were quite a team. Whether it was Democratic politics, the Lion's Club, cookouts at Latimer Point, or serving the clam chowder at Bocce, they were inseparable.

They were at the epicenter of the Democratic Party in its hey-day in East Hartford. I still can recall the elegance and class of the dances on Founder's Plaza, under the moonlight, overlooking the Connecticut River and the Hartford skyline. Yet the most coveted invitation in town was the afterglow party at Walter Place! What a wonderful time it was, what a wonderful couple they made. If you close your eyes, you can still see the gala of that night unfold. Jimmy Fitz was at his zenith, Dick & Terry Blackstone, Timmy & Rosemary Moynihan, Ann & Toni Fornibi, Larry & Joe Delponte, Dick & Peg Torpey, Frank & Shirley, John & Ellie Fitzgerald, Gigi & Tony Roberto, Ray & Pauline, Rita &

Don, Julie & Herb . . . and at the center of it all, Ray and Louise. I can still hear the music and laughter echoing into the summer's night.

I always got a kick out of the fact that Paul Landerman's Orchestra would play at the dance and Paul Maynard, a Republican Councilman, and good friend of many Democrats, was playing in the band as the Democrats tore up the pavement to "In the Mood." It was the coming out party of the year.

Shelley, Kevin, Sue Maynard, Paul's daughter, and I were all classmates in high school when our parents served on the town council. It's an awkward thing when your parents are in office in some respects. It was a different time, perhaps because we Democrats had a 4-1 registration advantage, but it seemed like Republicans and Democrats just got along better. I know for Shelley, Susan and myself, we might have given the eye roll at the mention of their elected office, but we respected their service and were proud of them.

My Dad and Ray drove back and forth to work at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in North Haven for several years. They had a lot in common; both were Navy Veterans serving on the aircraft carriers, for my Dad, the Franklin and for Ray, the Midway. Both were firefighters in the Navy, both worked at tool and dye shops after the war. Both married well, and their families were the center of the universe.

They were, however, different. Ray and Raymond, the R&R Express. Try to imagine riding in that car with Dad and Ray. It would be like listening to a conversation between Archie Bunker and Fred McMurray. Ray Donovan, more urbane, sophisticated and measured; Dad, a little rough around the edges. Dad preferred baseball caps, flannel shirts and playing the organ at the Elks to Ray's shirt, tie and occasional sweater, and service to the Lions. Ray loved the dialogue, the give and take of politics, while Dad was skeptical of the whole process. One thing my father wasn't skeptical of, though, was the honesty and decency of Ray Donovan. My father loved Ray Donovan, their companionship, and their camaraderie during those trips back and forth to North Haven fortified the unique bond they shared. What I would give for a tape recording of those journeys. It would be prime material for a Normal Lear comedy.

I have a feeling, though, Dad was one of the first to greet Ray as they embark on another journey. It's a safe bet they picked up the conversation where they left off, catching up on their families.

Much has been written of their generation. Ray epitomized what has rightfully been called the Greatest Generation, and represents all that is rich about the lives our parents led. A child of the Depression, a veteran of the World War, a builder of a community, who selflessly served the Democratic Party, as Forth District Chairman, member of the Board of Education, the Town Council, and the Lion's Club, and the V.F.W. Proud of his Irish heritage and proud to be called a Democrat! Ray was a devoted husband, loving father and enduring friend. I was never around him when he didn't talk about his family or ask about mine.

Ray Donovan was more than an advisor or mentor. Those well-meaning words don't do him justice. He led by his example. He was the listening ear, the sympathetic heart, the person of firm resolve and conviction, patient and willing to forgive, the calm, assured inward strength that formed a constant you know that was there for you.

What he did for me and all who sought his council was lead by example. No task was beneath him, no person nor cause not worthy

of his effort. He met everyone with a welcoming smile, an outstretched hand, and always a word of encouragement that was his trademark.

He never spoke of material possession. What others saw as life's benchmarks of success, new cars or homes, never interested him. I never heard him speak ill of anyone, he was a source of positive energy whose approval you sought and wanted.

It is said that we stand on the shoulders of other who have come before us. Ray Donovan's shoulders were broad enough for all of us to stand upon. Emerson wrote what most men led lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with a song still in them. Ray Donovan led a life that was resolute and content, his song and life was one of quiet inspiration. An inspiration that was contagious because it came by way of his own example. I heard him say often of many people but never with such pride as when he would say of Louise with a broad smile and quiet satisfaction, "Isn't that Louise something." We pause today to say, "Wasn't that Ray something." We miss you. We love you. Say hi to Dad for me.

REMEMBERING THE INNOCENT
LOST DURING SREBRENICA
GENOCIDE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, this Friday, July 11, 2008 marks the 13th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia.

I rise today to express my deepest sympathy for, and in remembrance of the victims this horrible genocide in Bosnia, which lasted from 1992–1995.

The most infamous episode in this genocide was the massacre of Bosnians led personally by General Ratko Mladic at the United Nations-declared "safe haven" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in July, 1995.

We should remember all of the innocent people who were brutally killed by honoring their lives and remembering their struggle for freedom during the three-year conflict in Srebrenica, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would also like to honor the memory of victims in places less well-known: in Kozarac, Prijedor and Banjaluka in northwestern Bosnia.

This conflict was the largest massacre and genocide of civilians in Europe since World War II.

In my district, I am proud to say that I have one of the largest Bosnian American populations in the United States. Of the tens of thousands of my Bosnian American constituents, upwards of 5,000 are survivors of the Srebrenica genocide.

As a Representative of many Bosnian-American friends in St. Louis, I understand that this tragedy continues to affect many of my constituents. We must commemorate those who died, hold those who are responsible accountable, and honor the brave survivors.

It is important for us to remember this dark chapter in history to learn from it for the benefit of our future generations.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL TIMOTHY RAY, USAF COMMANDER, 7TH BOMB WING, DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader in the 19th District of Texas. America's military has a solid foundation of tradition and heritage handed down from generation to generation. The United States Air Force in particular holds three core values: Integrity, Service Before Self and Excellence in Everything We Do.

While every airman who wears the Air Force uniform is expected to practice those core values, there are a select few that lead by example and rise above all others. For that they are rewarded with one of the military's highest honors—Command.

As Commander of the 7th Bomb Wing, COL Timothy Ray led more than 5,000 men and women in direct response to the Global War on Terrorism. As home to the B-1B Lancer, under Colonel Ray's leadership, Dyess airmen repeatedly sent our enemies running, providing constant vigilance and rapid response backed by overwhelming fire power. In addition, Dyess' C-130 aircrews have done incredible work saving lives by taking soldiers and marines out of the line of fire and into the safety of the air.

As a leader, Colonel Ray has been a stalwart champion of the men and women of Dyess AFB as well as their families. He has also been a great friend to the city of Abilene. His tireless efforts have made Dyess Air Force Base a model installation, especially during a time of war. Colonel Ray worked very hard to set tough energy efficiency conservation standards with the families and airmen first in his mind. His efforts on behalf of the Air Force and the American taxpayer leave Dyess Air Force Base a better place.

I wish Colonel Ray many years of continued success and thank him for his service to this great nation. I join with the city of Abilene and the 19th District of Texas in saying how proud and thankful we are for his leadership. The United States Air Force is blessed to have such a capable leader in COL Timothy Ray.

2008 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Florida's 2008 Women's softball team for their historic 70-5 winning season. This marks the first time in NCAA history that a team has won 70 games in a single season. The UF Women's softball team has also set many outstanding records this season in hitting, pitching, and fielding, and for the first time in school history, the softball team made it to the semifinals of the Women's College World Series.

In addition to their historic season, the Gators produced five All-American honors

players, and many personal records were set for the number of runs scored, bases stolen, and game shutouts. The UF Women's softball team played with class and won with grace, and their teamwork, tenacity, and gamesmanship deserve to be recognized. This certainly is a team to be remembered, and this is just another reason why it is great to be a Florida Gator.

HONORING SCLC AND REVEREND
DR. S. L. HARVEY

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, on February 14, 1957, a little more than 51 years ago, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, was founded in New Orleans, LA. It is returning to New Orleans today for its 50th Annual Convention, to celebrate its founding and to mark the progress it has made over the years.

On the date of its founding, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend A.L. Davis, Reverend Avery Alexander, Reverend Simmie Harvey, and others meet at New Zion Baptist Church located on 3rd Street in New Orleans to organize the SCLC. Of those present on that date, Dr. Simmie Harvey is the only living organizer. Additionally for the past 33 years, he has led the Louisiana Chapter of the SCLC as its President.

Reverend Dr. S.L. Harvey was educated at the Tensas Parish High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana, Utica Institute in Utica, Mississippi and Union Baptist College and Theological Seminary where he received both his Master's Degree in Theology and his Doctor of Divinity.

Reverend Dr. Harvey was present at the planning of the march in Washington, DC., where Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Reverend Harvey is a living legend and Drum Major for Justice for all people. He continues to carry the torch for freedom that Dr. King and other founders of the SCLC lit in 1957.

As we celebrate the life and work of the SCLC, it is impossible to do so without celebrating Dr. Harvey's life and work at the same time. The two are inextricably intertwined. We thank God for him. I am proud to join the U.S. Congress and our nation in honoring him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREEN 301
ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, also known as the Green 301 Act. This bill expands the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to encompass environmental effects.

Under the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, the Trade Representative must identify those foreign country trade practices causing negative environmental impacts to human, animal, or plant life or health, or the

conservation of exhaustible natural resources in the United States, the foreign country, a third country, or internationally. Once those practices have been identified, the Trade Representative must issue a report to Ways and Means and to Senate Finance with its findings.

After the Trade Representative issues its report, it must engage in consultations with foreign governments to resolve the negative practices it identifies with in the report and seek to negotiate an agreement between the United States and the foreign country providing for the mitigation, reduction, or elimination of the identified negative environmental impacts. If no agreement is reached, then the trade representative is authorized to take all appropriate and feasible action authorized under Section 301.

Additionally, the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act permits petitions and consultations under this process from interested parties, including environmental organizations and the business community, to expand the types and scope of the Trade Representative's environmental review.

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Bill Goodnight of First Presbyterian church of Lillington, NC. On the 230th birthday of this great Nation, Reverend Goodnight expressed his patriotism with a most fitting prayer. His prayer embodies the values on which the United States of America was founded. These are the same values that we as Americans still hold near and dear to our hearts today, I would like to share this prayer with my colleagues and my fellow Americans.

"Eternal God we come before you on this birthday of our nation 230th birthday of our Nation. We come with praises upon our lips for your love and mercy, which makes itself know throughout the earth. We come with praises for your mighty creative energy that hung the stars and spun the planets and for your still small voice that speaks in the silence of the canyons and booms out across the oceans waves. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear your spirit is seen dancing upon our golden meadows, your song is heard in the cry of the bald eagle, your presence is felt in the deepest canyon and the highest mountain . . .

Yet we confess eternal creator that we have too often sought your blessing without begging for your transforming power that calls us into a nation of servanthood in this and every hour. We confess that we are quick to proclaim that you are on our side without checking to make sure that we are on your side.

Therefore, we celebrate with thanksgiving this Fourth of July, not only the great provisions of this land but your patience toward us when we forget that to whom much is given much is expected. We thank you for your protection from pestilence and the horrors of famine known to much of this world. We thank you for a stable government which works to guarantee our freedoms and provides us with protection against those who would do us harm. We are particularly grateful this night for our leaders that are here

with us as a reminder that by your will we truly are a government of the people and by the people.

Our strongest petitions this night we reserve those brave men and women who have obeyed the orders of their commander in chief and have stepped into harms way in distant land, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq. We cry for the widows, widowers, and orphans left in the wake of the current conflict on both sides of this war. Let not our tears be empty but grant to us the fortitude and resolve as a community that we might nurture those who have sacrificed so much on our account. May those who have risked so much in fulfilling their military obligations find us a united community in support of them and their dependents. May we walk with them and their loves ones on the road of life offering the well-deserved hand of friendship and fellowship. We know that nothing can make up for what we have sent them to endure, but may our overwhelming gratitude and respect offer them comfort.

Help us to live our lives with grateful hearts, teach us how to be there for each other when tragedy strikes, and give us plenty of opportunities to rejoice with one another when good comes our neighbor's way.

In closing, we ask not only your blessing upon us but for your guidance and inspiration that we might reflect and be a source for the world of the blessings we seek for ourselves. Alleluia Amen."

Madam Speaker, Reverend Goodnight is an exemplary figure of patriotism, leadership, dedication, and commitment to this great Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1312, "Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Space Foundation". I would like to thank my colleague DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado for putting forth H. Res. 1312. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and to commemorate the 25 years that the Space Foundation has spent endeavoring to advance our knowledge and understanding of space.

This deserving piece of legislation will (1) recognize the contributions made by the Space Foundation; and (2) commemorate the Space Foundation's 25 years of excellence and support to the Nation.

This resolution not only draws attention to the Space Foundation's many years of excellence and service, but it also recognizes the profound effect that a group of nonpartisan, pioneering individuals has had in helping to inspire, enable, and propel humanity to greater heights. For as a great pioneer, Neil Armstrong, once said, "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

The Space Foundation has played a significant positive role in exploring, advancing and developing our understanding of space. The nonprofit foundation has done this by embracing all aspects of space including commercial, civil, and national security. In the current national and commercial environment in which

space is often at the forefront of security or innovation, the work that the foundation does in promoting space education programs in all 50 States is critical. Furthermore, the Space Foundation's advocacy of peaceful and positive uses of outer space is crucial. Indeed, as John F. Kennedy, speaking in Houston, noted, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

Houston has long been at the center of the American exploration of space. The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston has been NASA's center for human spaceflight activities. Houston has served as the Mission Control Center for every space mission since *Gemini IV* and directs all space shuttle and International Space Station Missions. The Johnson Center is also home to astronaut training, and Houston is a hub of scientific and space-related research. Houston's connection to space exploration has made evident to me the potential for growth and discovery that space holds. This connection has also inspired in me a great amount of respect and support for those organizations and individuals who pursue an awareness of space for the fostering of a peaceful and prosperous world.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with me. I believe that what the Space Foundation has accomplished through more than 25 years of diligent service is more than deserving of such a commemoration. Through their efforts in improving our commercial, national, and theoretical uses and understanding of space they have undoubtedly helped better our Nation.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Homes for Heroes Act, H.R. 3329.

The Homes for Heroes Act establishes a \$200 million a year assistance program for supportive housing and services for low income homeless veterans and their families at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and requires at least 20,000 rental housing vouchers a year be made available to homeless veterans and their families. This important bill also creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within HUD and requires HUD to submit an annual report to Congress on housing needs for veterans.

Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population and the VA is the largest single provider of direct services to homeless veterans. According to the VA, the number of homeless veterans has declined 21 percent in the past year, however there are still 154,000 homeless veterans including 1,500 from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor deserve the support and resources they need to overcome mental, physical, and emotional wounds caused by war. Congress must continue fighting to ensure they receive the high-

est level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE DAILY 45: ROBERT WASHINGTON AND TWO OTHER VICTIMS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Early this morning, Robert Washington of Chicago was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound to the neck.

In Wisconsin, Travis Mills was shot last Saturday morning with a small-caliber handgun and in Rockaway, Queens, a young man was fatally shot. The 18-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three more lives lost. We must become our brother's keeper. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEST CREEK CONFLUENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a "Concrete Breaking" celebration at the confluence of West Creek and the Cuyahoga River in the city of Independence in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

The West Creek—Cuyahoga River Confluence Restoration Project implements the vision expressed in both the city of Independence Master Plan and West Creek Watershed Plan by restoring a 10-acre vacant industrial site where West Creek meets the Cuyahoga River in Independence, Ohio. The property currently contains approximately 85% impervious surface, contributing significant non-point source pollution which flows directly into West Creek and the Cuyahoga. The property and this entire area have flooded repeatedly during recent storm events and is at the center of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 205 study to find the best way to mitigate flood damage. The restoration includes plans for its future use as a public riverfront park with the added benefits of ecological habitat restoration and storm water management best practices.

On Friday July 11, 2008, Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz, in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Trust for Public Land, the George Gund Foundation, the Natural Resources Assistance Council of Cuyahoga County, the Clean Ohio Fund, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation and other partners, will begin the demolition of the industrial buildings to begin the restoration.

When completed, West Creek will return to its original meandering flow into the Cuyahoga

River with natural wetlands to reduce upstream flooding, clean local drinking water, and restored wildlife habitats. The new park will connect the West Creek Greenway to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, provide new access to the creek and river for all, and lead to economic revitalization of this part of the city of Independence. This project will contribute greatly to the continuing restoration of the Cuyahoga River, one of the 14 federally designated American Heritage Rivers.

The benefits of the West Creek Confluence Project are numerous. Locally, it will reclaim underutilized industrial property, create a new and dynamic recreation area along the National Scenic Byway, restore a more natural hydrology to Lower West Creek, create an area for urban ecology to flourish, retain and filter storm water which will mitigate the effects of flooding, and reduce non-point source pollution entering into West Creek and the Cuyahoga River. From a regional perspective, the West Creek Confluence Project will work to herald in a new era of sustainable redevelopment within the Lower Cuyahoga River Valley, capitalizing on recreational and commercial uses that still allow for a functioning floodplain with a high degree of ecological diversity, flood storage and habitat connectivity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the beauty and regional ecologic importance of the West Creek Confluence and the pivotal project now underway to ensure it returns to its former natural prominence.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6304

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my support of H.R. 6304—The FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

From the Revolutionary War to the tragedy of 9/11, America's quest for freedom is what defines us. It is imperative that we never forget those who died for our liberty, nor can we ignore the failures of our own intelligence leading up to that day in September 7 years ago. Balancing civil liberties and protecting our national security has been a 232 year struggle that represents the core of this great Nation.

As such, the year-long debate this body engaged in updating FISA has hinged on a question that rests at the heart of American democracy since its founding: how do we keep our Nation safe, while at the same time ensuring the preservation of those Constitutional freedoms that we hold dear? It was Benjamin Franklin who warned that those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither.

When the first effort to amend FISA—The Protect America Act—came before this House in August of 2007, I voted against that deeply flawed bill because it did not ensure proper protection of our civil liberties, nor did it provide the appropriate check over the executive branch. In fact, neither the Protect America Act, nor the subsequent "Senate compromise," included essential oversight provisions. Those bills, rather, sought to minimize the role of the FISA court, removing any form

of meaningful judicial oversight over the President and the executive branch.

My sense of justice as a former prosecutor and my experience as a constitutional law professor at West Point led me to the inescapable conclusion that our initial attempts to craft the appropriate balance failed.

Madam Speaker, the issue of foreign surveillance predates the founding of our very republic—traceable to George Washington, who made effective use of secret intelligence, including the interception of mail from the British.

However, I do not need to remind anyone in this Chamber that we have not always gotten this delicate balance right. Hindsight has shown us that too often in our Nation's past we have tipped the scale too far from liberty in the face of outside threats, hostile adversaries, and most-troubling simply outspoken American citizens.

We know many of these excesses: the eavesdropping on Martin Luther King, Jr. and anti-war demonstrators, and of course, President Nixon's use of Federal resources to spy on political groups. History has judged those decisions as leaving an enduring stain on our institution and our government—as it should.

In the late 1970s, the Church Committee and this institution worked to curb domestic intelligence abuses. Checks and balances were restored among the three branches of government, and the ability of our government to protect all of us from national security dangers was enhanced while at the same time respecting our privacy rights.

These efforts led to the passage of the original Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, placing—for the first time—accountability and oversight of domestic intelligence gathering in the hands of courts and Congress. FISA also put an end to the practice of warrantless domestic wiretapping for national security reasons, mandating that domestic “national security” wiretaps be authorized by a court of law—creating a separation between domestic law enforcement and foreign surveillance for national security concerns.

Again, with that historical perspective in mind, I opposed those original proposals and I am glad that the House of Representatives staved off partisan ploys to push this body to rubber stamp those misguided efforts.

I believe that the bill we ultimately passed was a significant improvement in nearly every aspect over the Senate's or the President's proposals.

Madam Speaker, Mike Schmidt, the greatest third baseman who ever wore a glove for the Philadelphia Phillies once said, “Philadelphia is the only city where you can experience the thrill of victory and the agony of reading about it the next day.”

I empathized with Mr. Schmidt when I opened my morning paper the day after we voted on this critical piece of legislation.

That is why, Madam Speaker, I thought it necessary to elaborate on why I supported the bill, and clarify some common misconceptions about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the bipartisan changes we recently passed.

Madam Speaker, my decision to vote in favor of the FISA Amendments Act was not one that I came to lightly. As a former prosecutor charged to keep our community safe, somebody who has taught constitutional law for years to our future military leaders at West

Point, and proudly served this country in uniform, I thought and prayed long and hard about the best course of action. Now, as a member of Congress, it is still my duty to defend the constitution and work to keep our community safe.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that this House and this bill ultimately struck the right balance.

The FISA debate in the 110th Congress has been pushed by two events: the first, President Bush's unauthorized “terrorist surveillance program,” conducted outside the scope of FISA; and the second, a FISA court decision that most people, including myself, thought was wrongly decided and undermined our intelligence capabilities abroad.

It is widely agreed that no warrant should be necessary to tap the phone of a foreign national talking to another foreign national on foreign soil. The major point of contention, however—what this year-long wrangling has been about—is what to do when targeting, for example, a terrorist sect in Pakistan whose communications end up hitting American soil. Certainly it would be overly cumbersome and perhaps dangerous to require an individualized warrant for every foreign target in the off-chance their contacts involve an American; but correspondingly, assurances must be put in place to ensure that all U.S. citizens who might be caught in such surveillance are given the protections that they are due as Americans. This, Madam Speaker, was the needle we were required to thread.

The bill ensures that—in order to protect the rights of Americans—foreign surveillance targeting of non-U.S. persons abroad must be approved by the FISA Court prior to the start of any intelligence collection to ensure sufficient oversight of executive branch activities. This requires the administration to show how they determine that the targets of surveillance are actually foreigners and are actually located outside the United States. Additionally the FISA Court must approve the minimization procedures in place before surveillance can begin. Minimization is the process where the NSA prevents the dissemination of inadvertently collected information about U.S. persons. The bill also establishes a general prohibition against using FISA to “reverse target” Americans.

Additionally, the bill requires individual warrants from the FISA Court in every single case, based upon probable cause, to conduct surveillance of U.S. persons, whether at home or traveling abroad. While this provision has not been widely reported, this is an expansion of protections under the original FISA bill. For the first time, Madam Speaker, an individual probable cause determination and court-approved order will be needed to conduct surveillance of every American citizen, regardless of where they are located.

Perhaps most importantly, Madam Speaker, the bill restores FISA and existing criminal wiretap statutes as the exclusive means to conduct surveillance—making it clear that the no President will be able to sidestep the exclusivity provisions of FISA and disregard the civil liberties of the American people. Under this legislation the current President's illegal program of warrantless surveillance will officially come to an end, thereby firmly reestablishing basic judicial oversight over all domestic surveillance in the future.

The other major provision of the bill, Madam Speaker, is title II—defining the role of liability

litigation procedures for telecommunication companies. Madam Speaker, to be frank, as a former Federal prosecutor and the son of a Philadelphia police officer the issue of immunity has always been a tough pill to swallow. Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia and schooled at St. Anselm's Parish, I was reared in somewhat “black and white” terms—wrong-is-wrong and punished accordingly.

But quickly I learned, as a judge advocate and special assistant United States Attorney, that at certain times legal immunity is an unfortunate necessity to encourage cooperation and testimony against those more culpable of committing the underlying offense. Madam Speaker, I have never liked seeing people get away with only a slap on the wrist, but I have grown to understand it can be a necessary tool to insure that justice is served.

If the telecom companies are ultimately shielded from litigation by United State District Courts for their involvement with the current administration's illegal warrantless wiretapping program, they should be forthright and cooperate with congressional investigators pursuing those in the Bush administration who are truly to blame for the violation of our constitutional rights.

But more importantly, Madam Speaker, a principal reason for immunity in this instance is to keep civil lawsuits, or the fear of them, from establishing Federal policy on a matter of grave national concern—both because of the security interests and because of the civil liberty interests. This policy should be established and enforced through the actions of congress and the executive branch.

And just to be clear, Madam Speaker, nothing in this bill confers immunity on any government official for violating the law. In fact, this bill requires the inspectors general of four major national agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of the President's warrantless surveillance program and report back to the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees.

I promise the families in my district and across the country, that as long as I sit on the House Intelligence Committee, and as long as I serve in Congress, I will fight every day to demand answers and accountability from those who have held themselves above the law.

Madam Speaker, above all, I would like to note that the bill that passed this House was a much needed compromise. And as is the nature of any compromise, concessions were made and agreements reached in the effort to advance this piece of legislation. While it was not a perfect bill, nor is it the one I would have written, it is without question a significant improvement over prior flawed proposals.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a second to read a quote:

“The art of compromise, which is essential to democracy, seems to have gone out of style in recent years of angry all-or-nothing politics . . . the result is often no legislation, and many issues are left to fade or fester.”

That quote, though eerily reminiscent of our modern political paralysis, was published in a Time Magazine editorial—on March 29, 1976. The editorial, however, continues on and heaps praise on Congress and the executive branch for their efforts in overcoming partisan gridlock to do what we seek to do—limit unwarranted wiretapping done under the auspices of national security.

It was a compromise crafted by Attorney General Edward Levi and a Democratic Congress. A compromise that Time noted "beats showy confrontation, veto and stalemate." I think most of us, Madam Speaker, can agree that this sentiment rings just as true today.

Let me be clear. I am no Attorney General Levi, nor do I portend to know how history will judge us or this legislation.

But I can promise that I sincerely believe that this bill—this compromise—threaded the needle and I am proud of our efforts.

Some of my friends on the left are not happy; some on the far right are not either. But we all take seriously, the incredible responsibility we are given. I hope and pray that history proves our fidelity to our Constitution, as well as our commitment to protecting the safety of those we serve.

HONORING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 79th anniversary of the founding of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC. This is a tremendous milestone and one in which LULAC members should take great pride. Under the leadership of National President, Rosa Rosales, LULAC continues to be an influential force in Congress and throughout the country.

LULAC is the largest and oldest civil rights and service organization in the United States. Since 1929, LULAC has worked tirelessly to advance the economic condition, increase access to quality health care and education, and civil rights of Latinos across the country. LULAC's commitment to the advancement of Latinos is demonstrated through the community-based programs it operates at more than 700 local councils nationwide.

Education has always been a top priority for LULAC. In 1975, the LULAC National Scholarship Fund LNSF was established to provide scholarships to Latino students who attend colleges and universities. LULAC's education efforts will continue to benefit future generations of Latino youth. I am also proud that LULAC has made proactive efforts to increase Latino civic participation in the United States through its voter registration and citizenship drives. LULAC plays a pivotal role in ensuring that Latinos are part of the political process on the local, state, and federal level.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating LULAC for all the hard work that it has done for the Latino community in the United States. LULAC is paving the way for generations after us to achieve even more. I look forward to continue working alongside LULAC to achieve social and economic justice for all Latinos.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. WILLIAM CHARLES DEMENT, LOWELL W. AND JOSEPHINE BERRY PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND DIVISION CHIEF OF THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF SLEEP

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. William C. Dement as he celebrates his 80th birthday and as his family, friends and colleagues gather to commemorate his lifelong efforts to improve the health and safety of this Nation by advancing understanding of sleep, sleep disorders and their impact on performance and functioning.

Dr. Dement received his M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1955 and 1957. There, he helped discover and describe Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, described the relationship between REM sleep and dreaming, established the all night sleep patterns of human beings, discovered REM sleep in animals and newborn babies, and demonstrated that the patterns of specific rapid eye movements are related to the visual experience of the dream. He transformed what was once thought of as a passive state that was undeserving of medical attention or curiosity into a medical specialty.

In 1963, Dr. Dement joined the Psychiatry Department at Stanford University, where for the past 45 years he has continued his studies on the neurochemistry of sleep and the functional significance of the different sleep states.

In 1970, Dr. Dement started the world's first Sleep Disorders Clinic which introduced all-night examination of patients with sleep-related complaints. He developed the Multiple Sleep Latency Test which remains the standard diagnostic measure of daytime sleepiness and made many other scientific contributions.

Among the most important of these are the elucidation of sleep debt and the long term consequences of sleep deprivation in all components of society. Dr. Dement is the author or co-author of approximately 500 scientific publications and the founding co-editor of the premier scientific journal, SLEEP.

Dr. Dement was co-founder of the Sleep Research Society in 1961 and founding President of the American Sleep Disorders Association (now the American Academy of Sleep Medicine) in 1975. Dr. Dement currently holds the position of honorary board member of the National Sleep Foundation, the Nation's leading non-profit organization dedicated to improving the understanding of sleep disorders.

Dr. Dement served as chairman of the congressionally-mandated National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research whose study and recommendations led directly to the cre-

ation of a new agency within the National Institutes of Health, the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Dement's work with patients. If it was not for Dr. Dement, my sleep apnea would probably still be undiagnosed and I would be like millions of other Americans who needlessly suffer due to a lack of public and professional awareness of the signs and symptoms of sleep disorders.

Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 15th Congressional District of California, I am pleased to join with the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. William C. Dement in celebrating his 80th birthday. May he be blessed with many more.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1315, a resolution that commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

NASA was established in 1958 and has become one of the premier research institutions in the United States. Through NASA, the United States has put humans on the moon, helped build the International Space Station, sent spacecraft to investigate Mars, and has built the Hubble Telescope to view more of the universe. NASA research has also been used to improve products that have changed our world—from airplanes to communications satellites.

Research and innovation is crucial to the United States' global competitiveness. Since its beginning, NASA has inspired many children to study math, science, engineering and technology. My district is home to Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary Magnet School of St. Paul, Minnesota, which is a NASA Explorer School. This initiative incorporates NASA content and programs into science, technology and mathematics curriculum in the classroom. When I have met with the teachers and students at Farnsworth, I have witnessed the enthusiasm and inquiry that the NASA curriculum generates. Through the Explorer School program, NASA helps to produce the scientists, engineers, researchers, explorers, innovators, and astronauts of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.