

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR KENNETH L. BARNEY, SR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Pastor Kenneth L. Barney, Sr., upon the celebration on his 30th pastoral anniversary.

In July 1978, Pastor Barney and his wife, Sister Ellen Barney, accepted a pastorate at the Oakcrest Community Baptist Church in Laurel, Maryland. At the time, their congregation consisted of approximately seven members. As time went on, the membership began to grow, with worshippers coming from areas across the region. As an increasing number of members hailed from Baltimore, Pastor Barney and the congregation relocated to Randallstown in Baltimore County.

In March 1988, 10 years after becoming pastor at the Oakcrest Community Baptist Church, Pastor Barney and his congregation officially changed its name to the New Antioch Baptist Church. New Antioch Baptist Church is currently ministering to over 4,000 members through Pastor and Sister Barney and other church leaders.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Pastor Barney has delivered addresses at national councils and participated as a "Discussion Leader" in the 2008 Oxford Round Table held in Oxford, England. In addition, Pastor Barney traveled to Morocco as part of a 2004 U.S. delegation invited by King Mohammed VI. Along with his fellow delegates, Pastor Barney participated in a Muslim-Evangelical Christian dialogue with Moroccan heads of government and university students to help develop a friendship between the Muslim community in Morocco and the Christian community in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Pastor Kenneth Barney on the occasion of his 30th pastoral anniversary. The small congregation with whom he began his pastorate thirty years ago has multiplied into a membership of over 4,000 under his guidance. It is with great pride that I congratulate Pastor Barney on his significant contributions to the faith community in Maryland and around the world.

HONORING WILLIAM CERIONI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of William "Bill" Cerioni and to recognize him upon being named the "Memorial Honoree" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cerioni was honored at a reception on Thursday, Au-

gust 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Bill Cerioni was born and raised in Madera, California. His father owned and operated Cerioni's Clothing Store. As a child he would work in the store sweeping floors and washing windows earning 25 cents per week. Mr. Cerioni graduated from Madera High School and attended Fresno State University, now California State University, Fresno. He was in school for 2 years before he joined the military during World War II. He had dreams of becoming a Navy pilot; however, with poor vision, the Navy and the Army Air Forces turned him away. He did enlist with the Army Air Force as a gunner and served in the 8th Air Force Division just outside of London, England.

In 1946, Mr. Cerioni became a partner at Cerioni's Clothing Store with his father. He had new ideas and wanted to broaden the clientele by providing a wider selection of merchandise and building a new store. In 1947 construction began and in 1949 the new store opened, which included a ladies' department. The family business experienced tremendous success. Mr. Cerioni's father passed away in 1962 and the business was left to him to operate. Remembering the family history of the store, Mr. Cerioni put his own sons to work in the store to continue the tradition of a father-son partnership.

Mr. Cerioni was an avid golfer. He and his golf partners, Attorney Denny Green and Dr. Ray Miles, decided to develop a private golf and country club. They purchased land with backing from a number of community members. With some hard work and perseverance, the doors of the Madera Golf Country Club were opened in 1954. He always took pride in what he did, and felt that his success was the result of providing quality services and products. Since he understood that success came from the community, it was important for him to show the same support to the community.

Beyond his business, golf and his family, he gave to his community. Mr. Cerioni was a member of the Madera Rotary Club for over 30 years, with perfect attendance for 28 of those years. He was a charter member of the 20/30 Club, involved in his church, member of the Madera Elks and was very active in the Madera Merchants Association and the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He assisted in launching the Downtown Parking Commission. Over the years, Mr. Cerioni was financially supportive to numerous local charities, including school activities.

As a young man, Mr. Cerioni met and married Francis Miller from Sanger, California. They have two children, Jeff and Craig; and four grandchildren Ryan, Tisha, Rori, and Bart.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor William "Bill" Cerioni for his dedication to his family, his business and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

A TRIBUTE TO MARRITJE GREENE, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Marritje Greene, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the schools and embody the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the chair of the board of trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Marritje Greene was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the award for her dedication to the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mother of three young adult children, Lindsay, Jamie (SHP 2004), and Charlie (SHP 2006), Ms. Greene has been a strong leader, supporter and resource within the Sacred Heart community, especially in her service on the SHS Board of Trustees. While her sons were students at SHS, she was active with the SHP Parents Association, where she actively participated in the annual auction, parent education seminars, and community building. Ms. Greene also initiated a gathering of the northern peninsula families to form a support community for those students and families that would be commuting to school. Wherever she saw a need, she filled it. She is entering her fifth year on the board of trustees and has served as the head of the major gifts committee and is a member of the development committee and the committee for trustees. She is a very "quiet" donor and never seeks praise or recognition. One friend says, "her zest for life and charm makes others feel like participating and giving—all while enjoying themselves."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Marritje Greene as she is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her many contributions to her family and friends, and especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her special leadership and commitment to excellence, she has established a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been

• 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.

strengthened by Marritje Greene and it is a privilege to honor her and her work.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFRO-IN BOOKS AND CAFÉ, INC.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th year of operation of the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. in Miami, Florida. Three decades ago, founders Dr. Earl A. Wells and his wife Eursla Wells envisioned a community where people of all ages could congregate with hunger and thirst for the wisdom of their ancestors and explore all there is to know about the great people from which they come. All the while, the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. has retained its prominence as Miami's oldest and largest black book store.

Founded in 1978, Afro-In Books and Things served as a meeting place for artists and intellectuals to discuss the important issues of the day. Both founders are retired educators from the Miami-Dade County Public School System and fulfilled their dream of bringing quality books, periodicals, and literature to the inner city community of Greater Miami. Since its opening, the bookstore always made it a point to feature books written by and about people of color. Additionally, Dr. and Mrs. Wells were instrumental in the development of the Miami International Book Fair which has grown tremendously over the years. The Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. remains an annual participant in the book fair.

From 1996 to December 2005, the operation of Afro-In Books and Things was managed by Mr. William D.C. Clark and his wife Stephana, who is the grand-daughter of Miami pioneer Dr. D.A. Dorsey. They significantly expanded the selections offered in the bookstore. In February 2006, Afro-In Books and Things was obtained by Ms. Jamila Capp and her father, Dr. Larry Capp. The bookstore was renamed, Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. and was remodeled to include a café, patio dining, and Internet services.

Currently, the new Afro-In Books and Café, Inc., has hosted many book-signings by such luminaries as Dr. Rudy Crew, Paul Robeson Jr. and many local authors. In addition, lectures, poetry readings, political, and community meetings are held regularly at the bookstore. Over the years, the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc., has hosted many celebrities including Maya Angelou, Jada Pinkett Smith, Will Smith, Bernadette Stanis, and many others.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the Afro-In Books and Café, Inc. as it celebrates 30 years of synonymous quality and exceptional public service. From its early days, the bookstore has possessed a commitment to preserving history, educating the community, and upholding a determination to create an environment that welcomes all who are prepared to enrich their knowledge.

HONORING THE DRIVE FOR SUPPLIES PROJECT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the Drive for Supplies project, a community service program developed by Learn Shop, Inc., and implemented in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

Since its creation in 1999 by Kevin and Louis Newcomer, founders of Learn Shop, Inc., the Drive for Supplies project has collected over \$100,000 in school supplies. In 2008, thanks to the efforts of dedicated student and adult volunteers, Drive for Supplies collected and distributed over 15,000 pounds of school materials.

The supplies will be delivered to nonprofit agencies, county schools with a large number of low-income students, and needy schools in Washington, DC. With the help of international aid organizations, supplies will also make their way to needy children overseas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast, Kevin and Louis Newcomer, and everyone involved in the Drive for Supplies project. At a time when it is critical for our country to be a leader in conservation and community service, Drive for Supplies is leading the way in instilling these important values in our students and throughout our community.

HONORING DR. RAO MUSUNURU

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my outstanding constituents, Dr. Rao Musunuru, for receiving a Point of Light award from Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

The Governor's Point of Light program recognizes Florida residents who demonstrate exemplary service to their communities. Dr. Musunuru deserves this award for his long-standing and ongoing efforts to raise health awareness in my west central Florida district.

Dr. Musunuru, who is one of my State's top cardiologists, has been a long-time proponent of promoting heart health and education. He has helped pass important State laws to improve health care, including the Florida Stroke Act, legislation I worked on in the State legislature before coming to Congress.

Dr. Musunuru has received many awards for his good work. The American Heart Association named him its "National Volunteer Advocate of the Year" in 2007 and its "National Physician of the Year" in 2005. Last year, Dr. Musunuru was appointed to serve on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Musunuru's work has improved the lives of many of those I represent and is an example of what volunteerism and community service are all about. I congratulate him and wish him success in his future efforts.

CONGRATULATING DELAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate DeLay Middle School of Lewisville, Texas, for being the recipient of the 2008 Intel Schools of Distinction Award for Mathematics Excellence.

DeLay Middle School has been honored as one of two middle schools in the United States to win a 2008 Intel Distinction Award, and was the only middle school nationwide recognized for excellence in math by Intel. For this prestigious award DeLay Middle School will be given a package of a \$10,000 cash grant and curriculum supplies including hardware and software valued at more than \$160,000.

The Intel Schools of Distinction Award is given annually to six schools that have demonstrated exemplary instruction in the subjects of mathematics and science. By winning this award, DeLay Middle School marks itself as an institution committed to providing outstanding education, a role model to other schools in our Nation.

I commend DeLay Middle School of Lewisville. Their hard work and desire to excel deserves the highest recognition and congratulations. I'm very proud to represent these students, teachers, and faculty in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING ISAAC LEE HAYES, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and great sadness. On August 10, 2008, our Nation lost one of its greatest artists, composers, and actors. Mr. Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., was a bright light who inspired many and contributed immensely to the fabric of our society. Although his energy and love for life will be sorely missed, there is no doubt that his legacy will continue far into the future and motivate generations of people from all walks of life for years to come.

Mr. Hayes was born on August 20, 1942, in Covington, TN. An acclaimed singer-songwriter, musician, producer, composer, and actor, he was admired and loved by all who knew him. Mr. Hayes was a self-taught musician who, at the age of 22, was hired by Stax Records of Memphis to play backup piano and saxophone for the legendary Otis Redding. Isaac literally helped bring southern soul music into the 20th century, writing such hits as "Hold On, I'm Coming" and "Soul Man" with his partner, Mr. David Porter. His recording success continued with such timeless albums as Hot Buttered Soul and Black Moses. His 1971 "Theme from Shaft" won the Oscar for Best Original Song, making him the first African-American singer-songwriter to win this coveted award. He also won several Grammy Awards for his work.

By the early 1970s, Mr. Hayes was working with chart-topper Barry White. As an actor,

Hayes played the title character in the 1974 action film *Hot Truck* Turner and he had a recurring role in the 1970s TV police drama *The Rockford Files*. Most recently, he appeared in the 2005 film *Hustle & Flow*. In 2002 Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Isaac was talented beyond belief, however this was only one of his monumental attributes. At his core, Isaac Hayes was a humanitarian, activist, and tireless advocate for what is good and right in the world. He was a man of deep convictions and even deeper compassion for those most in need. In 1992, he was crowned an honorary king of Ghana's Ada District as a token of thanks for his humanitarian work in the region. His limitless contributions to African-American society and the diverse populations of the continent of Africa simply can not be overestimated.

With the sad loss of Isaac Hayes, today the world has a little less soul. His work as head of the Isaac Hayes Foundation serves as an inspiration to us all. Those who knew him personally will forever be grateful for having Isaac in our lives.

I met Isaac in the early 1990's during a visit to Ghana. We became close friends and had many discussions about our love for and connections to our motherland. He shared with me his excitement about the many things he was doing for his village in Ghana and his deep commitment to making life better for the people there, especially the children of his village. Later, Isaac became a dedicated supporter of my efforts in Congress and for that I am deeply grateful. The world has lost a wonderful, brilliant warrior and many have lost a genuine friend. I know that his legacy and his memory will live on through the lives that he touched.

A family man, Isaac had many loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He leaves behind innumerable friends and loved-ones, including his wife, Adjowa, and his two-year old son, Nana Kwadjo Hayes. My thoughts and prayers are with Isaac's family. I know how much he loved his family and words can not express my sympathy over this tremendous loss. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, we salute this great talent and spirit by honoring his legacy. Isaac Lee Hayes, Jr., will be sorely missed. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1958 as the Court House Square Businessmen's Association, the chamber has grown from 27 members to over 900. Despite its tremendous growth, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has continued to focus on the prosperity of small businesses, community involvement and being a liaison between business and government throughout the Fairfax region.

The Fairfax Boulevard Partnership, sponsored by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, is a perfect example of the organization's foci. The plan for this partnership is to stimulate new energy and development along the Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway (Rtes. 50/29) business corridor. Ultimately, this would increase economic viability, create an identity for the corridor, improve the aesthetic environment and foster business development. Vitalization of this area will turn "commuters into consumers", enticing those passing through to see the area not only as their route home but as an economic center.

The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce also takes an active role in enhancing the surrounding community through local events. The chamber sponsors events such as: The Margaret Kilpatrick Adams Scholarship Program, Cox's Movies under the Moon, George Mason University Halloween Child Safety Program and Robinson Secondary School DECA Intern Day. Their level of community involvement not only makes them a leader in local business but a leader in their community as well.

According to the Washington Business Journal, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is among the top 10 chambers in the country. The chamber facilitates a bond between local business leaders and State and local officials. This creates unique opportunities to interact while invigorating the economy of Fairfax.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of success. They have become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of their members and their communities. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the chamber members' past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

HONORING MAURICE CAPPELLUTI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Maurice Cappelluti and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cappelluti was honored on Thursday August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Maurice Cappelluti was born on February 23, 1930, in Madera, CA. He attended Lincoln Elementary School and graduated from Madera Union High School in 1947. A year later he graduated from the National Institute of Dry Cleaning in Silver Spring, MD. In November 1948, Mr. Cappelluti enlisted in the California Army National Guard and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1953. He became a second lieutenant and commanded the Madera unit for 3 years. He then transferred to the Army Reserve 6237th School as an instructor for Command and General Staff Studies. He was promoted to Assistant Commandant for the Fresno School and served in that position for 4 years. He was then promoted to colonel and transferred to standby

reserve. In 1965 he was awarded a Medal of Merit for his instrumental role during the Watts Riots. In 1966 he joined the Army Reserve. Mr. Cappelluti retired as a Colonel in 1990.

During his time with the California National Guard, Mr. Cappelluti married Marie Bonandri. Later, he entered into a family business with his parents, Madera Dry Cleaners. His brother joined the business and in 1965 he and his brother purchased the business from their parents. This business was sold to his son in 1999.

Mr. Cappelluti is an active member of Saint Joachim's Church. He served on the Parish Council, was cochairman of the Thanksgiving Dinner Dance, cochairman of the Harvest Festival and has served on numerous other church committees. He also serves outside of the church. Once a week for the past 4 years, Mr. Cappelluti, has cooked at the Holy Family Table, which provides meals for homeless families in Madera. He is a charter member of the 20-30 Club and he was a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club for 35 years. He served as a board member for 5 years for the Red Cross Madera board. Mr. Cappelluti was a trustee for the Madera Cemetery Board for 23 years, and was named the 2008 "Trustee of the Year" by the California Association of Public Cemeteries. He has also served on the boards of San Joaquin Memorial High School, Madera Hospital Foundation and was a member of the Young Men's Institute for over 60 years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Maurice Cappelluti upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Cappelluti many years of continued success.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF H.R. 6385 ORIGINAL COSPONSORSHIP

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that Representative DAVE REICHERT was an original cosponsor of the Apollo Energy Independence Act, H.R. 6385, and was integral to the introduction of this legislation. Congressman REICHERT was left off of the original cosponsor list due to administrative error.

HONORING SEAN ROONEY AND THE U.S. OLYMPIC MEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable accomplishments of Sean Rooney of Wheaton, Illinois, and his contributions to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Men's Indoor Volleyball Team's triumph to win the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

At Wheaton-Warrenville South High School in my district, Sean was a standout player who

garnered Illinois State Player of the Year honors and led his team to a State championship in 2001. He then went on to Pepperdine University, where he became one of their top players and helped lead them to a national championship in 2005. After graduating in 2005, Sean continued to pursue his love of the sport, playing professionally for 2 years.

Then, Sean was selected to represent his country on the international stage as a member of the United States' Men's Indoor Volleyball Team in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China. As the competition was beginning, though, the team faced a tragic setback when Todd Bachman, the father-in-law of the team's coach, Hugh McCutcheon, was fatally stabbed and his wife was seriously injured following an act of random, senseless violence.

In the face of this adversity, the team rallied behind their coach and his family to win three games. When their coach returned for the remainder of the tournament, the team won five more games, including an incredible upset victory over the top-ranked team from Brazil to win the Gold Medal.

The Olympic Games are a time for countries to come together in the spirit of competition and sportsmanship. They are a time to showcase the best our country has to offer. Sean Rooney and the Men's Indoor Volleyball Team showed outstanding courage, commitment and athleticism at the Beijing Olympics and our country couldn't be more proud.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sean Rooney and the entire Men's Indoor Volleyball Team for their remarkable performance in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
RUDDER HIGH SCHOOL IN
BRYAN, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Earl Rudder High School in the community of Bryan-College Station, Texas.

It was a privilege to take part in the dedication ceremony because the Rudder family has had a very personal impact on my life. Mrs. Earl Rudder was like a second mother to me, although in fairness, I should point out that she effectively adopted thousands of Aggies over several generations. That did not make her any less special to me, and I want to thank the Rudder children—Ann, Linda, Bud and Bob—for sharing for so many years your mother and father with all of us in your extended Aggie family.

I never met General Rudder, because he died just months before I enrolled at A&M in 1970, but like every American and every citizen of the world who benefited from the defeat of Nazi forces in World War II, I am the beneficiary of his indomitable courage on D-day, which marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's plan of world domination.

In a more personal way, I paid for my graduate school education with the scholarship I received when I was awarded the Earl Rudder Award upon my graduation from A&M in 1974.

Nevertheless, receiving that award has always been a source of deep humility to me, because I know that I could not even walk in the shadows of this great American's shoes.

I want to salute the school board members, Superintendent Cargill, Principal Piatt, and all who made this new school possible. James Earl Rudder High School is far more than brick, glass, and mortar, because a school represents the very best of our values as a community. This school represents the commitment of one generation to the next. It represents this community's willingness to tax itself to ensure that its children have a fair chance to reach their highest God-given potential.

It is in our schools and houses of worship that we witness our best sense of community, a sense that we truly are our brothers' keepers. It is in our schools that we Americans strive to provide for equality of opportunity for all. Ours is an imperfect, never ending journey, but in that march toward equality for all, we show our greatness and goodness as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson was the 33-year-old author of our Declaration of Independence. He was our third and one of our greatest Presidents. Yet, before he died, he made it clear that he wanted it etched on his gravestone that he was the founder of a university. In his wisdom, Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of education to our democracy.

Two centuries later, I believe that each of you who played a role in founding James Earl Rudder High School shares the right to be proud of your accomplishment. It is my hope that the life and values of Earl Rudder will be an inspiration to every student here from this day forward. We should never forget the story of Earl Rudder, because his is the story of the American spirit. It is a story from which we can all learn.

Born in the small town of Eden, Texas, Earl Rudder did not inherit material wealth, but his family, faith and education helped mold a true leader. Like so many Americans, he dedicated his life to helping others, to serving his country.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1932, Earl Rudder was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. He then chose the noble profession of teaching—first as a coach and teacher at Brady High School and later at Tarleton State College. In 1941, his country called him to duty, and did he ever answer that call. Rising through the ranks because of his integrity, courage and leadership skills, he was chosen to lead the 2nd Ranger Battalion by one of the most respected generals to ever serve in the U.S. Army, GEN Omar Bradley.

His D-day mission was to lead the best of the best up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc to disarm massive German guns that could have killed thousands of American G.I.s and put the Allied invasion of France at risk.

General Bradley said this about the responsibility given then LTC Earl Rudder: "No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the thirty-four-year-old Commander of this Provisional Ranger Force."

Two hundred and twenty-five Rangers began their mission on that perilous day when literally the fate of the world was in their hands. Only 99 survived, but because of the heroism of Earl Rudder and Rudder's Rangers

that day, our world survived the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Lieutenant Colonel Rudder, this great Aggie and American, didn't stop there. He went on to lead a unit in the Battle of the Bulge and became one of the most decorated veterans of World War II.

Having every right to say his public service was completed at the end of World War II, Earl Rudder did what so many of America's veterans have done throughout our history. He spent the rest of his life in service to others and to the country he loved. He moved back to Brady, Texas, and became its mayor. He was elected Land Commissioner of Texas, a position he used to clean up abuses in veterans' land programs.

When he became the president of Texas A&M University, his beloved alma mater, Earl Rudder told his close classmate of '32 and my mentor, Congressman Olin E. Teague, that he had to make a decision that in some ways brought more heat on him than German guns at Pointe du Hoc. He decided to allow women into A&M and to make the Corps of Cadets voluntary for A&M students.

Some Aggies didn't talk to President Rudder ever again. But, just as he did on D-day, Earl Rudder showed the courage of his conviction. Just as D-day literally helped save the world as we know it, President Rudder's decision in the 1960s saved the future of Texas A&M. It was, perhaps, the most important decision ever made by any president of Texas A&M, and I am not sure if any other person but Earl Rudder could have made it. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson presented Earl Rudder with the Distinguished Service Medal, our Nation's highest civilian award.

Love of faith, family, and country; courage under fire; integrity; and lifelong service to others—these were the values of Earl Rudder. They are the quintessential American values that have made ours the greatest Nation in the world.

My hope is that the story and values of Earl Rudder will inspire the lives of everyone who walks through these doors for generations to come. If so, then ours will be a better community and a better country, and we will have truly honored the service of this American hero.

May God bless James Earl Rudder High School and all who will serve there.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET HOELZER

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Ms. Margaret Hoelzer.

Ms. Hoelzer, an accomplished swimmer, recently competed in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing where she earned a Silver Medal in the women's 200m backstroke and a Bronze Medal in the women's 100m backstroke. In addition, she and her teammates were awarded a Silver Medal in the women's 4x100m medley relay. A two-time Olympian, Ms. Hoelzer also competed in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, where she placed fifth in the 200m backstroke.

While her Olympic successes are certainly impressive, Ms. Hoelzer's swimming career includes numerous other medals and honors,

both in U.S. and international competition. She is the former world record holder and world champion in the 200m backstroke. She was the silver medalist in the 200m backstroke at both the 2003 and 2005 World Championships, and she won her first U.S. national title in the 200m backstroke at the 2005 World Championship Trials.

In addition to her many accomplishments in the sport of swimming, her activities outside the pool truly distinguish Margaret Hoelzer as a champion. When she's not swimming, Ms. Hoelzer is a mentor and role model to the young people who take part in her youth swim clinics. As a motivational speaker, she takes her "if you put your mind to it, anything is possible" message of perseverance to countless children in her community. In addition, Ms. Hoelzer volunteers at the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, where she works with abused children. Upon completion of her master's degree in sociology at Auburn University, she hopes to continue her work with abused children as a psychologist.

On Thursday, September 4, 2008, Ms. Hoelzer was honored with a reception in her hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. There Ms. Hoelzer's family, friends, and community celebrated her accomplishments and contributions to the sport of swimming. I rise to join them in their tribute and to thank Ms. Hoelzer for her service to our community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report for H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

Over the last year we have read distressing reports in the newspapers of tainted pet food, toothpaste, and other products from China. These are troubling revelations, made even more disconcerting by the reports of lead tainted toys; lead is a substance which can stunt the mental and physical development of children. Toys are meant to entertain, educate, and inspire the imagination. It is greatly unsettling that some toys are not safe. In fact, some toys can seriously injure children and cause sickness. Last year, products like Barbie accessories, Thomas the Tank Engines, toy magnets, and jewelry were recalled after it was found that some of these products contained up to 200 times the legal amount of lead. Over 45 million toys and children's products were recalled in 2007 due to their danger to the health of our Nation's children. Disturbingly, the number of recalled products continues to increase. In fact, this year the number of recalls of toys and children's products is up 29 percent over the first half of 2007.

The events of the past year have demonstrated the danger that American consumers face when the government does not give regulatory agencies the tools they need in order to protect consumers from unsafe products. During this time of record product recalls, the Consumer Product Safety Commission

(CPSC), the Government agency responsible for monitoring and enforcing product safety, has been starved for resources. Since 2004, the CPSC has lost 15 percent of its workforce and now 420 people are responsible for overseeing over 15,000 types of consumer goods. This means that a single person is responsible for testing all toys at the CPSC. Leadership at the highest levels of the CPSC has been asleep at the switch and has shown little interest in addressing the serious threat that tainted toys pose to our Nation's children. This is a disservice to American children and their families, and I am pleased that we are finally taking up legislation that would help to give the CPSC the tools that it needs to keep our children and families safe.

The conference report for H.R. 4040 would help empower the CPSC to become a more effective force for regulating the consumer marketplace by increasing its budget and regulatory authority. It would protect our children by requiring the pre-market testing in certified laboratories of children's products for lead and other harmful chemicals. H.R. 4040 would ban even trace amounts of lead in any product intended for children under the age of 12, and prohibit phthalates in children's products. Phthalates are known to cause reproductive and developmental harm. This legislation would also make it easier to recall tainted products by requiring manufacturers to place distinguishing marks on products and packages. It would provide whistleblower protections for private sector employees regarding alleged violations of any CPSC-enforced product safety requirements. Finally, this bill would establish better means of communicating to consumers and States when products are recalled.

I am proud to support the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, and I urge my colleagues to support the Conference Report.

HONORING RICHARD GRIFFIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of longtime Richmond City Councilmember Richard Griffin. A tireless public servant and proud resident of the East Bay, Mr. Griffin passed away Wednesday, August 13, 2008. He was 74 years old.

Richard Griffin was born in 1934. He lived in the city of Richmond for 37 years, and served in the United States Armed Forces. Mr. Griffin served as a public school teacher and principal in Oakland before embarking on a formal political career. As an educator, he was an active union member in the United Administrators of Oakland Schools, Local 83.

Richard was a strong believer in the importance of good mentors for our young people, and an unwavering advocate for the right to a quality education for all. Richard was an excellent role model for our youth, especially African-Americans. He never tired of working to level the playing field so that the bright, young, talented students whom he taught would have the best opportunities to pursue fulfilling and successful lives.

Mr. Griffin held degrees in both chemistry and biology from San Francisco State

University. He later earned a master's degree in Education. In addition to teaching, his career included diverse experiences, such as working as a microbiologist for Schlitz Brewery and as chief chemist for General Dynamics Corporation. An expert in his field, Richard was awarded three National Science Foundation Scholarships.

He later went on to spend more than two decades tirelessly serving the residents of Richmond as an esteemed member of their city council. He was appointed to his position on the city council in 1981 to fill a vacancy. His last term ended in 2006, when he decided not to seek re-election. During his tenure on the city council, he also served as vice-mayor.

His colleagues on the Richmond City Council remember him as extremely affable, charismatic, and passionate about the needs of the constituency he represented. Residents and city employees have described him as one of the most accessible elected officials, always available to listen and reach out to residents and city agencies and interested in addressing complex issues in a hands-on and collaborative fashion.

Mr. Griffin was widely known as a champion for the rights of senior citizens and was a strong advocate of redevelopment projects which would improve access for those with special mobility needs. He was also keenly involved in the development of Richmond's crime-prevention programs. Richard understood, however, that being "tough on crime" was not enough. He aimed, instead, to protect the populace and encourage the healthy development of city neighborhoods. During the early 1980s, his support helped firmly establish the police commission, which investigates allegations of police brutality and works to ensure that every person, even those who have been accused of committing a crime, are treated humanely and with dignity.

A man of faith, Richard was a dedicated member of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. He always made time for community service and, in addition to contributing to the good work of his church, also served as the director of both the Richmond Girls Club and the Greater Richmond Social Service Corporation, respectively.

Richard was a man of great wisdom. He provided tremendous support to me when I ran for the State Senate in 1996. I am deeply grateful for his counsel, his assistance, and his friendship.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Richard Griffin. Our deepest condolences go out to his loving wife, two sons, three grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues. We thank his family for sharing this exuberant and compassionate spirit with us. May his soul rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
DENNIS M. BARRY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dennis M. Barry, as he retires as the Interim Director of Contra Costa County's Department of Conservation and Development, after 30 years of service.

Dennis M. Barry's career with the county encompasses 20 years with the Planning Department, later established as the Community Development Department, 10 years as Community Development Director, and 4 months as Interim Director of the Department of Conservation and Development.

In his role as Contra Costa County General Plan Review Program Manager in 1987, Barry led the General Plan Congress, which produced the first comprehensive update to the General Plan in over 25 years. As Director of Community Development, Barry spearheaded the Urban Limit Line through the County process including public hearings and adoption by voters. Throughout his career, Dennis M. Barry has been dedicated as a consummate planner and innovative leader.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dennis M. Barry received several awards for his service to the residents of Contra Costa County. These awards include the following: the Contra Costa County Employee of the Year in 1991, CSAC Challenge Award for the County Growth Management Program 1990, and for the Countywide General Plan in 1991; and CSAC Circle of Service Award.

Dennis M. Barry's outstanding service to Contra Costa County also included several policy changes that significantly impacted land use, housing projects and public safety. He assisted in drafting and placing Measure C on the ballot in 1990, which established the Contra Costa County 65/35 Land Preservation Plan. He drafted and brought Ordinance 96-50, Land Use Permits for Development Projects involving Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes, for hearings. Barry was involved in the formation of the Dougherty Valley General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan, which requires 25 percent of the units to be occupied by low and moderate income families.

As Dennis M. Barry retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of life for the residents of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of planning. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING PAULA BARALDI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Paula Baraldi and to congratulate her upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Baraldi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mrs. Baraldi was born and raised in Madera, California to Enrico and Armanda De Cesario. She has one younger brother, Robert. She graduated from Madera High School in 1946 and immediately began working for a public accountant. In 1951, she married Ralph Baraldi and moved to Huron, California. In 1954, they moved back to Madera. At this time, she, her husband and Louie Mariani started a redi-mix concrete plant. Her brother Robert had also opened his own business, De

Cesari Stationery. Robert was called to service in Vietnam, so they sold the redi-mix business and acquired the stationery store. Mrs. Baraldi owned and operated De Cesari Stationery for many years. She believes her success has been due to her family, friends, great customers and strong work ethic.

Mrs. Baraldi has concentrated many of her efforts in community service to ensure that Madera would continue to grow as a friendly city and a solid place to raise a family. She served as director and treasurer for the board of directors of the Madera Chamber of Commerce. She participated in the Retail Merchants and Governmental Affairs Committee. She was heavily involved in the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s. She has also been involved with the Soroptimist Club of Madera, Madera Historical Society, American Cancer Society, National Association of Republican Women, Association of Stationers, San Joaquin Paleontology Association and a member of Saint Joachim's Church.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Paula Baraldi upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Baraldi many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MURPHY,
RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael Murphy, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Michael Murphy was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the award for his dedication to the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Michael (Mike) Murphy; father of Patrick (SHP 2007), has been teaching at St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart for 16 years as a middle school teacher. Mr. Murphy was also ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 2006. As classroom teacher and deacon, Mr. Murphy has provided spiritual guidance for his students while encouraging them to examine their spiritual lives. He challenges his students to be aware of social justice issues and to engage in service learning. Through discipline, humor and hard work, Mr. Murphy makes a difference in the lives of his students. He

stepped in as interim principal for St. Joseph's for the 2007-08 school year and he accepted the role graciously and proved an effective leader for a community in need. Under his strong leadership, the St. Joseph's community reestablished many of its outreach efforts, developed a master plan for new construction and began the first year of a five-year strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Michael Murphy as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many contributions to his family and friends, and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award through his special leadership and commitment to excellence. He has established a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Michael Murphy and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING REVEREND CHARLES
BELCHER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Reverend Charles Belcher. His vibrant spirit, insatiable commitment to service, and his unwavering compassion for the human family will be sorely missed by all those who had the honor of knowing him and coming in contact with his ministry. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated man of God on August 9, 2008.

Reverend Charles Belcher was born on January 17, 1939, in Schaal, Arkansas, to his loving mother, Lottie Belcher, and her husband, the late Reverend Jim Belcher. At the young age of 5, Charles' family moved to California. Although this was in some way the adopted home of his family, the contributions Reverend Belcher and his parents made to the Greater Bay Area are humbling in their sincerity and magnitude.

Education and personal growth were always extremely important values to Reverend Belcher, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. Charles Belcher graduated with honors from El Cerrito High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Utah State University and later received a master's degree in divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He would go on to earn a prestigious PhD from Ashland Theological Seminary. Reverend Belcher married Ms. Ethel Scott with whom he had a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, Charles II. At age 57, he married Ms. Doris Denson, and his loving family grew with the addition of Doris' children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila.

Reverend Belcher was widely known as a spiritual leader with great integrity and honor. In the Bay Area he served at numerous churches, including the St. Peter CME Church in El Cerrito, the Bee Bee Memorial CME Cathedral in Oakland, and most recently the Resurrection AME Church of Richmond.

Reverend Belcher was a man of great faith and energy. He enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to serve congregations and communities throughout our Nation, bringing with him a keen empathy for the local community. His service extended to churches throughout the country including CMEs in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and Cleveland. Under the leadership of Bishop Vernon Byrd, Reverend Belcher became an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Bethel AME in San Francisco in 1997. Reverend Belcher served as the organizing pastor at two churches in California, the Upper Room Christian Church in Los Angeles and the Resurrection AME Church in Richmond. Reverend Belcher dedicated every day of his adult life to his passion for God and community development. At the time of his passing, the Reverend was serving as pastor of St. John AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Reverend Belcher fought for justice and equality for African Americans, low-income families, and communities of color, and he worked tirelessly to make this a better world. His dedication to public service throughout the Bay Area is both diverse in its capacities and remarkable in its scope. In 2001, he was elected to the Richmond City Council where he served a 4-year term. In addition to serving the city of Richmond, Reverend Belcher worked as an administrative assistant to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson. He was a member of the Peralta Community College District board and served on the board of the NAACP's Richmond branch.

I met Reverend Belcher while a student at Mills College in the early 1970s. I attended a class he taught and was amazed by his keen intellect, his deep insight, and his determination to teach and speak the truth.

The contributions Reverend Belcher made to his community throughout his life are innumerable. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities, contribute to their neighborhoods, and improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Reverend Charles Belcher. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his mother, Ms. Lottie M. Belcher, his wife, Ms. Doris Denson-Belcher, his children Kimberly and Charles II, his step-children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila, his grandchildren, and the many special members of his close and devoted family as well as his countless friends. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF DAN PACKER, CHIEF OF THE
EAST PIERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Dan Packer,

chief of the East Pierce Fire Department, who recently died in the line of duty as he was helping to save lives and property from the wildfires burning in northern California. Dan was a veteran firefighter, respected leader, wildfire expert, as well as a father and a friend to many. His service to our community and his friendship will be sorely missed.

Originally from Montana, Dan was an avid rodeo bull rider and first joined the fire service in Burien, Washington, in 1981. He began serving as chief of the fire department in Bonney Lake in 1995 and was instrumental in joining several jurisdictions into an organization now known as the East Pierce Fire District. Today, East Pierce serves over 75,000 citizens across nearly 150 square miles with the support of more than 100 firefighters and staff members and 40 volunteers. Dan Packer also served as a president of the Washington Fire Chiefs.

As a part of a Washington State-based incident response team, Chief Packer was called to service to respond to wildfires that have affected more than 600 acres of Siskiyou County in northern California. In this role, he combated the Panther Fire and was preparing to assume the duties of the division supervisor for time—battling the blazes in the Klamath National Forest near the town of Happy Camp. Reports indicate that on Saturday, July 26, 2008, while scouting the fire, flames suddenly overcame Chief Packer and, tragically, he was not able to escape.

I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the East Pierce Fire Department, the many firefighters who had the honor of serving at Dan Packer's side in both California and Washington State, and particularly to his wife, four daughters, two grandchildren, and his mother in this time of terrible grief and loss.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate International Literacy Day, a day that provides us an opportunity to assess the status of literacy and adult learning both in our country and around the world.

While much progress has been made since the first Literacy Day 42 years ago, much remains to be done. According to United Nations estimates, some 774 million adults lack minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women.

Fortunately, there are countless organizations and individuals dedicated to ensuring that every man, woman and child has an opportunity to learn basic skills. In my home state, the Ohio Literacy Network has been meeting the needs of adult learners for 21 years. Since its inception in 1987, the network has played a leading role in promoting awareness of adult literacy needs, advocating on behalf of adult learners and service providers, encouraging public-private literacy efforts and facilitating the exchange of literacy information. In short, the Ohio Literacy Network is

dedicated to building stronger communities by providing opportunities to any adult wanting to learn basic literacy skills.

I salute the Ohio Literacy Network, and similar organizations throughout the world, as they man the front lines in the battle to better the lives of individuals by improving their basic skills.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CAPTAIN RUSSELL L. SHAFFER
FROM THE UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Russell L. Shaffer, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 21 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in his service as the Department of the Navy's Director of Legislation.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1983, Captain Shaffer was commissioned in 1985. He earned his juris doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1987, and began his active duty service in the Navy JAG Corps Student Program.

He served on three occasions in the Naval Legal Service Command, as Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Service Office North Central at the Washington Navy Yard, as the Executive Officer of the Europe and Southwest Asia office in Naples, Italy, and as a prosecutor, defense counsel, and claims attorney in Norfolk, Virginia.

He also served several tours in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, as an attorney in the General Litigation Division, as the Deputy Executive Assistant to the JAG and as the Executive Assistant to the JAG.

He served as the Staff Judge Advocate for Commander, Amphibious Group TWO in Norfolk, Virginia, and for the Commander, THIRD Fleet in San Diego, California. His other assignments have included tours on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, with the Commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and as a Legislative Counsel in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

During his distinguished career, Captain Shaffer earned master of laws in environmental law from the George Washington University in 1996 and he has been an active member of the Ohio Bar. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, 3 awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, 5 awards, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation, 2 awards, and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Captain Shaffer that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank him and his family for his honorable service to our Nation in the United States Navy. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished naval career.

HONORING WILLA DELLUMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most inspiring and compassionate individuals in the rich and vibrant history of Oakland, California. On Sunday, August 17, 2008, Willa Dellums, the mother of my dear friend and predecessor in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, passed away at the age of 89. Although Willa lived a full and beautiful life, this is a tremendous loss to our community. Her presence will be sorely missed.

Willa Mae Terry was born December 11, 1918 to the union of Willie Terry and Estelle Poole in Houston, Texas. Willa was the youngest of three children born to this union, including siblings Bessie Blount and James Terry, who preceded her in death. At the age of 5, her parents moved west to California in search of a better life.

Willa lived in Oakland for 85 years, where she was known for her independence, ease of making friends, and unlimited kindness. Her compassion was one of strength, however, and she became equally known for her bravery and steadfast resiliency.

Willa Dellums was the first African American to be hired at the J.C. Penney store in downtown Oakland, California. Full of determination and resolute, Willa eventually became a clerk in Oakland's central government offices. Daily, Willa was faced with the incredible challenges of being a woman of color at a time when the glass ceilings of racism and sexism were blatant and unapologetic. Rather than cower in the face of harrowing prejudice, Willa used every challenge as an opportunity to reinforce her strong character, morals, and humanity toward others.

Willa, who was unable to attend college, was an unwavering advocate of the importance of education. She closely mentored her children throughout their school age years, and was a constant advocate for their continued learning and growth, even when they were well into their careers and were successful leaders in their own right. Throughout their lives, her children continuously credited Willa with instilling a sense of pride and responsibility in them. Many other members of our community, including myself, were also able to look up to Willa to solidify these values within our lives—in this way, we were all members of her family.

Mrs. Dellums was my friend and confidant for many years. She guided me through many troubling moments in my life. I will always remember her as a kind and brilliant woman who was non judgmental, yet totally honest with her feedback and insights. We talked for hours on the telephone and I was always amazed at her energy and clarity.

I have many personal wonderful memories of Mrs. D. She knew I needed more exercise and invited me to walk with her on many occasions. Those walks were invigorating. She walked very fast and I could hardly keep up with her. After our walks we'd go eat, and my last meal with her was at a sandwich shop on Lakeshore Boulevard. We both had half a sandwich and a cup of soup.

One day we went to the farmer's market at Jack London Square and then drove around

West Oakland. I drove by her former home on Wood Street where she raised her son Ron and daughter Theresa. I told her that I thought this house should be designated as an historic site and she was excited about the idea.

Mrs. D. loved to travel. Oftentimes she would invite me to go with her and Theresa on one of their adventures in far off lands, generally on a boat cruise. My one regret is that my life was so hectic, I could never find the time for a vacation. She always wanted me to slow down and take a break, and it was out of her love and concern that she recognized I needed more rest and balance in my life.

Many have spoken of Mrs. D's culinary abilities. She was a wonderful cook and I loved her chili. Some of my most fond memories are going by her house, eating chili and looking at photo albums. I have had the privilege to visit many countries, primarily on official business, and would take photo albums of these trips to Mrs. D. She was especially interested in the ones from Africa and Israel.

There are very few people who have touched my life in such a magnificent manner. Mrs. Dellums was a shining light in my life and was a great role model for me and other African American women. She was brilliant, kind, sensitive, loving and tough.

It is with deep sorrow, yet gratitude that we say good-bye to Mrs. Willa Dellums. However, her legacy lives through her loving children, Mayor Ron Dellums and Ms. Theresa Simmons. Countless Oaklanders benefited from her love and mentorship and on their behalf, I say thank you.

Mrs. Dellums was married to Vernie Dellums for 43 years. He preceded her in death in 1978. Our deepest condolences go out to her children Ron and Theresa, grandchildren, and her entire family.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I salute the incredible life of this remarkable and courageous woman. May her soul rest in peace.

HONORING DARWIN SHEBELUT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Darwin Shebelut and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Shebelut was honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Shebelut was born on August 8, 1920, in Madera, California. He graduated from Madera High School in 1938 as the senior class president. After high school he attended Stanford University and received a degree in mechanical engineering. He also served in the United States Army for 4 years during World War II. Upon returning to Madera, Mr. Shebelut became a businessman and an opportunist. His father owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership in Madera that he eventually took over. Under his leadership the dealership grew to include Oldsmobile and Toyota. Mr. Shebelut purchased 182 acres of subdivided land in what is now the center of

Madera. He formed a water company through the public utilities commission and developed the area into a residential and commercial area. He built Madera's first shopping center in 1954 on that land. During the late 1970s Mr. Shebelut purchased 50 more acres of land and rezoned the area to include residential, multiple housing and commercial properties. He developed another shopping center and was the co-owner of an adjacent apartment complex. He also owned and operated the Credit Bureau during the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Shebelut was the president and director of American Standard Life Insurance Company, was the director of the Northern California Automobile Dealers Association for 20 years and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Outside of owning and operating numerous businesses, Mr. Shebelut was very involved in the community. He served the city of Madera as a director of the development agency and in the early 1950s he served as a Madera City councilman. In the County of Madera he served as a director of the joint development agency, commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Commission and was the director for 18 years of the Transportation Authority. He served as the director for numerous organizations, including Madera Businessmen's Association, Madera Industrial Development Corporation and Boy Scouts of America Sequoia Council. He has served as trustee for the University of California, San Francisco's Fresno Foundation, California-Nevada Methodist Homes and Hospitals, San Joaquin River Conservation Trust and the Queen of the Valley High School. Mr. Shebelut was one of the founders of Madera Community Hospital in 1964 and later served as a trustee and chairman of the board. He has also been involved in Madera Noon Rotary for 42 years (and served as president), Elks Lodge 1918 (charter member), the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Fresno Chapter International Wine and Food Society, Fresno Chapter of Skat International, Fresno Owls Club and Madera Golf and Country Club (member of organizing group).

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Darwin Shebelut upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Shebelut many years of continued success.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND
CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Chairman OBERSTAR of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working with the Science and Technology Committee in such a cooperative and constructive manner on this bill, and I will insert an exchange of letters between the committees into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 3957, the "Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act." This legislation authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a research and development program to promote water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices.

H.R. 3957 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3957.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3957 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.
Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your July 22, 2008 letter regarding H.R. 3957, the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 3957. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3957 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD S. CHAMPION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and achievements of a great military officer and constituent of the Sixth District of Maryland—LTC Donald S. Champion. After over 29 years of long and distinguished service Colonel Champion will retire from his present position as Chief, Congressional Outreach Program in the Office of Air Force Reserve, Policy Integration Directorate, AF/REI, Pentagon, Washington DC. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has been responsible for all legislative outreach as well as all legislative matters concerning Reserve Plans and Programs and Operations for the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command.

Colonel Champion graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University receiving a bachelor of arts degree in communications and public relations. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1979. He attended undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California. Following graduation he attended F-4 Replacement Training Unit at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, where he was a distinguished graduate. In 1984 he was selected to attend undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

After earning his wings he attended lead-in fighter training at Hollman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he was selected as Air to Air Top Gun. He was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia following training to fly the F-15C. There he served as a flight commander. He returned to the training world where he served as a T-37 Instructor Pilot at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He went on to become a T-38 instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Champion was consistently recognized for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has served as a liaison to the United States Congress where he well and faithfully represented the Air Force Reserve to the House and Senate. He was personally helpful to me and my staff during his tenure on the Reserve Staff at the Pentagon. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Colonel Champion, and his daughters Kelsey and Lindsay, for their commitment and sacrifices made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an outstanding and successful career in service to our great Country.

HONORING ASBAREZ NEWSPAPER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Asbarez newspaper upon the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Asbarez newspaper began publication in August of 1908 in Fresno, California. The publication began as a weekly paper that was committed to providing news and information to the Armenian-American community. In 1908, the focus of this community was the instability of the homeland. Throughout the years, Asbarez has reported on the ever-changing, and fragile, conditions of the Republic of Armenia. The paper covered the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, the triumph of the first independent republic, the growing pains of a community, the catastrophic earthquake, the fall of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-Karabakh liberation struggle, the rise of the independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the realities of the people of Javakhk in southern Georgia. Asbarez provides news, information, commentary, criticism, and thought.

On May 1, 1970, Asbarez began publishing its English section. During the early 1970s the offices and publishing headquarters moved to Los Angeles. Today, Asbarez is the largest and only bilingual newspaper serving the 750,000 plus Armenian-Americans in the western United States. It is published five times per week, Tuesday through Saturday. The newspaper also serves as voice for the community and is a source of information for Congress, libraries around the Nation and newsrooms of major media outlets. In 1997 Asbarez launched its Web site, keeping Armenians even more up to date with the issues that interest them the most. Asbarez has become a trusted source for news about the evolving Armenian realities.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Asbarez newspaper on 100 years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Asbarez newspaper many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB THOMAS, SR.

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw our colleagues' attention to a gentleman and outstanding citizen who has demonstrated that long-term success is possible in America if one has a vision and is willing to work hard to turn it into reality. This gentleman has also devoted himself to the principles we celebrate here in our country—freedom to build a successful business, and loyalty to family and community.

Today I pay special recognition and honor to Bob Thomas, Sr., of Baker County, OR, a genuine "up by the bootstraps" livestock producer who never lost his vision for what the Angus cattle breed could become; a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, with whom he raised four very successful children; a leader

in his church, community, and industry—and a gentleman whose friends and neighbors have always been able to rely on.

Bob and Gloria moved to the Baker Valley of picturesque eastern Oregon in the early 1960's from New York, via Iowa. With them came their treasured seed stock for their line of Angus beef cattle. In the winter, Gloria fed the cows with young son Rob in the pickup. Bob was also working as a sales representative for Powder River Equipment, selling gates and ranch equipment to supplement their ranch income. They worked very hard to achieve their dream—a high quality herd of registered Angus cattle.

Their first purebred Angus sale was held in October, 1973 and throughout the years Bob and Gloria always made everyone feel like they were special to them because, in fact, they were special to them. Now, nearly 35 years later, that same high quality Angus breeding stock is sold in a 2-day sale in October, as well as a spring sale in March.

The Thomas family still shows the same hospitality and personal attention today as they did at their very first sale. Following in the footprints of Bob and Gloria, son Rob and his wife Lori continue the Thomas tradition as highly respected leaders in their industry and community. They maintain the same unwavering commitment to the high quality of their Angus line and service.

Madam Speaker, I want to especially honor Bob for his many years of dedication to and support of the people of Baker County and the rural way of life in eastern Oregon. His fellow citizens greatly appreciate his high principles, commitment to high quality and standards, and his friendship. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Bob Thomas, Sr.

CONGRATULATING POLLY TADLOCK ON BEING THE NAMESAKE OF POLLY TADLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Polly Tadlock of Frisco, TX for her many contributions as an educator in the North Texas area and Frisco Independent School District. Mrs. Tadlock was recently chosen as the namesake of Polly Tadlock Elementary School, a new facility in Frisco ISD.

Frisco ISD recommended the naming of a new facility for a former employee whose contributions have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Tadlock has been noted for going above the call of duty with her willingness to help her students inside and outside of the classroom. She is known for following her students as they left the classroom and entered adulthood, creating lifelong relationships. According to Polly, "the lifelong relationships with students are the greatest rewards of all." Mrs. Tadlock taught for a total of 24 years in the North Texas area. She served the district of Frisco from 1968 to 1989, when she decided to retire.

Mrs. Tadlock was born in Ponder, TX, later moving to Fort Worth to continue her education. After receiving her bachelor's and mas-

ter's from Texas Women's University, Mrs. Tadlock began her teaching career in Pilot Point, TX, later spending the majority of her 24 years as an educator in the Frisco Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Mrs. Tadlock, whose dedication to the students and families of Frisco has made her truly deserving of such an honor. Her devotion to her community serves as an inspiration and as an example to us all, and I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Polish American Congress. On September 28, 2008, The Polish American Congress will hold a "Terrorist Attack Memorial Service" to honor and commemorate the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, as well as pay a tribute to those who perished on September 11, 2001.

In addition to carrying out the overall mission of the Polish American Congress, the New Jersey Division chooses to hold a memorial for the victims of both the Katyn Forest Massacre and the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. The Katyn Forest Massacre occurred during World War 2 as a result of the Soviet Union's persecution of thousands during the communist era. The September 11th attacks on the United States claimed more than 3,000 lives. The New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress has taken it as their mission to commemorate the lives lost in both incidents.

The Polish American Congress is an umbrella organization, with over 3,000 clubs that exist to serve various levels and aspects of the Polish communities of the United States. They promote different areas of education and cultural programs to further the knowledge of Polish history, as well as to stimulate Polish American involvement in their community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the leadership, commitment, and service that the Polish American Congress has demonstrated in their existence throughout the community.

HONORING SISTER JOAN FOLEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Joan Foley, who is the recipient of the Seven Springs Rotary Club's prestigious Paul Harris Award. Sister Foley has always put service above self in a lifelong commitment and passion to helping the communities around her.

Sister Foley joined the Medical Mission Sisters in 1954 to help solve health care issues in lesser-developed parts of the world. She began her mission in Pakistan, where she supervised a busy clinical lab and trained many

young Pakistanis. Sister Foley later became involved in several community health care networks focusing on rural and minority populations in the United States. She then served for 6 years as the Coordinator of Medical Mission Sister's Eastern District and currently is the Sector Coordinator in North America.

In 1991, Sister Foley sought out a new mission in Florida's Pasco County. She saw a need to help local jobseekers find employment regardless of age, income, background, or education. Sister Foley first started the Connections program in her car to help individuals manage their job search and connect with area employers. Today, the program has grown substantially but still offers free one-on-one assistance and many other resources to jobseekers. Sister Foley stepped down as director of Connections this past spring; however, her vision will continue to enrich the community.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Sister Foley's mission that has improved the lives of people all over the world. For nearly 20 years she has made Pasco County a better place by providing new hopes and better futures. The Paul Harris Award is a wonderful recognition of her hard work and devotion.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN ROBBIANO, RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano, a dear friend and a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Mary Anne Robbiano was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mother of three adult children, Kay (SHP 1972), Paul, and Angie (SHP 1976), Mrs. Robbiano began her relationship with Sacred Hearts Schools when her oldest daughter entered kindergarten in 1960. She was the school nurse from 1968 until 1976, and dealt with many different problems and situations including comforting homesick, boarders, tending to skinned knees, broken bones, colds and flues. Each child was treated as if she were her own daughter. Oakwood, the home for the retired Religious of the Sacred Heart, was built in 1976 and Mrs. Robbiano was asked to be

the Director of Nursing at the Oakwood Infirmary. Her philosophy was to treat each woman with respect and dignity. Since her retirement in 1990, she remains dedicated to Oakwood by volunteering her time to the nuns through the Oakwood Auxiliary and the Children of Mary. She and her husband Paul celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at the Oakwood Chapel in September 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano as she is given the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her countless contributions to her family and friends, and most especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned this Award. Her hard work and commitment to excellence are a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and live on in the life of every student who has come through its distinguished halls. Her deep faith and the practice of it have inspired everyone who knows her. Our community and our country have been bettered because of Mary Ann Robbiano and I consider it a privilege to know her and honor her.

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN
DOOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

In April 1958, Marie Faulkner Brown, daughter of Congregational minister Rev. Dr. William F. Faulkner, sought to fulfill a specific need of her Congregational background through spiritual guidance. She called together a group of 10 people with a Congregational denominational background similar to hers to discuss the possibility of forming an interracial Congregational church in Miami.

The small group continued to meet regularly and chose the name, Congregational Christian Fellowship. The superintendent of the Florida Conference, Rev. Dr. Robbins Ralph was impressed with the honesty and eloquence of this beginning group and appointed Dr. Wiley Scott, pastor of Miami Beach Community Church, to chair a steering committee that provided leadership for the group from local Congregational ministers. Superintendent Ralph and Dr. Scott were instrumental in sharing their favorable impression of this beginning church with the national church. The national church was generous with funds to buy a parsonage on Northwest 9th Avenue, and subsidized the group for 5 years. It also gave financial support to purchase the property where the church is now located, the current edifice and the family life center. The group began meeting in the Florida room of Dr. Kelsey L. Pharr and later moved to Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Union Academy for Sunday morning worship services.

The name Church of the Open Door, Congregational, was voted on September 20, 1959. The church was incorporated on September 28, 1959, with 75 charter members. The first interim pastor, a Congregational minister, was Rev. Dr. Charles Wicks. Rev. Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, a missionary to Angola, West Africa, for 40 years, served as the founding pastor. The current pastor, who previously served as pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Maryland, is Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Throughout the past 50 years, the clergy and members have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality, service, and guidance to the church and greater community of Miami, Florida. It is my hope the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

HONORING MONTE PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Monte Pistoresi and to congratulate him upon being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pistoresi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Monte Pistoresi attended school in Chowchilla, California, and graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1960 with a business administration degree. Upon graduating, he entered into the United States Army. In 1963, he began to work for his family's Chevrolet dealership in Chowchilla. The dealership had one ambulance that was used to provide services to the Chowchilla area. Mr. Pistoresi helped to drive the ambulance on emergency calls. In 1981, the dealership closed, but he was the successful bidder for the city of Madera ambulance contract. By 1982, the company had 3 ambulances and 10 employees. Today, Pistoresi Ambulance has been serving Madera for 26 years and has 8 ambulances and 45 employees.

Mr. Pistoresi is always giving back to the community, everything from umpiring Little League baseball games to his involvement in the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Madera Community Hospital Foundation from 1990 to 1998, and on the board of trustees for the hospital from 1998 to 2008. Mr. Pistoresi is a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Elks, Madera NAACP, Madera County Emergency Medical Care Community, Women's Prison Citizen Advisory Board, and the city of Madera Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Pistoresi also donates time and money to Children's Hospital Central California. Due to his involvement in the community, he has received many awards and recognitions including the Madera Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the

Year, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Madera Elks and Kiwanis Distinguished Citizenship Award, and the Martin Luther King Committee Humanitarian Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Monte Pistoresi upon being awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pistoresi many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT A. HAND'S
25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Bob Hand for his 25 years of untiring service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Bob joined the Commission's professional staff on August 1, 1983, though his human rights advocacy work began years earlier and included a stint as an intern with the Commission. A man of deep principles and convictions, Bob has approached each challenge with determination and diligence.

Driven by a quiet passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, Bob helped compile lists of individuals denied their fundamental freedoms by regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His work in promoting free market principles and protection of the environment included efforts specifically aimed at encouraging individual entrepreneurs and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations. A case in point was his active role in defending environmental activists during the 1989 Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, an event that paved the way for the ouster of the Bulgarian dictatorship. Bob played a leading role in preparations for the 1990 Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe, an historic East-West meeting that embraced key principles, such as rights to private property and the importance of the rule of law in the economic sphere, among others.

For more than two decades, Bob has served as the Commission's point person for the Balkans region. He was an early advocate of raising human rights concerns with Belgrade when Yugoslavia was still included among the ranks of the Neutral and Non-Aligned countries. A keen analyst of developments in the Balkans, Bob began drawing attention to potential flash points like Kosovo long before others. He volunteered to be deployed as an expert on the Mission to Kosovo, Sanjak, and Vojvodina fielded by the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the early 1990s. With his able assistance, the Helsinki Commission remained at the forefront of efforts to uphold Bosnia's right to self defense in the face of armed aggression and genocide. He has persistently worked to document the human toll suffered by victims, among them those who perished during the massacre at Srebrenica, and to press for

apprehension of indicted war criminals like Ratko Mladić, who remain at large. Elsewhere in the region, Bob has worked particularly hard to promote democracy, human rights and rule of law in Albania, a country he first visited in 1990. Beyond his responsibilities monitoring developments in the Balkans region, Bob ably serves as secretary for the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Bob Hand for his faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

HONORING ANGELO DESORBO ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the West Haven community in wishing a very special happy birthday to Angelo DeSorbo who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Angelo DeSorbo might best be known as the gentleman selling plants and flowers at “Kimberly Open-Air Market on the corner of Ella Grasso Boulevard and Kimberly Avenue in New Haven—a vocation he has enjoyed for more than 65 years. Kind-hearted and generous with a smile, Mr. DeSorbo is well-known throughout the community and has become a good friend to many of his customers. Even today, though he sometimes has difficulty walking, he is driven to his stand every morning, weather permitting. He may be celebrating his centennial anniversary, but Angelo DeSorbo is still young at heart and spry of spirit. In the decades that he has been at the “Kimberly Open-Air Market,” Mr. DeSorbo has become a New Haven institution—a community treasure.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Mr. DeSorbo's life. Over the years, he has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. Living standards have blossomed for most Americans as technology has altered some of our most basic expectations. Indeed he can take pride in having participated in some of the most exciting times in our history, and can look forward to the progress of the new millennium.

I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Angelo DeSorbo and to join his daughter, Adelaide; her husband, Michael; his two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. Mr. DeSorbo has left an indelible mark on our community and I wish him many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE SACRAMENTO
CHINESE COMMUNITY SERVICE
CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center for 30 years of service to immigrants, refugees, and disadvantaged groups in the Sacramento area.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center was founded in 1978 to aid newly arrived Chinese immigrants in dealing with the myriad challenges of immigration and cultural adaptation. Over the last few years, its programs have expanded to help other non-Chinese immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups that call Sacramento home including those of Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Russian descent.

The SCCSC assists more than 4,000 clients each year, including 2,400 children in their after school programs. It offers 26 programs, including youth mentoring and counseling, employment assistance, translation, transportation and home health visits for senior citizens, parenting workshops, job skill workshops and paid work experience, and citizenship classes.

The SCCSC has received recognition for its successes, including having received the Gloria Rose Memorial Grant Award from the United Way California Capitol Region for being an agency which achieves outstanding results, and works towards building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. The SCCSC has also received the Spirit of Mentoring Award from the California Mentor Foundation for providing an exemplary community-based mentor program.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center upon the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and express my gratitude to the center for providing essential services and support to new immigrants, citizens, refugees, at-risk youth, senior citizens, and others in need. The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center has provided the community with a wide array of opportunities, and I wish its leaders the best of luck as they continue in their service.

HONORING ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT ALEX JIMENEZ

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor, salute, and pay tribute to one of our brave fallen soldiers.

Army Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez went to Iraq for the first time in 2005. Already fluent in Spanish, he quickly taught himself Arabic and became a translator for fellow soldiers who needed to communicate with the Iraqi people they had been sent there to protect. Army officials always praised his leadership and strength.

Alex took pride in the Army and his responsibilities as a soldier. He once told his cousin, “Honestly, I signed the contract, and it doesn't matter what my opinion is. I just think about the guy to my left and the guy to my right making it home. That's all I care about.” He recognized the importance of his duties, writing, “I believe that in the United States Army, I may reach my goals which are—making positive differences, bringing peace to the innocent, and making justice my duty as a U.S. soldier.”

Without a doubt, Alex achieved all of these goals.

Without a doubt, Alex made his family, his army, and his hometown community of Corona, Queens very proud.

And, without a doubt, Alex's services to our country was honorable and distinguished.

Sadly, however, on May 12, 2007, Alex Jimenez, along with six of his fellow soldiers, was patrolling a deserted highway south of Baghdad, looking for insurgents planting roadside bombs, when he and the group came under fire. Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, who was on his second tour in Iraq, Specialist Byron Fouty, and Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr. were taken prisoner.

The four soldiers who died in the attack were Sergeant Anthony J. Schober, Private First Class Daniel W. Courneya, Private Christopher E. Murphy, and Sergeant First Class James D. Connell, all of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr.'s body was recovered on May 23, 2007.

The Queens community mourned for the loss of Alex's fellow soldiers and, together, we prayed for the safe return of Alex and Byron. Despite our wishing and hoping for the best, the bodies of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron W. Fouty were found on July 8, 2008.

So many worked tirelessly to bring Alex home, and the Queens community and Alex's family are so appreciative and grateful for their efforts. Because now, we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Alex one more time and to lay his body to rest.

As a parent, I know that this loss will stay with Sergeant Jimenez's family forever. But, I hope that in some small way, Alex Jimenez's parents have some relief now that they finally have the opportunity to lay their son to rest. Those closest to him will always remember his love for music and his family, and his loyalty as a soldier and friend. I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathies to the family of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, and thank them for their sacrifice for our country.

I would like to close my remarks by reading a few pieces of the U.S. Army Soldier's Creed, which exemplifies the type of person Staff Sergeant Jimenez was; a man who loved his family and his country.

I am a Warrior, and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.

HONORING WILL G. BASS, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. of Oakland, CA. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated leader and dedicated man of God on July 19, 2008.

Will G. Bass, Jr. was born on May 25, 1939 in Gilbert, LA. His parents were the late Will and Ivory Cameron Bass, and he was baptized under the leadership of Reverend R.N. Teats in the Cuba Baptist Church at a very early age. He remained an active member of this congregation until moving to California as an adult.

Education and personal growth were important values to Mr. Bass, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. As a young man in Louisiana, Will attended and graduated from Franklin Parish Training School. He later graduated with a degree in Business from Grambling University before moving to California where he met and married Ms. Betty J. Dobson on August 6, 1960. Theirs was a loving union which spanned almost five decades and produced two children, DiLeen and Nelda. A family man, Will honored and cherished these three women, and it was very clear to his friends and community that his favorite pastime was spending time with his family, which continued to grow in size and compassion throughout the years.

A dedicated advocate for the prosperous development of his adopted community in California, Will was widely known as an astute businessman. He was the Founder and President of the Integrated Technology Group (ITG), which provides services as an information technology and business assistance firm, as well as a land consultant. As a result of Will's ingenuity, creativity, and personal drive, ITG was involved in some of the major and historic development projects in the Greater Bay Area. This included the 1 billion dollar Hunters Point Shipyard Development Project and the 1.3 billion dollar Oakland Airport Expansion Project.

Will Bass was a man of many talents and accomplishments, reflective of the great diversity and innovation present in the East Bay, where the 9th Congressional District lies. Among one of Will's many great personal attributes was his astute ability to think globally, while acting locally. He was able to foresee major international trends in a way that pushed opportunities for Oakland to the forefront and developed new frontiers for my constituency. An example of this was his pioneering accomplishment as the first African American businessman in the Bay Area to be substantially involved in trade with Russia, China, and South Africa. When my esteemed colleague in the Senate, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN, was Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Bass accompanied her to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, west Africa to establish the San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee. This was the first time an African city had been engaged in a sister city endeavor with San Francisco.

Will Bass was a Founding Member and Past President of the 100 Black Men of the Bay

Area, Inc. He served on the Board of Trustees of Allen Temple Baptist Church, and was a Founding Member, Treasurer and Board Member of the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce. Will was also a Founding Member of the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the boards of the American Institute of Ethics, the Westside Health Center, and a host of other organizations.

The contributions Will made to his community throughout his life are endless. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities. Thanks to his inspiration, they now contribute to their neighborhoods and work to improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Mr. Will G. Bass, Jr. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Mrs. Betty Bass, his daughters, DiLeen Dean and Nelda Jacobs, his sisters, Bernice Bass and Estelle Bass Harnage, his brother, Lannie Bass, his aunts, Pearl Shaw, Neicie Scott, and Roberta Cameron. He is also survived by his grandchildren Quianna, Annaque, Kameron, Niah and Savana Dean, and Trenton Jacobs, and his nieces and nephews, Ivory Bass, Yyanisha Gregory, Jamie Harnage, Marcus Bass, Chonsae Bass, and Jason Harnage. May his soul rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY OF SORROWS CHURCH

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, in Fairfax, VA.

Saint Mary of Sorrows Church was the first Catholic Church in Fairfax County. The original church was erected by Irish immigrants in 1858 and is still in use today.

Throughout its history, St Mary's has been a sanctuary not only for its parishioners but for any person in need of help. During the Civil War, the church and its grounds were used as a field hospital for soldiers wounded from the Second Battle of Manassas and the engagement near Chantilly. Clara Barton, who later founded the Red Cross, was among those who provided medical care. The church also sacrificed some of the wooden pews for firewood while treating those wounded from battle.

Because of St. Mary's distinguished history and devotion to helping those in need, it is registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1961, the American Red Cross, in conjunction with the Virginia State Historical Commission, placed a plaque on the church memorializing Clara Barton's work at St. Mary's.

During the past 150 years, Saint Mary of Sorrows Church has grown to over 3,000 fam-

ilies and added a second, larger church building. St. Mary's continues to serve its fellow citizens through many social ministry programs including support for members of the armed forces, the homeless, the disabled and the impoverished.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Saint Mary of Sorrows Church on its 150th anniversary. It has been a role model for community service throughout its history. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding St. Mary's for its past accomplishments and in wishing them the best of luck in the many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN THOMPSON
RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ken Thompson, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Ken Thompson was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for his dedication to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Mr. Thompson arrived at Sacred Heart Schools in January 1989 as a long-term substitute physical education instructor at St. Joseph's. An Honors graduate in mathematics from UC Berkeley, as well as a former Cal basketball star, he was hired the following year to serve as the Sacred Heart Prep Athletic Director and to coach basketball and teach math. Three years later, he moved full-time into the academic world as SHP Math Chair, where he markedly strengthened the department and demonstrated the leadership that would lead him to be named Dean of Faculty in 2002. Two years later, he became Academic Dean, a position he has filled with extraordinary intelligence, conscientiousness, and diplomacy. The classic Renaissance Man, Ken is also an actor and a singer. He currently directs and writes musical arrangements for two a cappella groups on campus, one for faculty men and one for both faculty and students. Since the winter of 2005, he has waged a valiant war against leukemia, providing a model of courage and fortitude to the entire Sacred Heart community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Ken Thompson as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many

contributions to his family and friends and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and through his special leadership and commitment to excellence, he has built a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Ken Thompson and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING BERNARD JARVIS
ROBINSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Bernard "Jake" Robinson and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Robinson will be honored at a reception on Thursday August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Jake Robinson was born on August 19, 1933 in Arkansas. Mr. Robinson was born during a time of great societal barriers, and continually worked to overcome those barriers. As a child he loved to play basketball, and even fabricated a make-shift hoop. As a freshman in high school he wanted to play, but was told that he was not good enough. He continued to practice with his hoop and as a sophomore he made the basketball team at Scipio A. Jones High School. The team was unbeatable and Mr. Robinson was awarded All-State, All-Regional and All-American honors. He was the first African American in Arkansas to make the All-Star basketball team. After high school he continued to play basketball in college at Arkansas AM and N College.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Robinson went to work for Forehand Motors washing cars. He quickly moved up the ladder and became a parts manager. Mr. Robinson was the only African American in management in the Northern Division of General Motors. During his career he received numerous accolades and awards for his commitment to excellence from General Motors. He retired after 39 years. His commitment to his career was equal to his commitment to his community.

Mr. Robinson served 17 years on the Board of Trustees of Madera Unified School District. The B.J. Robinson Gymnasium at Thomas Jefferson Middle School was erected as a tribute to his dedicated service. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, worked on the Citizens Committee for Measure E, is a former member of the Madera Linkage Foundation, involved with the NAACP and an advocate for youth athletics. He worked tirelessly to see the completion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and successfully lobbied to have the canal by the school covered for the safety of the students and neighborhood.

Due to his endless efforts, Madera High School honored Mr. Robinson as the Grand Marshall for the 1999 Homecoming Parade and Football game. Martin Luther King, Jr Middle School named him as Humanitarian of the Year in 1995. He was recognized by Kiwanis

International for Distinguished Service for 1999–2000. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were named as the Couple of the Year in 1988 during Black History Month and received the NAACP's Curtis Collier Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Bernard "Jake" Robinson upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Robinson many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB
WAYNE THORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great community activist, excellent farmer and friend, Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton of Van Alstyne, Texas.

Bob Thorton was a fourth-generation farmer, working land in Grayson and Collin counties for more than 65 years. Though he could do just about anything from carpentry to plumbing, he loved farming the most. The Thortons were leaders in the farming industry, as they were the first to bring in equipment, the first to mechanize their operations and usually the first to help another farmer get past a rough spot with the loan of money and equipment. As a result of his many contributions, Bob was named Collin County's Conservationist Farmer of the Year in 1986.

Bob was a community activist most of his life, but unless one had firsthand knowledge of his activities, his achievements would have gone unknown because he was such a humble individual. He was one of the original members of the American Agriculture Movement, a grassroots organization to help farmers become involved with government, politics and the public policy that affects their livelihoods, and served as National Vice President and 3 years as National President. He spent many years lobbying at the state and national levels, during which time he participated in the 1979 "tractor-cade" that rolled into Washington, DC, more than 6,000 tractors strong. He was a founding member and president of South Grayson Water Supply, a charter member of the Hurricane Creek Country Club, and served on the Van Alstyne Library Board. Through his political activist endeavors, Bob became friends with several elected representatives, such as former U.S. Sen. John Tower, former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and Secretary of Agriculture John Block. Because of Willie Nelson's support of family farmers, Bob and Nelson also became good friends.

Bob is survived by daughters Sheryl Priest of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Brenda Baggett of Friendswood and Linda Wood of Van Alstyne, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister JoAnn Cavender of Van Alstyne. He was one who believed in family and held his family heritage as a life-time priority.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such an honest man and humble public servant. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate the life of Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton.

HONORING PRAIRIE CREEK
GREENWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Prairie Creek Greenway in Platte County, MO. On September 8, 2008, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) Dedication and Tour of Missouri Watch Event is publicly announcing Prairie Creek Greenway as the only trail in Missouri to receive NRT designation this year. This distinguished award is one of the highest honors a local government can receive for a trail project.

I would also like to recognize and thank the Platte County Commissioners: Betty Knight, Jim Plunkett, and Tom Pryor. Due to their constant work and dedication, they truly made the Prairie Creek Greenway a success and an asset to the community. The creation of this trail in Platte County will help preserve the natural beauty of Missouri.

This honor for the Prairie Creek Greenway would not have been possible without the help of private partnerships between the county, developers, and homes association connected to the Greenway. I applaud the effort and devotion that has been put into this trail in Platte County, MO and commend the recognition of the Greenway.

CONGRATULATING THE WAR IN
THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK ON ITS 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. In August 1978, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park was established by Public Law 95–348 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices of those involved in the Pacific Theater of World War II and to preserve the historic sites on Guam. As we join together for this celebration, let us also remember the Park's mission to preserve a unique story in American history that strives to honor not only the courage of our liberators, but the patriotism of the liberated.

For the past 30 years, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park has preserved seven units on Guam. These units include battlefields, trenches, gun emplacements, and historic structures throughout the island. Because of the diligent efforts made by the National Park Service to preserve the story of the occupation and liberation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944, visitors are able to learn about the battle for Guam by visiting sites at the Asan Bay Overlook, Agat Beach Unit and Ga'an Point, Asan Beach Unit, Fonte Plateau Unit, Mt. Alifan Unit, Mt. Chachao/Mt. Tenjo Unit, and Piti Guns Unit.

During this 30th anniversary, we are especially honored to commend the National Park Service for the 2008 restoration project of the

Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook. Inscribed on the Memorial Wall are the names of the thousands of individuals, liberators who died in the battle for Guam, and the liberated who died or suffered injury, forced labor, forced march and internment during the occupation of Guam. Through this restoration project, the National Park Service has ensured that our island will have this lasting monument to honor and remember Guam's greatest generation.

We commend the National Park Service on the reopening of the T. Stell Newman Visitors Center. In 2002, the Visitors Center, formerly located in Piti, was destroyed by Super-typhoon Pongsona, but has since been restored for the public at its new location in Sumay. This restoration was made possible through a successful partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy.

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park is an extraordinary way for the people of Guam and our fellow Americans to recognize the history of Guam and the battles in the Pacific Theater. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park for a successful 30 years of service to our island and our Nation and I wish them continued success in the decades to come.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY to honor a local hero from Santa Rosa, CA. Benny Friedman, a beloved philanthropist and the founder of Friedman's Home Improvement, passed away on July 9, 2008, at the age of 90, after a life that touched and inspired many.

"If we don't have it, you don't need it," the famous Friedman's slogan, is typical of Benny's way of doing business—with both humor and the needs of his customers in mind. And profits from the business were used to enhance the community through promotion and support of local organizations.

Born in 1918 to a Russian Jewish family that had fled the pogroms, Benny worked hard throughout his youth. After his father's death, he left high school to support the family, learning about the hardware business by working in Mike Cohen's store. In 1940, he married Rosemary Zittin, a Russian immigrant, and shortly thereafter enlisted with his brother Joe to fight in World War II.

After the war, the brothers purchased a junkyard in Petaluma and were later joined by their younger brother Harry. Over the decades, the business grew, thanks to the brothers' philosophy of working hard and treating everyone, customers and employees, with fairness and respect. During this time, their children and grandchildren joined the business, and today there are stores in Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Ukiah.

Benny retired 20 years ago but continued to delight family, friends, and community with his warmth, humor, and good spirits. His wife Rosemary died in 2001, and in 2006, he mar-

ried Irene, whom he had met at the senior lodge where they both lived.

In Santa Rosa, Benny will be remembered as the co-founder of the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, now one of Sonoma's County major venues. With his wife Rosemary and brother Joe, he built the Friedman Center, a community hall at Congregation Beth Ami. He donated generously to other local causes, giving back to the community which had enabled an impoverished immigrant to achieve success for himself and his family.

Benny is survived by his wife Irene, his brother Harry, his children Bill Friedman and Debbie Chapman, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Benny Friedman's life is an example for all of us that hard work, honesty, and caring for others lead to success. But Benny went far beyond that in giving back to this community and to all who knew him. I will miss Benny, but I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be one who knew him.

HONORING JUDGE DERRELL HALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am privileged today to express my deep admiration for former Fannin County Judge Derrell Hall, who provided outstanding leadership for his community for over 23 years as Judge, Commissioner and Probation Officer.

Judge Hall's experience and excellence as County Commissioner and Chief of Juvenile Probation led to his appointment as Fannin County Judge in 1997 after a previous Judge's mid-term resignation. Derrell's character and strong sense of responsibility were evident to his community, and he was continually re-elected to lead his county and community.

Born in Bonham, Texas, on March 4, 1953, Derrell Hall is a lifelong resident of Fannin County and currently lives as the fourth generation on his family farm that his great-grandfather settled in 1908 in the tiny Mulberry community on the Red River. He and his wife, Judy Patterson Hall, are members of Mulberry Methodist Church, and are parents to five daughters and two sons. Their growing family includes four grandsons and three granddaughters.

Derrell worked for a number of years as a farmer and rancher in his home community. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from East Texas State University in 1983, Derrell served as County Commissioner of Precinct One in Fannin County and became certified by the state of Texas as a Juvenile Probation Officer. From 1993 through 1996, he served as Chief of Juvenile Probation until his appointment as Fannin County Judge.

Throughout his public life, Derrell always sought to foster a better community for all of the families in Fannin County. He served as Chairman of the Fannin County Juvenile Board and a member of Fannin County's Fair Board, Appraisal District, 4-H and Youth Advisory Board, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fannin County—a program that recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for abused and ne-

glected children involved in the court system. In addition, he served on the Northeast Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, as President of both the Texoma Council of Governments and the Rural Rail Transportation District, and served 15 years on the administrative board for Cooke-Fannin-Grayson Juvenile Detention Facility and Boot Camp.

Derrell Hall is a man who understands that for a small community to thrive, it needs strong leaders who are willing to serve in many diverse capacities. As Derrell pursues new career interests, I join his many friends and supporters who look forward to seeing the new achievements Derrell is sure to accomplish. Madam Speaker, as we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and expressing our gratitude to this outstanding public servant in Fannin County—Derrell Hall.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor a local hero from Santa Rosa, CA. Benny Friedman, a beloved philanthropist and the founder of Friedman's Home Improvement, passed away on July 9, 2008, at the age of 90, after a life that touched and inspired many.

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JOE POWELL: LABOR LEADER OF
THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime leader in the labor movement, Joe Powell. Joe is the business manager/financial secretary of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206 representing approximately 1,300 members. As business manager, Joe serves as the chairman of the committee which negotiates wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

As financial secretary, Joe assumes full responsibility and liability to the local union and the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association for all monies received and recorded. Additionally, Joe serves in numerous capacities with other Local 206 affiliates such as the trustee for the Sheet Metal Workers' Trust Fund, chairman of the San Diego Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, JATC, executive board member for the AFL-CIO Labor Council, co-chairman for the Local 206 401(a) plan and executive board member of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council.

Joe showed his desire to participate in the advancement of his union's labor movement in 1994 when he was elected conductor for Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206. He served in this position until 1997 when he ran for and was elected as a trustee of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206. Joe served as a trustee until 2000 and in July 2000, he was elected as business representative of his local. From 2000 to 2004, Joe was responsible for the dispatching and drug testing of members and handling any grievances that may arise. From 2004 to the present, Joe Powell has served as business manager and financial secretary-treasurer of Local 206.

Advancement in education has also been a priority to Joe as he has completed numerous courses and training that has greatly aided his career development. In addition to completing his 4-year apprenticeship training and becoming a certified instructor in CPR and first-aid training, he attended the National Labor College at the George Meaney Center where he received the bachelor's degree in labor studies.

Joe has been a resident of Alpine, California, his entire life along with his wife and daughter. His wife and family have been very supportive of his career choices.

I am very proud to join with the San Diego labor community in honoring Joe Powell as the 2008 Labor Leader of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO BRIDGET McCUE OF
CAPE CORAL, FL

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young hero from my district, Bridget McCue of Cape Coral, Florida, for her extraordinary bravery during a fire.

On July 31, 2008, a small fire broke out in the computer room at the McCue home. Thanks to 13-year-old Bridget's quick thinking, she was able to get her younger brother and sister out of the house and to safety. She then called 911 from a neighbor's house and called her parents, who were returning home from an errand.

Bridget's parents, Randy and Barbara, credit Bridget's training through a Red Cross baby-sitting class for her quick thinking and bravery. She is a role model for other teenagers across southwest Florida and is very deserving of the Lee County Red Cross' Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action. The people of southwest Florida and I are very proud of Bridget and her accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent such a courageous young lady as Bridget McCue in Congress. I wish Bridget and her family all the best and congratulate her on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the National Association of Postal Supervisors on their 100th anniversary. This organization, which started in my hometown a hundred years ago, has become an international leader in the fight for workers' rights.

In 1908, 50 individuals gathered at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, to fight for the working conditions of their fellow employees. These individuals were tired of endless hours without break, deplorable working conditions, low and inequitable pay, and stringent penalties for speaking out. This meeting marked the beginning of a powerful voice in Washington that now represents 34,000 active and retired employees. NAPS has fought hard to provide hard-working people with a decent salary, proper benefits, and the opportunity to work with dignity. And today, on their 100th anniversary, it is safe to say they succeeded.

Generations of postal supervisors have come and gone since that day in 1908, and each has built upon the accomplishments of their predecessors. NAPS continues to fight for reform, taking a stand for full pension and health care benefits, working to bring postal leadership into line with the 21st century, and increasing the revenue for the United States Postal Service. The organization is also leading the call for a vote by mail system so every individual has the opportunity to participate in

our democracy regardless of the barriers they face on election day.

With NAPS' long history of success, I feel confident the organization will continue to deliver victories for the next generation of postal supervisors. As the congressional Representative for Branch 1, the first of what will grow into scores NAPS' branches in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, I offer my sincere thanks for years of hard work and wish you a happy centennial celebration.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLEN A.
SMITH, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and accomplishments of a man who dedicated his life to service and seizing the day, Glen A. Smith of Rockwall.

Smith was born on May 24, 1939, in Normal, Illinois to Myers and Marybelle (Miller) Smith. He married Peggy (Pannell) Smith, and they were fortunate to have five wonderful children, Kimberli Geissler Smith of Fort Worth, Glen Allen Smith, Jr. of Dallas and Katy Chesshir of Sachse, and stepchildren Christina Hoff of Forney and Joel Rhorer of Prairie Home, Missouri.

Smith was the owner of Curry Auto Leasing in Dallas for many years until his retirement in September of 2005. In March 2007, he opened Smitty's Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Rockwall, which he owned and operated until his death. Glen enjoyed living life to the fullest, and was a race car driver all of his life, racing in the 24 hours of LeMans in France and receiving the 1986 Formula Atlantic Indy Car Rookie of the Year Award.

Glen was also involved with his community and in civic affairs. He was a member of the Rockwall Breakfast Rotary Club and was also a City of Rockwall Planning & Zoning Commissioner. He also believed in sharing his faith and was a member of the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such a great public servant and genuine individual. Please join me today as we honor the memory and celebrate the life of Glen A. Smith, Sr.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6599) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would make it easier for veterans to find

employment in their communities. While it would be subject to a point of order, I believe it has a great deal of merit. My amendment is simple and inexpensive. It directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use funds from the VA's General Operating Expenses Fund to establish a portal on the VA Web site containing a comprehensive list of employment opportunities throughout the United States so that veterans are better able to secure employment after they return home from combat.

Furthermore, these results could then be updated annually to reflect the current and changing needs in the local job market. With the posting of this information on the VA Web site, veterans could simply plug in their ZIP code and see a list of the occupations that are most in demand within their commuting area, allowing them to use their Federal job training more effectively.

I have received a commitment from Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP to send a letter to the VA Secretary asking him to establish a portal on the existing VA Web site that would contain comprehensive, up to date employment opportunities in various job markets across the country. In addition, I would like to work with the chairman and ranking member to get comparable language in the conference report to ensure this happens.

I would like to thank Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP for their commitment to veterans and for their offers of support for ensuring that the idea of my amendment becomes a reality.

HONORING HM2 (FMF) ANTHONY
MARK FEJERAN CARBULLIDO,
U.S. NAVY

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony M. Carbullido, United States Navy. He was assigned to the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois, where he volunteered for his second assignment as a combat medic in July 2007, stationed in Herat, Afghanistan. HM2, FMF, Carbullido died on August 8, in Sangatesh, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained when his convoy vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Anthony Carbullido was born on August 25, 1982, and grew up in Agat, Guam. He attended Southern High School and graduated with the class of 2000. After graduation, Tony answered the call to duty and enlisted in the United States Navy on September 28. He reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, on November 1, 2000, and afterwards he reported to the Naval Hospital Corps School where he completed training on June 8, 2001. HM2 Carbullido's first duty station was at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California. He received additional training at the Fleet Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton, California, and was later assigned to the 1st Marine Logistic Group, Marine Forces Pacific where he deployed with the Marines to Iraq on a 7-month tour. Upon earning his instructor qualification, he was assigned to Naval Hospital Corps School as an

instructor at Great Lakes. It was during this tour at Great Lakes that HM2 Carbullido volunteered for a second deployment and was assigned to augment the United States Army at the Afghan Regional Security Integration Command West in Herat, Afghanistan. He provided training and medical assistance to United States and Afghan forces and was recognized by his comrades as a professional and compassionate corpsman. He received many awards and commendations, most notably the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences to his wife Summer Chaney Carbullido, his daughter Lexie, his parents Anthony Jesus and Aurora Fejeran Carbullido, his siblings Austin Matthew and Ashley Maria, his grandmother Maria Sablan Fejeran, and to his extended family and friends. He will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and our island community. HM2 Anthony M. Carbullido died in the service of our Nation and we honor his patriotism and his dedication. He is a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We will always remember him and we will always be grateful for his service in the United States Navy.

God bless the Carbullido family, God bless our men and women in the Armed Forces, God bless Guam, and God bless our Nation, the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL KITCHEN FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which is observing its 25th year of continuous service to those in great need.

In 1983, Catholic Social Services in Wilkes-Barre recognized that a growing number of people in the community were suffering and in need of material assistance. Monsignor Donald McAndrews, the executive director of CSS, laid the groundwork for the kitchen with the belief that if people in need could be fed, they could attend to other needs more easily.

Monsignor believed that the kitchen project would be needed for 2 to 3 years and could then be dissolved once the regional economy improved.

He purchased a vacant automotive garage that was being targeted for sheriff sale due to tax delinquency. Local labor unions donated manpower to accomplish minimal renovations. Used kitchen equipment was purchased and CSS obtained a restaurant license.

Sister Lucille Brislin, the kitchen's first director, recruited volunteers and the first meal served 60 people. The kitchen continued to serve one meal a day 7 days a week. Local supermarkets helped by donating leftover bread and pastries. The kitchen depended on private donations and the community responded to that call for help.

Five years after it opened, the kitchen added a free clinic to assist in caring for the

homeless. A used clothing room and a food bank were added later to expand services.

However, the need continued to grow. More than 300 meals a day were being served. In 2003, major renovations were undertaken to accommodate the growing demand. Those renovations were completed in 2005.

In 2007, an evening meal was added 3 nights per week which is served to about 125 people.

Donations are still encouraged and CSS conducts two organized fundraisers each year to help continue the services available at the kitchen. A core group of 60 volunteers come at least once each week and groups of volunteers come once or twice a year.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating those who make possible the humanitarian services that emanate from the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. Without fanfare, demand for recognition, or monetary compensation, the volunteers who dispense nutritional, medical, and clothing services are helping those in the greatest need sustain not only their very lives but also their hope that new opportunities will emerge to end their dependence on others and restore their ability to become self-sufficient.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.
ARMY SPECIALIST JONATHAN
MENKE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on August 4, 2008, the great Hoosier state lost one of its sons. Army SPC. Jonathan Menke was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Specialist Menke was born in Columbus, Indiana, and raised in Madison, Indiana.

An honor roll student, Jon graduated from Madison Consolidated High School in 2005, where he played football and ran track. During his senior year, he surprised friends and family by landing the role of Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast."

Jon joined the Indiana National Guard in March 2004. In 2008, while living and attending college in Indianapolis, Menke was activated by the Indiana National Guard and sent to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist. Menke served with the 38th Military Police Company, stationed in Rustamiyah, Iraq. During his tour, Specialist. Menke frequently asked his father to send him things for the Iraqi children—namely shoes, toys, and candy. In Jon's mind, the needs of the Iraqi children were more important than his own comforts.

SPC Jonathan Menke is a hero and a true example of Hoosier values. His ultimate sacrifice deserves our most sincere thanks. I, along with the towns of Madison and Columbus, mourn the death of SPC Jonathan Menke. His friends and loved ones are in my prayers.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
BYRON BERNARD, B.B., BOON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of Byron Bernard, B.B., Boon, of Linden, Texas. Mr. Boon was born January 10, 1919, in Carterville, Texas, to Andrew Camp Boon and Eudora Kerr Boon.

B.B. attended East Texas Teachers College with my wife Mary Ellen. He began his career teaching school at Warren Springs. He later became principal at Almira Schools, and from 1940 to 1941 supervised the National Youth Administration in Linden.

He joined the Army on Christmas Day in 1941 and entered the Army Air Corps on the 12th of January in 1942. B.B. ferried all types of airplanes throughout the United States and Canada. He flew BT-13s, AT-6s, B-17s, B-24s, B-25s, P-51s and was involved in the moving of troops and cargo. One of his flying assignments was to keep the route from Alaska to the Hudson Bay open so the Germans could not get a foothold in Newfoundland.

Between 1947 and 1949, he was an instructor in the Pilot's Aircraft Instrument Training School at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, Louisiana. On one particular flight to Richmond, Virginia, his plane caught on fire. True to his sense of humor, he announced "Byron Bernard Boon says bail out boys, she's burning." All the crew bailed out, and everyone survived.

On February 2, 1949, he was in a midair collision at Barksdale AFB, was critically injured and spent over a year of rehabilitation in Walter Reed Hospital. Captain Boon married Louise Bozeman in the chapel at Walter Reed Hospital on September 24, 1949. Shortly after their marriage he was forced to retire from the Air Force due to injuries sustained in the crash.

In October 1950, B.B. returned to Cass County and bought an insurance agency in Linden. He became active in the community, serving various community and church boards. He was a member of the Linden Masonic Lodge #192, a Shriner, a member of the Linden Lions Club, Linden Chamber of Commerce, former mayor of Linden and served on the Linden Municipal Hospital Board of Directors. He was also an avid pilot, owning and flying airplanes until he was 80.

He is survived by two daughters and one son-in-law, Sue and Larry Hill and Brenda Deming all of Linden; five grandchildren and spouses, Tanya and Kenneth Recer and Chris and Sonya Hill of Longview, Tammy and Andy Kozsuch of Tyler, Justin and Kim Deming of Pflugerville and Jonathan and Katherine Deming of Mesquite; seven great-grandchildren, Ryan Recer, Seth Kozsuch, Sarah Kozsuch, Kate Kozsuch, Kaden Kozsuch, Emma Hill and Payton Deming; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, please join me in a final salute to Captain Byron Bernard Boone, a man who gave so much to his family, his community and his country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma City Hall. This iconic building has long stood as a symbol of the unique community that is the city of Sonoma.

City Hall sits in the center of the 8-acre Sonoma Plaza, the largest town square in the State of California. Dedicated on September 7, 1908, the city hall was built using local basalt stone and originally designed with four identical facades, allowing merchants from any side of the square to boast that city hall faced their business.

Surrounding the city hall on Sonoma Plaza are many historical buildings, including the Mission San Francisco Solana, Captain Salvador Vallejo's Casa Grande, the Presidio of Sonoma, the Blue Wing Inn, the Sebastiani Theatre, and the Toscano Hotel. Not far from city hall, on the northeast corner of the plaza, John C. Fremont led the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, which would lead to California becoming the 31st State 4 years later. The plaza has been a National Historic Landmark since 1960 and still serves as the town's focal point, hosting many community festivals and drawing tourists all year round.

In honor of this anniversary, City of Sonoma Historian George McKale has organized a commemoration committee to help celebrate this event with the community. Over the last year, members of the committee have arranged for a photo exhibition, as well as sponsoring a poster contest for local students, a lecture series, and a historic quarry hike, all to honor Sonoma's City Hall.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Sonoma City Hall. In years to come, this beautiful and historic structure will continue to be one of the most memorable images of the city of Sonoma to residents and visitors alike.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

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TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, a centennial dinner will celebrate this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Rev. Theodore J. Kozlowski and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grand Rapids community over the past century.

From the first mass celebrated on September 20, 1908, by their young energetic priest, Father Salvatore Cianci, Our Lady of Sorrows was founded primarily to provide for the growing Italian community in Grand Rapids. Meeting in the basement chapel of St. Andrew's Cathedral, this fledgling church offered the opportunity for Italians to worship and continue their faithful prayer life in the language of their childhood. Through the devoted efforts of Fr. Cianci and the small but very dedicated congregation, a dream became reality on Easter Sunday 1921, when a new structure intended as a temporary church, and also a second building intended to house a future school, were blessed and dedicated. Even though the Great Depression prevented the parish from fulfilling its dream of a permanent house of worship for almost 40 years, Our Lady of Sorrows School did open its doors for the first time on September 25, 1922, with 56 students in attendance. Certainly this was an exceptional accomplishment for a church which originated from the hard work and perseverance of just a handful of Italian immigrant families.

A long, faith-filled journey has led the congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows to now carry out the same legacy of their Italian forefathers for the growing Hispanic population in our community. Today, as this parish reaches out to each member and to a larger, more diverse community with loving acts of kindness, they continue to enrich and inspire those who are touched by their works. Our Lady of Sorrows is well known and widely respected for bringing a greater understanding of all cultures within the Catholic Church to others throughout the greater Grand Rapids area.

This extraordinary anniversary reminds all of us that wonderful things do happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. Reflecting on the many struggles and joys Our Lady of Sorrows has faced during its first century of service to the Lord, it is the perfect time to reaffirm and strengthen our own faith, recognize the call to reach out to others, and share the power of God's love. I am proud to represent the many parishioners of various races and ethnic groups who call Our Lady of Sorrows their church home, and am grateful to this congregation for their illuminating example of God's kindness. I am honored to extend my best wishes for a memorable, grace-filled celebration of a century of caring concern and service to the Grand Rapids community.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF HAMMER RESIDENCES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the good people at Hammer Residences, who have come to Washington, DC, to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) 2008 Governmental Activities Seminar and "DSPs to DC" events.

Hammer Residences is working in my district to provide direct support and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages. Hammer employs 300 direct support professionals who provide a range of supports services 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to help further the public policy goal of enabling people with mental and physical disabilities to live and work in their community. This outstanding, highly trained, highly skilled and highly committed workforce supports over 400 people with disabilities in our community.

Hammer's services include residential and in-home services, case management and other support services for both children and adults with disabilities.

For most of this week, people from Hammer Residences and all the attendees at ANCOR's events are meeting with their congressional offices. They are discussing the deepening workforce crisis threatening the quality of support services to people with disabilities throughout the Nation.

Without an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce, Americans with disabilities and their families face a less secure future. Without the necessary workforce, providers cannot help our nation fulfill its commitment to people with disabilities embodied in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

I applaud the people at Hammer Residences for taking a lead on this workforce issue. This is problem-solving at its best, and I encourage all of my colleagues to examine their commitment to providing the best support possible to people with disabilities in their districts.

There is no better way to recognize this workforce's contribution to the Nation than to ensure that these dedicated direct support professionals are fairly compensated. I ask that my colleagues join me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act (H.R. 1279) and urging hearings on this important issue in the coming weeks.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONARD
BRENT "BUD" DOGGETT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true servant of the greater Washington, DC, region, Leonard Brent "Bud" Doggett.

Bud Doggett was a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia, a leading entrepreneur and philanthropist, and a tireless advocate for a thriving Capital region. Bud was a trusted advisor to both local and Federal elected officials in the District, northern Virginia, and Maryland. As a representative of northern Virginia, I have always believed that you cannot have a healthy region without a healthy Washington; Bud's lifetime of achievement did much to further this goal.

Bud was born on August 25, 1920, and attended Georgetown Prep. Upon graduation, he joined the Army, served in Europe as a World War II infantryman, and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic actions.

After the war, he returned home and joined the parking business founded by his parents in 1926, working with local businesses and the downtown community to develop a comprehensive plan for parking in the city. During the following years, Bud served as founder and president of both the Washington Parking Association and the National Parking Association, which now boasts more than 1,200 corporate members.

Bud was also a past president and active member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade for more than 50 years, during which he helped develop large segments of the District and secured employment for many in the community's disadvantaged populations. His support was crucial to such Washington landmarks as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the old Washington Convention Center, heralded as the country's fourth largest after it was completed in 1982.

One of Bud's greatest legacies continues today. In 1964, he founded Heroes, Inc., a group of local business leaders who without fanfare have provided millions of dollars to families of police officers and firefighters in the greater Washington area who died in the line of duty.

Heroes, Inc., currently is committed to providing full college scholarships, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies and many other incidental costs, to the 192 de-

pendents of the 157 Heroes appearing on the organization's Honor Roll form.

I was saddened to learn that Bud Doggett passed away on August 13, 2008, at the age of 87. He will surely be missed, but his place in the region's history and his service to the greater DC area, including its police and fire-fighting heroes, will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF R.E. "EARL" SLAUGHTER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and accomplishments of a man who dedicated his life to the health and well being of others, R.E. "Earl" Slaughter of Rockwall.

Earl was born December 6, 1925, in Edgewood to John Arthur, Sr., and Flora Anne (Cox) Slaughter. He was a 1943 graduate of Edgewood High School and a 1949 graduate of the University of Texas School of Pharmacy. He served his country honorably in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

Earl married Yvonne McMurray on September 14, 1947, in Denton. Their marriage produced five wonderful children, Cathy Slaughter who lives in Rockwall, Betsy Blundell of Rowlett, Richard Slaughter of Rockwall, Scott Slaughter of Austin, and Dean Slaughter who lives in The Colony.

For 5 decades Earl operated what was the only pharmacy in Rockwall—Rockwall Drug. He and his brother E.K. acquired the business about 3 years after it opened on the square in downtown Rockwall. Then, Rockwall was a small rural community and Earl was a lifeline for so many people. In the beginning he opened the pharmacy at 7 a.m. and stayed open until 10 p.m. Many nights he would return after hours to fill emergency prescriptions.

Rockwall Pharmacy and Earl Slaughter were at the center of most things that happened in Rockwall. With a storefront so close to the Rockwall County courthouse, its employees and elected officials would gather at the fountain before work, at lunch, and after work to discuss the day's events.

Earl was also deeply involved with his community and civic affairs. He was a member of the Texas Pharmacy Association for more than 50 years. He was the past president of the Rockwall Independent School District and the Chamber of Commerce. He was on the City Planning/Zoning Board, and received the Soroptimist Man of the Year Award in 2003. He was also active in the American Legion and Lions Club. Earl believed in sharing his faith and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Rockwall.

Madam Speaker, one of Earl's former employees summed it up best when she said that Earl helped people every way he could.

I count it an honor to have been friends with this great public servant and his wonderful family. What our world needs today are a few more Earl Slaughters. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate his life's accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE FLORIDA
ADDICTIONS INSTITUTE

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florida Addictions Institute's second graduating class. These dedicated individuals will go on to become certified drug addiction counselors throughout southwest Florida and the rest of the State.

There's no question that being a drug and alcohol counselor is not an easy job and garners little public recognition. But it's a personally rewarding job, and one that can have a profound impact on shaping addicts' lives to make them productive, giving members of society.

Sadly, 1 in 10 persons is addicted to drugs and/or alcohol at some time in their lives—making substance abuse one of our Nation's top health problems. It is estimated that 5,000 new addictions professionals are needed each year to replace those leaving the field.

That's why the work of the Florida Addictions Institute is so vital. The institute trains the next wave of caring, certified substance abuse counselors to help people from all walks of life overcome substance abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is a true honor and a privilege to represent the staff and graduates of the Florida Addictions Institute in Congress, and I wish this year's graduating class all the best as they set out to make a difference in the lives of others. The people of southwest Florida join me in thanking them for their selfless and dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES CHEN-YU CHIN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. James Chen-Yu Chin, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam for his service and contributions to our island community. Mr. Chin has served as the Director General since 2003 and he has been a valuable member of our island community and an effective advocate for his constituents who reside on Guam.

Director General Chin has promoted cultural and economic exchanges between Taiwan and Guam, particularly through efforts to en-

gage and inform both communities about the growth and opportunities available within each respective economic market.

During his tenure, Director General Chin hosted three successful visits for the President and Vice President of Taiwan, allowing the opportunity to showcase the many attributes of Guam's thriving business and tourism industries. His hospitality extended to other visiting groups over the span of 5 years, which included tourism promoters, performing groups, sports teams, and investors, all of which helped to build Guam's public visibility within the Taiwan community.

Director General Chin also assisted our community by expanding opportunities for cooperation. He assisted the Guam Police Department by sharing Taiwan's expertise and best practices in public security and forensic science. He also facilitated educational and academic exchanges between the University of Guam and the Micronesia Area Research Center with their academic counterparts from Taiwan's national universities. These opportunities included exchanges of experts in the fields of agriculture and marine science to the mutual benefit of both academic institutions.

Director General Chin's extensive background in foreign affairs contributed to enhancing the relationship between the people of Guam and Taiwan. His many contributions to our island community have been appreciated by the nonprofit organizations and the service organizations in which he has been an active participant. Whether it has been responding to regional disasters or assisting in local relief efforts, James and his wife, Grace, have been outstanding members of our island community and they have shown how much they love our island by their involvement.

Director General James Chen-Yu Chin has made a lasting impression on Guam and his leadership and community contributions have improved our island significantly. It is through his many accomplishments that we enjoy a warmer friendship with the people of Taiwan. May God bless James and Grace and their family as we bid them farewell with a heartfelt thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

RECOGNIZING A.P. MERRITT AS SBA'S 2007 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor A.P. Merritt of Merritt Tool Company in Kilgore, TX, as the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA)

regional Small Business Person of the Year 2007 Award Recipient.

Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes individuals on a State, district, and national level for their performance, commitment, and support of small businesses in the Nation. Merritt, the president of Merritt Tool, was presented the Small Business Person of the Year Award at a special awards ceremony in April of this year for his diversification efforts, success in earning government contracts, business growth and community service. Merritt Tool Company (MTC) is a modern machine shop manufacturing facility, specializing in complex milling, turning, grinding and assembly, serving customers in the aerospace, energy and commercial industries. The company was founded in 1928 and today employs about 100 workers in its machine shop and metal operation in Kilgore.

In conjunction with the honor of receiving this prestigious award, Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt proclaimed that the 16th day of May be known as A.P. Merritt Day in Gregg County, Texas, for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of A.P. Merritt's accomplishments, his consistency in business and his continued leadership in the Kilgore community. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring a man who represents the best in entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. A.P. Merritt.

AMERICAN ENERGY DEBATE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, It's been 5 long weeks since the Democrat majority adjourned for a summer recess without passing legislation to bring down the cost of gas.

But House Republicans have been on the floor of the House discussing solutions to our Nation's energy crisis anyway.

We've been engaging average Americans on this vital issue and we won't stop the debate until Congress takes up real, comprehensive energy legislation.

Republicans have offered a plan—the American Energy Act—to increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way.

Is it too much to ask for a simple up or down vote on this bill? Isn't this supposed to be the people's Congress?

Today I call on the Speaker to bring this bill up for a vote so we can bring the price down at the pump.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market.

SR-253

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2009.

SD-192

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine improving the Federal Bridge Program, focusing on an assessment of S. 3338, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and H.R. 3999, to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System.

SD-406

Finance

Business meeting to consider S. 3038, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, S. 1070, to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and S. 1577, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term

care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine audits at the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine new strategies for combating violent crime, focusing on drawing lessons from recent experience.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110-20).

SD-419

1:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia, Georgia, and the return of power politics.

HROB-2325

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sung Y. Kim, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and Carol Ann Rodley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing the challenges of the federal government transition, focusing on assessing the readiness and planning for the transition and identifying critical needs for the new Administration to address.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the quality and environmental impacts of bottled water.

SD-406

SEPTEMBER 11

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian H. Hook, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of

America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Gregori Lebedev, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and Matthew A. Reynolds, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

SD-419

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 3128, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project, S. 3355, to authorize the Crow Tribe of Indians water rights settlement, and S. 3381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos.

SD-628

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine dividend tax abuse, focusing on ways that offshore entities avoid taxes on United States stock dividends.

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2746, to amend section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act) to provide that statutory exemptions to the disclosure requirements of that Act shall specifically cite to the provision of that Act authorizing such exemptions, to ensure an open and deliberative process in Congress by providing for related legislative proposals to explicitly state such required citations, S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, S. 3136, to encourage the entry of felony warrants into the NCIC database by States and provide additional resources for extradition, S. 1276, to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, S. 3197, to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, S. 3325, to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, S. 3296, to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, S.

2052, to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, H.R. 5235, to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission, S. 3166, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to impose criminal penalties on individuals who assist aliens who have engaged in genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killings to enter the United States, and the nominations of Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, J. Patrick Rowan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD-562

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine business start-up hurdles in underserved communities access to venture capital and entrepreneurship training.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine 1-800-MEDICARE Information (1-800-633-4227).

SR-325

12 noon

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, and Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine reasons that broadband internet access matters.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the current state of vehicles powered by the electric grid and the prospects for wider deployment in the near future.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the state of democracy and human rights in Belarus and how the Belarusian authorities are complying with their OSCE election commitments in advance of the September 28 parliamentary elections.

B318, Rayburn Building

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protected marine areas, focusing on federal and state efforts to conserve, manage, and restore marine resources.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine bus safety.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine cooperation and collaboration by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense on information technology efforts.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the imbalance in United States-Korea automobile trade.

SR-253

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine S. 3308, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies.

SR-301

SEPTEMBER 11

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine transparency in accounting, focusing changes, focusing proposed changes to accounting for off-balance sheet entities.

SD-538