

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GRANT DICKSON LANG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Dickson Lang of Gladstone, Missouri. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Dickson Lang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DENVER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BRALEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Denver High School in Denver, Iowa by being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

The program honors elementary, middle and high schools that are superior academically or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. Students at Denver High School ranked in the top 10 percent on state tests.

Denver High School is one of five Iowa Schools receiving the honor this year. This a true credit to the staff and teachers who continually challenge students to want more and be better. Denver students can earn more than 30 hours of college credit before graduating high school.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Denver High School, its former Principal Paul Gebel, and its current Principal Tom Oppelt. Earning this award shows strength and persistence and I am proud to serve this fine school and its students in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Baker, who was named the na-

tional champion in sheet metal fabrication at the 2008 Skills USA/VICA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Kyle Baker is a senior at Jefferson-Scranton High School where he excelled in industrial technology class for the past two years. In 2007, he placed fourth in the same competition and was the Iowa state SkillsUSA/VICA champion the last two years. Kyle is the sixth student from Jefferson-Scranton High School to be a national champion in the last eight years.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. This organization serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually and served more than 9.6 million members since its founding in 1965.

I congratulate Kyle Baker on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to excel in all future endeavors. It is a great honor to represent Kyle, his parents, and his teachers in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 45, Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. As an original cosponsor of the companion legislation reported by the House Judiciary Committee and as co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I am very pleased that Congress is taking this historic and much-needed step forward to enact legislation implementing a framework for overall management of our precious natural resource: the Great Lakes basin.

The Great Lakes make up 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90 percent of the surface freshwater of the United States. The Basin provides its surrounding states with major economic benefits, some of which include tourism, manufacturing jobs, shipping, and clean drinking water. It also provides habitat for millions of breeding mallards, other ducks, and migratory waterfowl, and supports a diversity of species and ecosystems vital to our natural world. We in Congress, as well as state and local policymakers, have attempted to address the potential threat low water levels in the Great Lakes will have in the future on our national treasure. In 2000, the Congress directed the governors of the 8 Great Lakes States to negotiate a water management agreement. In 2005, the governors completed negotiations, which included coordination with the Canadian Premiers in Ontario and Que-

bec. Since then, the State Legislatures in all 8 states have agreed to the Compact, and the governors have signed the legislation. On August 4, 2008 I proudly took part as Governor Granholm signed the Compact after it was ratified by the Michigan Legislature. In the Senate, our senior Senator, CARL LEVIN, provided extraordinary leadership to get the bill passed through that body. Today, with the active support of members representing the Great Lakes' states, we will vote on this legislation in the House.

The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact will mandate a general ban on new diversions of water from the Basin with limited exceptions for communities near the Basin meeting rigorous standards. All of the Great Lakes' states and their communities will have to comply with new standards and all will be subject to consistent decision-making and appeals processes. The Compact also calls on Great Lakes' states to develop regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency. One of the most important aspects of the Compact, it is designed in a way that will ensure the Great Lakes Basin continues to provide a solid economic base for its surrounding states.

Mr. Speaker, as I have recently noted, the Great Lakes Basin deserves much more attention than it has gotten over the past 8 years from the Bush Administration. One of the ways we protect the Great Lakes is by providing its governing agencies with the money they need to do their job. With my support, the House passed last week the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act which, among other things, authorized \$150 million a year for 5 years to clean up toxic pollutants contaminating the Lakes. Another way we will serve the best interest of the Great Lakes is by moving forward with the Great Lakes Compact and, with the help of our future President—hopefully one from Illinois who understands the importance of protecting the Great Lakes—put the Basin on a path of sustained water levels over the long-term.

Some have expressed concerns about the Great Lakes Compact, such as whether the Compact will subject Great Lakes waters to international trade agreements, what the legal and practical implications are of exempting diversions of water in containers less than 5.7 gallons, and whether the designation of water as a "product" would subject state actions restricting diversions to claims under the World Trade Organization. These considerations and questions were raised as states legislatures were deliberating on approval of the Compact. The acknowledged need for action now—and not some time in the future—coupled with the reassurances of language already in the Compact prompted all 8 Great Lakes states to ratify the Compact. Today, the House must respond with the same urgency; we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues from the Great Lakes' delegation who have worked so hard on the Compact over the years, and urge them to join me in voting "yes" on S.J. Res. 45.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAWN A. MOLITERNO THE 2008 FLORIDA PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Dawn A. Moliterno upon her recognition as the Florida Public Relations Association Person of the Year.

Over the years, Ms. Moliterno has time and again proven herself as an exceptional businessperson. Beginning with a career in the retail industry, Ms. Moliterno served as the Marketing Manager and Company Spokesman for the Cafaro Company for 10 years. She then moved on to apply her marketing, communication, and strategic development skills to the Walton County Florida Chamber of Commerce. While there, Ms. Moliterno served as the Vice President of Marketing and Membership and had oversight of all membership, marketing, strategic partner relationships, product development, sales, and advertising efforts for the Regional Chamber. As a testament to her keen business sense, in just 4 short years Ms. Moliterno increased membership in the Regional Chamber from 1,604 members to over 2,500 members.

Ms. Moliterno has earned numerous accolades that reflect the hard work and dedication that she has applied to her profession. Selected by Florida State Senator Don Gaetz along with only 500 other females from across the country, Ms. Moliterno was sent to Washington, DC, for the 2008 Leadership for Women in Business Conference. She is also the Regional Steward for Coastal Vision 3000/ THE Beach and spearheaded the Athena International Award for Women for the Northwest Florida region in 2006.

The First District of Florida is incredibly fortunate to house such a talented and ambitious person, and it will benefit from the hard work provided by Ms. Moliterno for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Dawn Moliterno for her exceptional talents and her service to the First District of Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday, September 22, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 616, 617, and 618. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 616 and 617 and "aye" on rollcall vote 618.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAILY TIMES NEWSPAPER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a newspaper and its editor that are woven into the fabric of one of this Nation's most remarkable and scenic communities.

So often, citizens of smaller towns must sift through larger newspapers from nearby cities for news that is relevant to their lives. For the last 125 years, however, the people of the city of Maryville and Blount County have turned to the Daily Times for news coverage which focuses on their community.

Support for the newspaper is strong, and the numbers prove it. The Daily Times has frequently ranked among the top three newspapers in the Nation in penetration of its circulation area and has been recognized as the fastest growing daily newspaper in Tennessee. In an era when newspapers continue to struggle to compete with the internet, the Daily Times remains strong with its focus on local culture and interests.

The paper has won numerous awards from the University of Tennessee/Tennessee Press Association statewide competitions and from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the Daily Times' commitment to Blount County more than its editor, Dean Stone.

Born in Maryville, Mr. Stone began working for the Daily Times 61 years ago as a sportswriter. While his professional success could have led him elsewhere, Mr. Stone stayed in Blount County, devoted to the Daily Times and drawn to the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Mr. Stone is known well by the Blount County community for many reasons. Whether it is his photography, community service, or stewardship of the Daily Times, chances are he has touched the life of everyone in Blount County in some way.

As an award winning author and photographer, Mr. Stone's Snapshots of Blount County History book series is a favorite among locals and praised by authors and journalists from all across the country.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating the Daily Times in Maryville, Tennessee, for 125 years of service to its readers and the achievements of the paper's outstanding and committed editor, Dean Stone.

IN HONOR OF JOHN J. ROBOTTI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man and my friend, Mr. John J. Robotti. Sadly, John passed away this year on May 6. I mourn him as does his wife, Marion; his sisters, Rose Carbo and Florence Stevens; his brother, William Robotti; and his many nieces and nephews.

I first met John through his wife, Marion, who is a community activist and all-around get-it-done kind of person. It came as no surprise to me that Marion would have married a guy like John—he also was someone who could not sit still. He just had to be doing something. But for him "doing something" was making a contribution to his family, his community, and his Nation.

In fact, John served 65 years in service to the country in one form or another. It started with his enlisting in the Army in 1941 and continued through 2006 when he finally retired from Federal service. If he wasn't serving in the public sector, he didn't feel like he was giving enough.

John entered Officer Candidate School in 1943. His tours of duty for the Army included Europe, Asia, and the United States. He was sent to Paris, France, and in 1950 he met his future wife Marion, who he later married in Palo Alto, California, in 1953. In 1960, he was selected as the executive officer of the Squaw Valley Olympic Games, which were enormously successful. In 1961, he retired with the rank of major from 20 years of active duty while stationed at Fort Ord, California. He also served as chief of the Consolidated Supply Section of G4.

As a civilian, John became a G4 logistical services officer at Fort Ord. Later, he was the administrative officer, chief of maintenance, and housing manager at Fort Ord. When he retired, John was the director of logistics at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. His civilian career spanned 45 years.

Throughout his years as a civil servant, John received many well-deserved honors. In 1991, he was given the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. In 1994 and 1995, respectively, he received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and the Exceptional Service Award. In 1996, he was honored with a 55 Year Award for exceptional Federal service.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor John J. Robotti, a man who loved his country, his chosen field of endeavor, his home, and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO MARSDEN HARTLEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to honor a native son of the largest city in my Congressional District. Marsden Hartley was born in Lewiston, Maine, in 1877. He became the most daring and original of the group of first generation modernist artists whom Alfred Stieglitz brought together in the early years of the 20th century.

In the early years of the 20th century, Marsden Hartley traveled throughout the USA and Europe. Considered an early modernist, Hartley was a nomadic painter for much of his life. He painted from Maine to Massachusetts, in New Mexico, California, New York, and in Western Europe. Finally, after spending many years away from his native state, he returned to Maine toward the end of his life. He wanted to become "The Painter of Maine" and to depict American life at a local level. In this way,

he is a member of the regionalists, a group of artists from the early to mid 20th century that attempted to represent a distinctly "American Art." Hartley is an icon among painters. He is considered one of the foremost American painters of the first half of the 20th century.

The State of Maine recognizes the great contribution of Lewiston's native son to the world of fine art. Governor John Baldacci has proclaimed September 25, 2008 as "Marsden Hartley Day." There will be a celebration of his work at Bates College, also located in Lewiston, Maine. There will be two screenings of "Visible Silence: Marsden Hartley, Painter and Poet," an essay in film by Michael Maglaras.

I rise today to honor Marsden Hartley for his contribution to the State of Maine and the United States.

HONORING DYLAN MARCUS
LEGLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dylan Marcus Legler of Blue Springs, Missouri. Dylan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dylan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Dylan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dylan Marcus Legler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SOUTHEAST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BRALEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Southeast Elementary School in Waverly, Iowa by being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

The program honors elementary, middle and high schools that are superior academically or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. Students at Southeast Elementary School ranked in the top 10 percent on state tests.

From 1997–2007 fourth grade reading proficiency in the Waverly-Shell Rock School District increased from 73–93 percent. During the 2006–2007 school year, all fourth graders reached proficiency in reading and math for which they earned this high honor.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Southeast Elementary and its Principal, Christi Lines. Despite the struggles they have faced due to unprece-

ded flooding that affected the school, they continue to be a model for elementary schools across the nation.

TRIBUTE TO JIM McNEILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim McNeill, who was nominated and recognized as an "Iowa Community Hero" by the University of Iowa for his efforts in protecting the city of Adel from flood waters this summer.

The term "community hero" is defined by the person who is submitting the nomination form. In this case, Iowans can nominate their neighbor for helping move furniture to another level of a house, a volunteer who helped fill sand bags, or a member of the police and fire department. Jim is the police chief and is responsible for directing emergency operations within the city when the need arises. According to mayor Jim Peters, Chief McNeill "is a tremendous asset to Adel. He is a calm, direct, and charismatic leader in all situations. His work ethic and leadership is a true definition of 'community hero.'"

I congratulate Jim McNeill on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to serve his community. It is a great honor to represent Jim in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best.

COMMENDING THE FRATERNAL
ORDER OF EAGLES ON ITS 110TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, 110 years ago, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, F.O.E., was founded in Seattle, in what is now the seventh Congressional District that I am privileged to represent. Since its founding, the F.O.E. has expanded to become an international organization with nearly 1 million members that raises and contributes more than \$100 million annually to charities benefiting children, health research, and the elderly. I rise today to commend the Eagles on their 110th anniversary, to highlight some of their many accomplishments, and to thank the Eagles for their good work over the last 110 years.

The Eagles have a long and proud history of living up to their motto, "people helping people." The Eagles were the first public advocates for establishing the Mother's Day holiday, were a driving force behind establishment of the Social Security System, and work to provide assistance to individuals in need in local communities across the United States and Canada. Just this year, the Eagles have partnered with the University of Iowa and committed to raise \$25 million to establish the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center that will break new ground in efforts to both treat and prevent the spread of this terrible disease.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles was created in 1898 when six competing theater owners held a secret meeting at Moran's shipyard in Seattle to talk about a musicians' strike. By mid-1898, a constitution and by laws for the new organization had been adopted and the Grand Aerie established. Local F.O.E. chapters and the places that they meet are known as "Aeries."

Many of the early members of the Eagles were actors, playwrights, and stage hands who spread the word about the new fraternal organization as they toured from town to town across the U.S. and Canada. The incredible spread of the Eagles in the early years is largely attributable to these people. Eagle Aerie #1—the Mother Aerie—was established in Seattle in 1898, but some of the earliest Eagle aeries are located in: #8 San Jose, California, 1899; #11 Butte, Montana, 1899; #25 Skagway, Alaska, 1899; #33 St. Paul, Minnesota, 1899; #48 Galveston, Texas, 1900; and #42 Rochester, New York, 1900. By the end of 1903 just 5 years after the creation of the Eagles, there were nearly 600 Aeries operating in all corners of the U.S. and numerous locations in Canada. Today, Eagle membership totals about one million in about 1,500 individual local Aeries throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to camaraderie the fraternity was established to serve a very important function. In the days before death benefits, workmen's comp, or health insurance, the Eagles offered a death benefit to the families of Eagles killed in the line of work to ensure proper burial, no Eagle has ever been buried in a potter's field, and Aeries had physicians who provided health care to members.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Grand Auxiliary was adopted at the 1951 international convention in Rochester, NY. However, Auxiliaries date back to March 24, 1927 in Pittsburgh, KS. By March of 1951, 965 local Auxiliaries were in existence and by the end of that year 22 state and provincial Auxiliaries were operating.

The local state/provincial, regional and grand Auxiliaries have continued to grow and provide their importance to the Fraternal Order of Eagles by consistently serving as the strongest fundraising arm in the Organization. The Auxiliary, traditionally consisting of women, is a fully operating arm of the Fraternal Order of Eagles with equal positions of leadership.

In 1944, the Eagles Memorial Foundation was created. The Memorial Foundation supports children of members who die while serving their country, or at work. All Eagle members and their families are automatically protected by this member benefit. With the Memorial Foundation, children of deceased members who die while serving their country or at work are able to attend college or vocational school with grants up to \$30,000. They can also receive medical assistance including payments to physicians, dentists, orthodontists and hospitals. The cost of eyeglasses, prescriptions, as well as medical and dental devices is also included.

Over the years, the Eagles have also actively advocated at the national level for laws that help their fellow Americans. In the 1930s, the Eagles very actively organized to push for creation of the Social Security system. When the Social Security Act was signed in 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt (himself a life-long Eagle), presented a pen with which he

signed the Act and wrote to then-Eagle Grand Worthy President John M. Morin:

I am very glad to give you as the representative of the Fraternal Order of Eagles a pen with which I signed the Social Security Securities Act . . . I have long observed with satisfaction the sponsorship by the F.O.E. of social justice legislation both in the states and in the nation. The records for more than a quarter of a century bear witness to the campaigns of education conducted, the literature distributed, and the addresses delivered by your socially-minded Order. These efforts have borne, and are bearing gratifying results. Our countrymen owe the Eagles good will for their unselfish services.

The pen I am presenting to the Order is a symbol of my approval of the Fraternity's vision and courage. May its possession inspire your 600,000 members to re-dedicate their own efforts and those of the Fraternity to the insuring of such economic and political conditions as will bring a greater degree of happiness to our people.

The Eagles also supported old age pension laws in the 1920s: "You Eagles have planted this seed . . . If the Eagles of the United States never do anything else, they have more than justified their existence in their advocacy of this great humanitarian movement."—Gov. Joseph M. Dixon, Governor of Montana, signing into law America's first old age pension law (1923).

Jobs After 40: "The Eagles started this whole idea. That is why I invited the Eagles to be at this private bill signing, and the reason I am presenting this pen to the Fraternal Order of Eagles."—President Lyndon B. Johnson, signing the Federal "Jobs After 40" bill, outlawing upper age limits in hiring.

And enactment of Medicare legislation: "For your energetic and dedicated espousal of social justices, and for the generous support you have given to all measures designed to further economic opportunity and the compassionate treatment of the sick and disabled."—President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a message to the Eagles on the signing of the Medicare amendment to the Social Security Act.

Today, the Eagles advocate for equally important causes. The Eagles support congressional and administration action to ensure the long-term stability of the Social Security system while protecting the fundamental principles on which it was founded and to provide health care coverage to every American child.

The Eagles are also actively advocating for enactment of the Children's Access to Reconstructive Evaluation and Surgeries, CARES Act, H.R. 1655. Evidence suggests that insurance companies are increasingly denying access to the approximately 40,000 American children born annually with birth defects and needing reconstructive surgery. The CARES Act would require all group and individual health insurance coverage and all group health plans to provide coverage for surgery and other outpatient and inpatient medical treatments related to a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity. As a medical doctor and Member of Congress, I am especially proud to be a cosponsor of the CARES Act.

In addition, the Eagles are tremendously generous in providing assistance to a wide variety of very worthy charitable causes. Every year, Eagles across the U.S. and Canada generate more than \$100 million for charities

supported by the F.O.E. The Eagles provide 100 percent of those funds directly to charities in the form of grants, paying administrative costs from their membership dues.

These charities include: the Max Baer Heart Fund; the Robert W. Hansen Diabetes Fund; D.D. Dunlap Kidney Fund; the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund; support for Children's AIDS Awareness and Medical Research; the Lew Reed Spinal Cord Injury Fund; the Golden Eagle, Golden Age Grants, support for community-oriented programs primarily serving the aged, Alzheimer and Parkinson Funds; and the Disaster Relief Fund, first response program for national disaster situations in Canada and the United States, and the new Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa.

In addition, the Eagles also provide educational benefits to graduates of Home on the Range in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota; High Sky Girls Ranch in Midland, Texas; and Bob Hope High School in Port Arthur, Texas. The Eagles also operate Eagle Village, located in Bradenton, Florida, a 26-acre senior community open to any member who has at least 15 years of continuous membership in the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

In addition to large national charitable initiatives, Eagles work at the local level to make their communities better places to live and work. Many activities focus on children and improving their quality of life. Eagles Aeries and Auxiliaries conduct toy drives, send young victims of domestic violence to camp, hold baby showers for needy families, provide Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets, provide backpacks and school supplies, make quilts for nursing homes, and more.

On September 16, 2008, the Fraternal Order of Eagles signed an agreement with the University of Iowa to partner in a 5-year fundraising project that will culminate with the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa. The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center will be a dedicated center for diabetes research within the Institute for Biomedical Discovery Building at the University of Iowa. The Eagles are committing to raise no less than \$25 million over the next 5 years to fund this center. Money fundraised by the Fraternal Order of Eagles will go directly to medical research. Currently, an estimated 23.6 million adults and children in the USA—8 percent of the population—have diabetes.

The Eagles' membership is a broad cross-section of America, ranging from blue-collar workers to teachers to doctors and everyone in between. Seven United States Presidents have been Eagles: Theodore R. Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Ronald W. Reagan. In addition, many famous Americans have been active Eagles, including: Arnold Palmer; Bob Hope; Jimmy Durante; Max Baer, boxing heavyweight champion; Tony Stewart, NASCAR driver; Billy Ray Cyrus, musical performer and entertainer; and baseball Hall of Famer Stan Musial and Roger Maris.

One hundred and ten years ago, the Eagles organized with a simple objective, to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness, and hope." You have succeeded.

Over the last 110 years, the Eagles have been an integral part of the fabric of our country—providing civic leadership, raising funds for children, the elderly and medical research, and improving the country in ways great and small. The Eagles have made the United States an immeasurably better place to live, work, and raise families.

Thank you for all you have done for our communities and our country. Congratulations to the members and leadership of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Best wishes for the next 110 years and beyond.

HONORING KEVIN JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Johnson of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Kevin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kevin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kevin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin Johnson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUBHASH SAHAI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2008 Iowa Family Physician of the Year, Dr. Subhash Sahai of Webster City, Iowa. Subhash was selected for the honor by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP).

Subhash began practicing medicine in January 1976 after receiving his medical degree from the University of Iowa and completing his residency at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. He began his small practice in Webster City and was later joined by his wife, Dr. Sushma Sahai, and his brother, Dr. Anil Sahai. His practice grew and expanded over the years with the addition of other healthcare professionals and services. He is being honored for "his distinguished qualities, recognized leadership in his profession and contribution to his community," according to Dr. Doug Martin, the president of the IAFP.

I consider it a great honor to represent Dr. Subhash Sahai in the United States Congress. The expertise he brings to Central Iowa is certainly valued and I wish Subhash the best as he continues serving Iowa and Webster City.

HONORING MR. FEDERICO "KIKO"
ZUNIGA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Federico "Kiko" Zuniga, of Laredo, Texas, in recognition of his being elected Chairman of the International Federation of Customs Brokers Association (IFCBA) during their biannual conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

The IFCBA is made up of customs broker organizations from 27 countries around the world, and is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Zuniga has been a member of the IFCBA board since 2003, and for the past 2 years has served as one of the organization's managing directors. In addition to being a part of IFCBA, Mr. Zuniga also is Chairman of the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA), and prior to that, served as the president of NCBFAA for 4 years. He is currently a member of the Department Advisory Committee for the commercial Operation of Customs and Border Protection (COAC) and related agencies. Mr. Zuniga has been a licensed customs broker since 1984 and is part owner of F. Zuniga, Inc., the brokerage his father started in Laredo, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the hard work and dedication of Mr. Federico "Kiko" Zuniga to the City of Laredo, to his wife, Bobbie, and to his family. He is a truly deserving recipient of the great honor of being elected chairman of the International Federation of Customs Brokers Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I regret that yesterday I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of roll-call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 6685, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans. I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 1907, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act, to protect the environmental integrity of undeveloped coastal and estuarine areas. I also would have voted "yes" on H.R. 6853, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act of 2008, to protect borrowers from unscrupulous actors in the mortgage market.

I ask unanimous consent that my statement be included in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the Chamber for a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 616, H.R. 6685, legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 423

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this important resolution calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, and condemning the ongoing assaults and obstruction by the Khartoum regime. I am joined in this effort by my distinguished colleagues Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. WOLF of Virginia.

The tragedy of Darfur seems to know no end. After years of violence and death, the genocide in Darfur continues this month with renewed fighting between the Khartoum regime and rebel forces. Once again, entire villages have been decimated, civilians have been slaughtered and thousands have been left homeless.

We cannot turn away from the violence before us. We must continue to raise the issues of Darfur that confront our Nation and the international community. While the violence is perpetrated by those who carry the guns and drop the bombs, we have a responsibility as well.

I am proud of the young people in my own district who have worked to raise awareness of the crisis in Darfur. Zack Harris, now a sophomore at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, learned about the conflict in Darfur 2 years ago and became determined to help. As the eighth grade student president at Central School in Glencoe, he organized "Dance for Darfur," a fundraiser for the Luol Deng Foundation. Named after the Chicago Bulls player from Sudan, the foundation works with the World Food Program in Darfur to assist with food distribution. The "Dance for Darfur" was the first charity dance ever held at the school, and helped raise awareness at the school and in the community. In total, Zack raised more than \$5,000.

In March of this year, I organized a Model Congress with high school students from all across the 10th District. They held hearings and markups on the Darfur Peace and Security Act to bring an end to the genocide. Together, they amended and passed this comprehensive bill to provide humanitarian aid and adopt strict sanctions, along with other measures, to stop the violence in the region.

Other organizations such as the Chicago Coalition to Save Darfur, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Congregation Beth Or in Deerfield, IL, and Chicago Tikkun are all working to bring awareness to the crisis.

Like these students and activists, Congress and the administration must remain committed to ending the tragedy that is unfolding before our eyes. We must build upon the basic achievements that we have won to ensure the full deployment of the UNAMID mission, full access to humanitarian aid, full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and full accountability of the Khartoum government for all its actions.

The U.S. must collaborate with the international community condemn the actions of the Khartoum regime, which have demonstrated the worst that humanity has to offer, and implement a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to bring attention to the plight of the Darfurians and work to find a lasting comprehensive strategy to address this crisis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 22, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 6685, H.R. 1907, and H.R. 6853 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 616, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6685, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 617, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1907, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 618, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6853, the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Coordinator Act of 2008, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL
DAY CELEBRATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their upcoming National Day on October 10.

The Republic of China, Taiwan, is a strong American ally in the Pacific. Although it is a small island nation, it has a growing and progressive economy, providing its citizens with quality education, health, and affordable housing. Also, with its well-educated population, Taiwan is an ideal place for business entrepreneurship. Much of Taiwan's economic prowess is directly attributable to the stability of Taiwan's political system.

A vibrant democracy, Taiwan's history of democratization is an important example of how other countries can change. In a little more than 2 decades, Taiwan has peacefully transformed its political system, from

authoritarianism to democratic government, providing a role model for other non-democratic political governments in Asia.

We hope that in the years ahead, Taiwan and China will continue to reduce their bilateral tensions. Cross-strait relations have been improving: There are now charter flights from Taiwan to the mainland, relaxation of China-bound investments, more visas for mainland tourists, and more exchange in many areas. Taiwan's new President, Ma Ying-jeou, is committed to pursue reconciliation and truce with the People's Republic. President Ma looks for peace and coprosperity with the People's Republic.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and a warm welcome to Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Yuan is a distinguished career diplomat and will most definitely represent his country well. I look forward to working with Ambassador Yuan, and welcome him to Washington, DC.

HONORING MICHAEL STRAMMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Strammel of Liberty, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Strammel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OPPOSING THE COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the sham legislation Speaker PELOSI unfurls for us this week. For months, energy and gas costs have impacted every aspect of Americans' lives—prices at the pump, the cost of a gallon of milk, school board budgets, etc.—and today, the Speaker believes that we have cause to celebrate, because at long last, she has unveiled from the deep recesses of her chambers a bill with the word "energy" in the title.

But when the champagne toast is over and the streamers come down, all America gets in this so-called "energy" bill, is hot air and higher taxes. The bill is merely a reflection of the status-quo, and a fraud on the American consumer paying \$4 a gallon gas.

The reality is:

This bill blocks production and 35 years worth of American oil in 88 percent of the outercontinental shelf!

Impedes production in ANWR, with a projected 10 billion barrels of oil, and permanently locks up a trillion barrels of western oil shale.

New refineries to be built on American soil with this bill? Not a chance.

Fifty percent of our power is from coal, yet there is zero encouragement of coal-to-liquids development or clean coal generation.

Even emissions-free nuclear energy gets a backseat in this bill.

Don't look for pro-production measures to reduce prices at the pump, you won't find them here.

What this bill does do is raises taxes and increases electricity costs for families, seniors and small businesses already feeling their wallets being pinched by high gas prices and rising home heating costs.

Simply put, today we do nothing to provide relief at the pump to the citizens of Kentucky and elsewhere. Let's take off our party hats and call today's festivities what they really are—a thinly veiled effort to inoculate the Speaker in November and appease a small group of special interests. I urge my colleagues to reject this Election Day mirage and demand meaningful comprehensive energy legislation for the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on September 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 616 on H.R. 6685; "yea" on rollcall 617 on H.R. 1907; and "yea" on rollcall 618 on H.R. 6853.

COMPACT WILL PROTECT GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are one of the great treasures of the world and are fully 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. They are unique in our Nation and unique on this planet. But the Great Lakes are especially near and dear to those of us in Michigan, the Great Lakes State.

The Great Lakes are part of our identity as 4 of the 5 Lakes touch Michigan's shore. The Lakes are important to our State for commerce, for recreation, for drinking water, and for tourism. They are an invaluable part of the environment. The Great Lakes deserve every protection to ensure that they remain a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

One of the primary reasons I ran for Congress was to preserve and protect the Great Lakes. I have been proud to work with my col-

leagues on issues like invasive species, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, and the Water Resources Development Act. Today, the House will take a historic step towards protecting this treasure by ratifying the Great Lakes Compact.

The compact is a binding agreement among the Great Lakes States to implement a conservation standard for regulating water withdrawals from the Great Lakes Basin. This document will essentially ban new and increased diversions of water outside the Great Lakes Basin with only limited, highly regulated exceptions. It also establishes a framework for each State to enact laws protecting the basin.

There is no doubt that water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, both around the world and here in the United States. Droughts in the Southeast and the West have demonstrated quite clearly that we cannot simply take abundant freshwater for granted. In fact, a recent issue of BusinessWeek screamed the headline: "There Will Be Water: Why T. Boone Pickens Thinks It's the New Oil." Water shortages will undoubtedly lead to jurisdictional fights over access.

The Great Lakes Region has taken it upon themselves to work through these issues before areas outside the basin attempt to access water from the Great Lakes. I am proud of our region for coming together to decide the future of the Great Lakes before others have the opportunity to do that for us.

This measure will ensure the continued protection of the Great Lakes for generations to come, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of the Great Lakes Compact.

RECOGNIZING KYLE HOUSTON

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Kyle Houston of Butler, Kentucky. On September 29, 2007, Kyle distinguished himself in a crisis situation when a kitchen fire erupted in his grandparents' home.

At the time of the fire, Kyle was watching television with his grandfather, Paul Green. Mr. Green has emphysema and receives oxygen 24 hours a day. In a display of courage, maturity and composure that far exceeded his 8 years of age, Kyle responded to the emergency quickly and effectively. Kyle roused his grandfather and helped him out of the house, then reentered the smoky home to retrieve his grandfather's portable oxygen tank. He then helped his grandfather reattach his oxygen tank and ensured that it was working properly. Finally, Kyle called 9-1-1 and alerted his parents to the situation.

Without his grandson's quick response, Mr. Green could have suffered extremely severe injuries from smoke inhalation. On October 6, 2008, in recognition of Kyle's heroism, Cub Scout Pack 75 will present Kyle with the Heroism Award for putting into practice Scouting skills and ideals. Kyle is a first year Webelos Scout with Pack 75.

Kyle's composure during what must have been a very frightening event is impressive. Kyle's mother and father have many reasons to be proud of their incredible son.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Kyle Houston for his outstanding actions and character.

HONORING TAYLOR McELHANEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor McElhaney of Kansas City, Missouri. Taylor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor McElhaney for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIPPE THE ORIGINAL RESTAURANT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Philippe the Original restaurant on the occasion of its 100 year anniversary. This historic diner in Downtown Los Angeles in my congressional district is legendary for its succulent French dip sandwiches.

Started in 1908 by a French immigrant named Philippe Mathieu, this restaurant thrives today at 1001 North Alameda Street, one block north of Union Station, at Alameda and Ord Street. In 1927, Philippe Mathieu retired and sold the restaurant to two brothers, David and Harry Martin. The Martins and their in-laws, the Binders, have owned and operated the restaurant ever since.

On a typical weekday, more than 3,000 customers patronize Philippe's, ordering up its renowned beef, lamb, pork and turkey dip sandwiches. The restaurant is even busier on Saturdays and Sundays when Philippe's dedicated crew serves as many as 4,000 customers who step atop the restaurant's sawdust-covered floors to place their orders.

So what's behind these hearty sandwiches "dipped" in a special meat juice—or jus, as the French say?

Starting at 3 a.m., the restaurant's ovens begin the essential task of roasting the beef, legs of lamb, pork butts and turkey breasts that make up the bulk of Philippe's sandwiches. The dipping jus is made by simmering 150 pounds of beef bones with stockpot vegetables for 24 hours. The stock is then used to deglaze the roasting pans to form a unique

and flavorful combination. When the sandwiches are assembled, the meats are sliced, placed on French rolls from the Frisco Baking Co. in Cypress Park, accented with Philippe's homemade mustard and then "dipped."

While its French dip sandwiches are undeniably the restaurant's main draw, Philippe's also serves many other popular timeless dishes that made the restaurant a success when it opened a century ago. The menu includes: pickled pigs' feet (the restaurant sells 300 pounds a week); coleslaw; house-pickled beets; magenta hard-boiled eggs in beet juice; fruit pies; baked apples; tapioca pudding; and tart lemonade. Another legacy to its days gone by: Philippe's sells a cup of coffee for a mere 10 cents.

In addition to the restaurant's tasty fare and reasonable prices, Philippe's success and longevity are also attributed to the restaurant's hardworking and loyal employees. Many of the restaurant's 73 employees have worked at Philippe's for more than 20 years and six are second generation.

General Manager Richard Binder said in a recent LA Times article that the restaurant prides itself on offering its employees a quality work environment. "We've been union since at least 1954. Our employees say they're very happy with their medical plan, which covers spouses and children—the whole family," Mr. Binder said.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Martin and Binder families and the restaurant's many dedicated employees on 100 years of continuous operation of Philippe's in Los Angeles. I also extend to all of them my best wishes for many more years of success ahead, satisfying the sandwich cravings of current and future generations of Angelenos and tourists, and I invite my colleagues to stop by Philippe's the next time they're in Los Angeles to have a great sandwich in the 34th District.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chairman of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force I am pleased to rise in support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Commission, Alliance for the Great Lakes and more, would implement a host of water conservation and transparency measures that will limit water diversions and encourage responsible, sustainable water use. A state-by-state approach will not solve the problem—S.J. Res. 45 is a comprehensive, regional solution to prevent the selling off of our most important natural resource.

The Great Lakes are among the Nation's most precious natural resources. As the world's largest freshwater system, the lakes provide food, recreation, drinking water, and jobs for nearly 40 million people. Yet the Great Lakes face a number of threats, ranging from

sewage and industrial pollution to invasive species and decreasing water levels. These hazards threaten not only the ecosystem and water supply, but also the long-term economic stability of the entire Midwest.

Studies document that lake levels have been on the decline since the 1970s. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Great Lakes are now a combined 3.5 feet below their long-term average. Many factors are believed to contribute to the declining levels, including increasing air and water temperatures which reduce the ice cover of the lakes and result in faster evaporation during winter. In fact, the National Wildlife Federation estimates that the lakes could drop up to 8 feet this century if action is not taken.

While Congress can take steps to help mitigate the effects of global warming, Great Lakes states must regulate water use. We run the risk that without water diversion safeguards, the drop in lake levels could continue—we must set standards to responsibly manage water use. In 1998, the Canadian Nova Group tried to ship Lake Superior water in bulk to Asia. Last October, then-Presidential candidate Bill Richardson suggested that western states use Great Lakes water to meet their growing water demand. Clearly, the desire to seize Great Lakes water exists, and we must prevent the large-scale depletion of our resource.

Perhaps the most shocking example of water mismanagement is the Aral Sea at the borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In 50 years, what once was the world's fourth largest inland sea lost 75 percent of its water due to irresponsible irrigation and regional growth. This demonstrates how seemingly limitless supplies of water can vanish quickly.

To protect the Great Lakes, Congress needs to pass the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. As a proud original cosponsor to H.R. 6577, the House companion version, we must do everything we can to protect this national treasure for future generations to enjoy. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this sorely needed legislation.

HONORING DR. LAVERN FRANZEN

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. LaVern Franzen, who has recently retired as president of Central Community College and who has been committed to advancing career education in my home state of Nebraska since 1967.

Throughout his career, Dr. Franzen has encouraged teamwork and provided guidance and support for students and college employees alike.

He is known as a man who thinks outside the box, and whose commitment to education knows no bounds.

He has established a drag racing club to provide learning experiences outside the class; organizing a campus chapter of SkillsUSA to enhance the occupational skills of students in communications, leadership, and teamwork; opening Pooh Corner College to provide child care services for students and

staff; and bringing a new medical laboratory technology program to the Hastings campus.

Dr. Franzen is a credit to Nebraska and to the educational community as a whole. Students and educators alike have benefited from his hard work, and I congratulate him on his decades of hard work.

TRIBUTE ROBERT A. GLEICH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert A. Gleich, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from his position of Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings.

Bob Gleich began his career with the Architect of the Capitol in November 1976 in the AOC's Construction Management division, where he worked on many sizeable projects, including final construction of the Madison Building. His experience in overseeing large-scale construction projects proved helpful as he then transitioned to the A/C Engineering Division, where he was assigned to oversee the construction of the Hart Senate Office Building. Bob's engineering expertise and construction management skills were instrumental in the successful completion of this high profile project, which was finished on time and on budget.

Following a promotion in August 1987 to Assistant Superintendent, House Office Buildings, Bob was named Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings, in December 1992, a position which he holds today on the eve of his retirement from public service.

In his role as Deputy Superintendent, Bob has been involved in many initiatives which have transformed the AOC into an organization that is dedicated to completing its mission with a commitment to exceptional performance, and a focus on quality customer service. He played a critical role in developing the first automated work order system in the AOC. He also chaired a group charged with developing a computer aided facility management (CAFM) system for the AOC designed to improve the Architect's facility management data collection.

This system which was implemented in 1999, was enhanced in 2004, and remains a key component in the AOC's successful management of the facilities that comprise the Capitol Hill complex.

Bob continued to build on his accomplishments by streamlining the Congressional office-moves process for the House of Representatives. Through his efforts, the room selection process has been transformed from a labor-intensive process where information and data required manual display, forcing Members and staff to spend an extensive amount of time monitoring the process, to a fully automated process that can be monitored via the Web, reducing Member and staff time by approximately 90 percent. This transformation has made the Congressional office-moves process easier to execute, and has increased the customer satisfaction scores to greater than 95 percent during the last three Congressional move cycles.

Upon his retirement, Bob will be embarking on a new career in the private sector. We wish

Bob our best as he begins this exciting new chapter of his life, and extend our good wishes to him, his wife Petra, and his six children, Aaron, Robbie, Ryan, Dana, Dustin, and Derrick.

HONORING LELAND HUCKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leland Hucke of Liberty, Missouri. Leland is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Leland has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leland has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leland Hucke for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LOCAL OLYMPIANS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishments of our U.S. Olympic Athletes.

Javier Molina had a hole in his lung but that didn't stop him from representing his country. Hailing from Norwalk, California Javier—the son of Mexican-American immigrants and part of a boxing legacy that spans both sides of the U.S./Mexico border—became the youngest member of the 2008 U.S. boxing team at 18 years old. His hard work and determination has made everyone in the 38th District of California and the Latino community very proud.

All Olympic athletes work hard to achieve their goals but some athletes also have to fight through injuries. In Beijing Javier suffered from a condition called "subcutaneous emphysema" where air was able to seep out of a small hole in his lung. Although this condition made it hard for Javier to breathe and drained his energy he put up a strong front and boxed so he could represent the United States with dignity. Javier did not bring home a medal but he stayed committed, fought, and made us proud.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize another one of my constituents, Laura Berg from Sante Fe Springs, California. Laura was a member of the 2008 U.S. Softball team which brought a silver medal home from Beijing.

This was the fourth time that Laura has represented our Nation at the Olympics, winning gold medals in softball at the 2004 Olympics in Sydney, the 2000 Olympics in Athens, and at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She is the

only four-time Olympian in the history of softball. At the 2006 International Softball Federation's World Championships, she also set a world record by appearing in her fourth World Championship.

Before stepping down in 2007 to train for the Olympics, Laura showed her commitment to helping the next generation by working as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Fresno State.

On behalf of the 38th District of California, we are so proud of all our Olympians.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish "The National Water Research and Development Initiative," to coordinate national efforts on water research and technology development and to provide a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet the water needs of municipalities, industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

At the turn of the 19th century, U.S. population stood at a little more than 5 million citizens. Our population is now over 300 million with an annual growth rate of one percent. Available surface water supplies have not increased in the United States since the 1990s, and groundwater tables are continuing to decline. It is clear that the U.S. water supply cannot support future populations and economic activity at its current rate of consumption.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the nation's resources, to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will

come with increased costs to all businesses, industries, and municipalities which rely on the same water resources. The Association of California Water Agencies reported in April 2008 that California is now losing income and jobs due to the state's water supply crisis.

A new commitment is necessary to ensure that the United States can meet the water challenges over the next twenty years and onward. The House Science and Technology Committee has begun to search out ways for the federal government to spur new technological innovations that will improve our water-use efficiency. We are doing our part to highlight this important issue and to develop legislation that will address technological and strategic deficiencies at the federal level.

If we are to avoid water crises in the future, we need an effective research and development effort that provides tools and information to manage our water resources effectively. Coordination of the twenty federal agencies responsible for water programs is a logical place to start. The 2004 National Academies Report on Federal Water Research indicated that the United States is not getting its money's worth on water resources research because of a lack of coordination.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on the Administration's effort to coordinate federal research on water resources by establishing an interagency committee—the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Technology Council. The bill codifies this subcommittee and provides it explicit Congressional authorization.

The bill also incorporates recommendations from the 2004 report by the National Academies entitled, *Confronting the Nation's Water Problems: The Role of Federal Research* to strengthen the subcommittee's role in setting priorities and developing an integrated budget to support research on water resources. The Academy's report indicated that SWAQ is an effective forum for agencies to share information about their efforts on water. However, the report identified several issues that needed to be addressed to make SWAQ an effective coordinating body.

This bill strengthens the budget function for SWAQ through participation of OMB on the subcommittee. In addition, SWAQ is directed to engage in outreach activities to develop connections to state and local governments, to a wider community of stakeholders, and to the public. These recommendations, and others, helped to form the basis of the initiative.

In order to better manage water supplies, there is a critical need for reliable, contemporary information about our water resources and how supplies vary over time. Currently, quantitative knowledge of water supply is inadequate in the United States. The U.S. Water Resources Council completed the most recent, comprehensive, national water availability and use assessment in 1978. This legislation directs the subcommittee to mobilize federal resources to undertake a new national water census.

I offer this legislation to improve and coordinate federal research and development efforts on water. It is critical that we actively pursue technological innovations to ensure future water supplies.

HONOR OF THE SAPPINGTON
HOUSE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exquisite Thomas Sappington House, believed to be the oldest brick house in St. Louis County.

Built in 1808 of sun-dried bricks cut from Missouri clay, the house is a 2½ story example of Federal Architecture that was popular in the post Revolutionary War period and has been restored as a historic home museum since the mid-1960s.

It is a National Historic Landmark, and is owned by the City of Crestwood as part of their Parks and Recreation Department.

I would like to recognize the group of dedicated volunteers that run the house and grounds on a day to day basis, which includes a free reference library and barn tea room which are open to the public to help educate present generations about the past.

I would also like to recognize the citizens of Crestwood as well as the other volunteers who donate their time and money to preserve this wonderful house for future generations and commend it as it a true gem of St. Louis County.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN MITCHELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynn Mitchell and to congratulate her on being honored as Iowa Class 2A District Coach of the Year.

Lynn Mitchell has been the girls' golf coach at West Marshall High School in State Center, Iowa since 1999, after serving as an assistant coach. Since that time, the team has won conference championships in 2005, 2007, and 2008 and they were also district champions in 2005, 2006, and 2008. She was awarded the Class 2A District Coach of the Year Award after she led the team to their first appearance at state golf after they won the regional competition.

I congratulate Lynn Mitchell on her well-deserved award. It is an honor to represent Lynn in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best.

HONORING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY
UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS
OF 1812

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. This organization has been instrumental in promoting and preserving the history of a critical time in U.S. history—the War of 1812 era.

The National Society has been a service organization of women descendants of veterans of America's Second War for independence and remains dedicated to promoting the War of 1812 in our nation's history through educational, patriotic and historical activities. Eighty years ago in 1928, the National Society purchased a national headquarters building on Rhode Island Avenue in our Nation's capital. For these 80 years, the National Society has remained at the same address and maintains one of the few museums and libraries dedicated solely to the War of 1812 time frame. At this location is a grave location index along with extensive genealogical files that are not duplicated anywhere else in the United States.

The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 has long strived to preserve the colorful War of 1812 era—the exciting, yet critical time in American history that produced our United States Constitution and our National Anthem. I commend the entire organization for the important work they do to keep our history alive.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor this prestigious organization. I ask that you join me along with the people of Southern Missouri to congratulate the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 on their anniversary and their invaluable contributions to American history.

HONORING MATTHEW JOSEPH
DILLMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Joseph Dillman of Liberty, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Joseph Dillman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE 23RD ANNUAL
"HEATS ON" PROGRAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the professional pipefitters of St. Cloud Local No. 539 and contractors from the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association will head out to 30–40 local homes to provide free furnace service for low-income, senior, and disabled homeowners. They are putting

their skills and experience to work to help those who are less fortunate in our community.

Maintaining a furnace is a very important household task. An inefficient furnace can cost a family hundreds of extra dollars each year—and the winters get pretty cold in Minnesota. With energy prices already high and with food and other costs skyrocketing as well, few can make room in their tight budgets for those hundreds of dollars. And, this is especially true of seniors and others on fixed incomes.

The free services provided by these professionals, however, not only help save money, but also help save lives. By installing detectors during their inspections, they will help keep so many people from exposure to life-threatening levels of carbon monoxide.

For 22 years, HEATS ON has provided more than 25,000 hours of services to more than 6200 households. While the money value on these services exceeds \$2.7 million, the real value is so much greater. And, I commend these men and women for their work and their dedication to their community.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS TRACK COACH JOHN McDONNELL

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, John McDonnell is known as the legendary track coach at the University of Arkansas. His 47 national titles are the most by any single-gendered coach in the history of college athletics.

Every single outdoor and indoor track and field event record is held by one of his student athletes. Winning 84 conference titles including 34 straight in cross country, he took very little credit, often crediting his assistant coaches with the success.

He was committed to mentoring, educating, and developing thousands of young men in the classroom and on the track. He pushed his student athletes to strive for excellence.

Coach McDonnell is much more than just a coach. He often spoke about the importance of family in his life. During his retirement announcement, he talked of wanting to spend time with his wife Ellen, daughter Heather, and son Sean.

His contributions as a coach, educator, and leader have brought great pride to Razorbacks all across the Nation. He has given so much to Arkansas, and all Arkansans thank him for his work. I congratulate Coach McDonnell for 36 years of excellence at the University of Arkansas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 22, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall votes 617 and 618.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ROBIN HOEFER JACKSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Mrs. Robin H. Jackson a valued member of the Midlands community of South Carolina.

Born in Columbia, South Carolina, Mrs. Jackson received her education in the Richland District One Public School System, graduated from Eau Claire High School, and later attended Benedict College. A 1975 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor of arts degree in vocal performance, she received her certification in music education from the University of South Carolina. Additionally, she holds a master of education degree from Cambridge College, Boston, Massachusetts, which she earned in 2001.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Jackson has served her community doing what she loves best—teaching music to children. She served as music specialist at the South Carolina State Hospital before returning to Richland School District One to teach music education at various schools, including Lyon Street Elementary School, Fairwold Elementary School, Rosewood Elementary School, and the Olympia School. In May 2008, Mrs. Jackson retired from teaching after 28 years at A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School.

During Mrs. Jackson's term as an instructor of music at A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School, she received training from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and became certified in creating an original opera for children. This opportunity allowed her to guide students in grades 4 and 5 in creating their own original opera, which consisted of composing their own music, writing their own lyrics, and building their own sets. Mrs. Jackson also led the students on educational tours of New York City, where they were exposed to various operas and Broadway shows. A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School was the only elementary school in Columbia to participate in this program.

Mrs. Jackson's work in music education demonstrated her belief that every student should participate in some form of the arts. Thus, each grade level at the A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School was given an opportunity to perform in grade level performances. The first grade students presented a production of Maurice Sendak's *Really Rosie*; the second grade students performed in *The Carnival of the Animals*; the third grade students performed in *The Nutcracker*; the fourth grade students performed in *Choices Count*, which is a part of one of the Character Education initiatives of the Richland School District One; and the fifth grade students were given an opportunity to perform in their own original opera. Other school-wide productions included *The Wiz* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Mrs. Jackson not only involved her students in musicals, but she also provided guitar les-

sons to male students in grades 4 and 5 by way of the Guitar Club, which was geared towards the behavioral modification of the students. She also offered all students an opportunity to learn to play the tone chimes, the recorder, and the keyboard. She additionally led the school's chorus, who often performed in various musical productions.

Mrs. Jackson's commitment to the intellectual and artistic development of children did not end upon her retirement from the A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School. She maintains her devotion as the owner of the Arts-In-Action Music Studio in West Columbia, where she offers piano and voice classes to youth. She is also music director for the Brookland Baptist Church Children's Choir where there are more than 100+ voices ranging from ages 5 through 12.

Mrs. Jackson's service to the community continues as president of the Interdenominational Alliance of Minister's wives and Minister's Widows, Inc. of Greater Columbia; a member of the Capital City Chorale of Columbia; a member of the Brookland Baptist First Sunday Ensemble; a member of the Beautification Committee for West Columbia; a member of the Capital City Club; a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated; and director of music for the Women's Educational and Missionary Baptist Convention of South Carolina. She is also a speaker at various churches in the state of South Carolina for Women's Day and mission work.

Mrs. Jackson is married to the Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., pastor of the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia. She is the mother of Reverend Charles B. Jackson, Jr., pastor of the New Laurel Street Baptist Church of Columbia; mother-in-law to Mrs. Iva Gaymon Jackson; and mother of Attorney Candace Celeste Jackson of Columbia. Mrs. Jackson also holds dear in her heart her three grandchildren: Charles B. Jackson, III; Caleb A. Jackson; and Kayla Jackson.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. MILTON H. WEYER, JR.

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend to the House the memory of Mr. Milton H. Weyer, Jr., on his passing of May 29, 2008. A lifelong Ohioan, Milton was born in Findlay on April 19, 1947. He led a life dedicated to service and helping others, serving for 4 years in the Air Force and for 27 years at Hanco as an emergency medical technician. His legacy of selflessness is fondly remembered by all those in his community and by those whose lives he touched.

Milton is survived by his wife Suzanne; his 5 children, Milton III, Marcus, Mallory, Drew, and Samantha; his siblings Bob, Donnie, Dave, Ray, and Charlotte; as well as 11 grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to remember the Weyer family in their prayers and to honor all of those who provide service to their communities and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA AND
LEROY FLEMING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to two individuals whose ongoing dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California have been exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Sylvia and Leroy Fleming are two of these individuals. On September 23, 2008, the Temescal District Boy Scouts of America will host the 2008 Distinguished Citizens Dinner in honor of Sylvia and Leroy.

Sylvia has lived in Corona since 1947 and attended Corona schools including St. Edward Catholic School and Corona Senior High School where she graduated with the class of 1962. Leroy came to California from Iowa in 1963. Sylvia and Leroy met while attending Chaffey College and they were married August 1, 1964. Leroy worked for the Orange County Food Service until Sylvia opened the Via-Ery Park N' Eat Catering in 1974 with two trucks. They now load 60 catering trucks serving the Inland Empire.

Sylvia has been involved in the community for many years. She was president of Triple M, a previous branch of the Women's Improvement Club, a commissioner for the Corona Parks and Recreation, and served on the board of the Corona-Norco PTA Council. She also served as Chairman of the Board for the Foundation for Community Health and was a member of Soroptimist International of Corona where she served as President. Sylvia is the recipient of the Status of Women Award and Women Helping Women Award. She was also a member of the St. Edward School Board and received the Seton award from the Diocese of San Bernardino. Another award Sylvia has received is the Distinguished Graduate Award from the National Catholic Educational Association. Sylvia is a Eucharistic Minister for St. Edward Catholic Church and a member of the Catholic Daughters. She is owner of Sylvia's treasures, a business that donates all profits to charity.

Leroy as well has been involved in Corona for several years; he is a member of the Corona Host Lions where he has served as President. He has received the Outstanding Member of the Year Award and Lion of the Year Award. Leroy is instrumental in securing most of the food for the annual Pancake Breakfast held in September. In 2003, Sylvia and Leroy received the Citizens of the Year Award from the Corona Chamber of Commerce. Leroy and Sylvia are also members of the Navy League of Corona and Leroy spends a significant amount of time raising funds for various charitable organizations. Sylvia and Leroy have three children, two sons-in-laws and six grandchildren.

Sylvia and Leroy's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Sylvia and Leroy fellow community members, Americans and friends. I know that many community members

are grateful for their service and salute them as 2008 Distinguished Citizens.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROCKFORD BURNS CLUB

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor today the oldest, continuous social organization in Rockford, Illinois—the Rockford Burns Club—which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on November 5, 2008. The Rockford Burns Club is one of the oldest Burns Clubs in the United States that was established to honor Scottish heritage and, specifically, the great poet, Robert Burns. Not only are his works historically important but Robert Burns is the quintessential symbol of Scotland and the Scottish people, many of who emigrated to the United States for greater opportunities.

There are approximately 4.8 million Americans of Scottish descent—nearly as many as live in Scotland today. Their independent spirit continues to contribute enormously to the growth and well-being of the United States. Many Scottish-Americans played a formative role in the political and economic development of this Nation, including several of our Founding Fathers, such as Thomas McKean of Pennsylvania, the Reverend John Witherspoon of New Jersey, and Alexander Hamilton of New York; and the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell.

The Rockford Burns Club fosters this creative spirit by reminding us what is best about Scottish culture, including the literary contributions of Robert Burns. I salute the current leadership of the Rockford Burns Club for their efforts to keep this tradition alive, and I wish them every continued success for at least another 150 years.

CONGRATULATING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, SLOCOG, on its 40th anniversary. SLOCOG was established in 1968 as an area-wide planning and coordinating council responsible for a wide variety of transportation, housing, water and sewer, open space and other programs in San Luis Obispo County. SLOCOG served as the overseer of the region by adopting an area-wide infrastructure plan.

In 1973, SLOCOG became a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and developed the region's first Regional Transportation Plan. Its plan addressed all modes of transportation, and it has continually updated the community schematic to address the changing needs and priorities of the area. In 1978,

SLOCOG was designated the lead agency responsible for complying with the provisions of the 1977 Federal Clean Air Act and subsequently adopted the region's first air quality attainment and monitoring plan.

Following the enactment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, ISTEA, SLOCOG expanded significantly in order to develop a comprehensive, interconnected, intermodal transportation system in the county. The agency then developed the region's first compliance plan for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Beginning in 1993, SLOCOG prepared the region's first Federal Transportation Improvement Program, FTIP, and has updated the plan every 2 years to address the changing community needs and to ensure San Luis Obispo County's infrastructure conforms to Federal policies. Demonstrative of SLOCOG's ability to handle a big workload: the most recent FTIP consisted of 99 construction projects.

In 1998, following enactment of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century, TEA21, the role of SLOCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region was reinforced through the continued emphasis on the intermodal planning process established in ISTEA.

Examples of SLOCOG's hard work and dedication to transportation needs are clear across San Luis Obispo County. SLOCOG has developed a regional network of bikeway and pedestrian facilities, which serve all areas of the county. It has also created a comprehensive community public transit system that serves all seven cities and unincorporated urban areas. SLOCOG improved passenger rail facilities throughout the region, and enhanced aviation service in the region with new and improved passenger airline safety equipment and facilities. SLOCOG has also worked cooperatively with local jurisdictions, Caltrans and other agencies to successfully plan and design construction of many major surface transportation system improvements.

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments has given the county of San Luis Obispo 40 years of dedicated service. I commend SLOCOG for its service to San Luis Obispo County residents in making their daily commutes and drives a little more pleasant and a little bit quicker because of well planned and executed transportation projects, programs, and policies.

COMMENDING THE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1287—Commending the Honor Flight Network.

The Honor Flight's mission is to provide an all expenses paid trip for WWII veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the memorial that has been dedicated to honor their service and their sacrifices for our country.

Unfortunately, we are losing "The Greatest Generation" with every passing day, and many are not able to have the opportunity to

visit the World War II monument, which memorializes the sacrifice made by so many.

Thankfully, Honor Flight organizations from all over the Nation have taken it upon themselves to make sure WWII veterans who otherwise would be unable to make the trip to D.C., have an opportunity to do so.

This amazing group, made up entirely of unpaid volunteers, raises money and donates time to ensure these veterans of World War II see not only the WWII monument, but also the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery—all at no cost to the veteran.

These honor flights take veterans to Washington from April through November each year, and provide flights, deluxe tour bus service, t-shirts, scooters, wheelchairs, oxygen and meals—at a cost of \$20,000 per flight. Many people say they are grateful for the sacrifices of our Nation's veterans, but this group puts it that idea into action.

In my home state of Michigan, over 414 veterans were flown to Washington, DC by Honor Flight of Michigan last year, and so far this year 346 veterans have been afforded the opportunity to see Washington, DC.

I can think of no group more worthy of recognition than the Honor Flight Network. These fine Americans do great work, and I personally want to thank them for honoring our Nation's veterans—they have fought, bled, and sacrificed on our behalf and we owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

However, I'm grateful to see Americans working together in partnership with business and the donations of hard working men and women can be applied to honoring the "Greatest Generation" of Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MATT LOGAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Matt Logan is one of these individuals. On September 23, 2008, the Temescal District Boy Scouts of America will host the 2008 Distinguished Citizens Dinner in honor of Matt Logan.

Matt Logan has been the coach of the Centennial Huskies for 11 years. Centennial is currently ranked number 17 in the country and Matt has an overall record of 108–3. In the last eight seasons the Huskies have posted an incredible record of 90–15, which includes four CIF Championships, seven League Championships, a trip to the State Championship Bowl Game, and a 22 game winning streak.

Matt's coaching honors include: the 2007 Press Enterprise Sportsmen of the Year; NFL/ABC 2007 Coach of the Year; 2004 CalHiSports State Coach of the Year; the 2002, 2004, and 2007 Riverside County Coach of the Year; four-time CIF Coach of the Year; six-time League Coach of the Year; and two-time NFL Coach of the Week. Matt was selected to coach in the 2007 Southern Cali-

fornia Bowl, the 2002 and 2003 Inland Empire All-Star Classic, the 2004 Cal/Florida Bowl, and the 2004 Shrine Game. During Coach Logan's tenure, there have been over 50 players to earn college scholarships.

Before becoming the Head Coach, Matt served as the Defensive Coordinator for the Huskies when they reached the CIF Finals in 1996 and the CIF semi-finals in 1995. Prior to Centennial High School, he coached at Esperanza High School and at Mater Dei High School. A 1985 graduate of Norco High School, Matt lettered in football, basketball and track and he was elected into the Hall of Fame in 1997. After high school, Coach Logan went on to play running back at Fullerton College and then at Chico State University. He graduated from Chico State in 1990 with a degree in Business. After a couple of years in sales, Matt returned to college and in 1995 received his Teaching Credential from Cal State Fullerton. In 2001, he graduated with a Masters Degree in Education from Azusa Pacific University. In addition to his Head Coach responsibilities, he teaches Physical Education at Centennial High School. Matt and his late wife Donna, have three beautiful daughters; Lindsey who is 16 and a Junior at Centennial, Samantha who is 13 and Madison who is 12 years old.

Matt's tireless passion for coaching and mentoring has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California and to Centennial High School. I am proud to call Matt a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute them as a 2008 Distinguished Citizen.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my strong support for S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. As a Member who represents two critical natural resources, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, both part of the Great Lakes Basin, I believe this legislation is extremely timely and worthwhile to the long-term future of the Great Lakes. This bill will help address the needs of my community, as well as the many challenges that the Great Lakes Basin faces. It will have an impact on millions of gallons of freshwater, millions of people who use the Great Lakes for rest and relaxation, as well as thousands of jobs supported by the Great Lakes.

By passing this resolution today, and ratifying the Great Lakes Compact, we have the power and ability to ensure this precious resource is protected for generations to come. The Compact, which has already been ratified by all eight states affected, outlines a concrete plan of action to provide for protection of the Great Lakes now, and in the future. This Compact is imperative in helping protect this national treasure for the millions of Americans who enjoy the Great Lakes. I am pleased that

Congress chose not to run the risk of leaving the Great Lakes unprotected and at risk for our children and grandchildren.

I would like to thank the Speaker for answering our call and moving this essential resolution right away. With the Senate having already passed this landmark legislation and the President indicating his support and willingness to sign it as soon as it gets to his desk, this is a historic day for the Members of the Great Lakes states from both sides of the aisle. It has been a pleasure working with a broad coalition of Members to ensure the long-term protection of the Great Lakes.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE MARLOWE FAMILY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marlowe family, and their father, Edward Marlowe, for the bravery they have shown in supporting their father's career with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in La Paz, Bolivia, which is a part of the DEA jurisdiction known as the Southern Cone Region.

The Marlowe family lived and worked in Bolivia in the Southern Cone Region which consists of Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. These countries are considered to be transit zones for the movement of cocaine base, cocaine HCL, and heroin being shipped from Colombia and Peru to market in the United States. The DEA has the largest international presence of any federal law agency, with 87 foreign offices in 63 countries.

Mr. Marlowe, as a DEA agent, has served our Nation with courage, vision, and determination in protecting our communities from the dangers of narco-trafficking violence during his service in Bolivia. He contributed to the crackdown on these dangerous drug cartels by working to stop the distribution and manufacture of these drugs from entering the market. I thank the Marlowe family, especially Edward's wife, Violet, and their daughter, Joelle, for standing firm in the face of the dangers they faced while staying in Bolivia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize the Marlowe family for their bravery and determination they showed during Mr. Marlowe's service in Bolivia.

HONORING ERIC JORDAN STAVES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Jordan Staves of Liberty, Missouri. Eric is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric Jordan Staves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE WESTERN WAYNE
YOUTH TRAVELING CLASSIC

SPEECH OF

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the Western Wayne Youth Traveling Classic (WWYTC) League, upon the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Now celebrating its 25th year, the Western Wayne Traveling Classic is a junior bowling league. Since its inception, over one thousand young bowlers have been enriched by the program. Importantly, more than thirty thousand dollars in scholarships have been awarded to bowlers through the WWYTC, substantially contributing to the education opportunities of Detroit area youth. The WWYTC has become a beloved area institution of Canton, Westland, and the Wayne County area in general. Relationships are built and young people given activities that keep them occupied constructively. In the past quarter century, a marriage has resulted from young people meeting in league competition, and the first child of a first generation WWYTC youth has now become a member of the WWYTC. This league has produced world bowling hall of fame members like Lisa Bishop, and become a well-known fixture of the Wayne County area.

From 1983 to the present, its founder, Harold Winters has served as the Executive Director of the Western Wayne Youth Traveling Classic League. His initiative began a league which enabled youth in the area to compete, learn about sportsmanship, and constructively participate in their community. Before the league's founding in 1983, there were no classic bowling leagues in the Western Wayne County area. This league created an opportunity for young bowlers to learn the fundamentals of the sport and compete in a fun and family oriented environment.

Madam Speaker, over the years, the Western Wayne Youth Traveling Classic has been a beloved feature of the Wayne County area. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the spirit represented by this league, and the benefits it has brought to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOHN'S
FOUNDATION BOARD TRUSTEE
JERRY B. EPSTEIN AND HIS BE-
LOVED WIFE, PAT, FOR THEIR
MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friends, Jerry B. Epstein and his remarkable wife, Pat, who are being honored on October 11 with the Spirit of Saint John's Award at the 2008 Caritas Gala at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, California.

To fully capture the breadth of this extraordinary couple's service to Saint John's and the community at large, I would like to share with my colleagues a tribute written by members of the Saint John's Health Center Foundation family. As a person who has had the privilege of knowing this remarkable couple for many years, I feel the tribute captures Jerry and Pat's tireless work to make Saint John's the quality health center it is today. It also highlights their many other contributions to the Los Angeles community they hold so dear.

The foundation's tribute reads, "Pat and Jerry's love for Saint John's is apparent in the enthusiasm and passion they bring to each project they embrace. When asked why they have chosen to devote so much of their time and energy to the Health Center, Jerry will tell you that having a place like Saint John's is absolutely essential—"as important as having food to eat and a roof over your head."

Jerry joined the Saint John's Foundation Board of Trustees in 1975 and was elected Chairman in 2006 and 2007. He has actively participated in numerous hospital and Foundation initiatives including leadership of the Development Oversight Committee, Building Committee, Leadership Giving, Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon Committee, Chautauqua Inaugural Committee, The Saint John's Legacy Project and the Campaign for Saint John's. He currently serves as a member of the Foundation Executive Committee and Board of Counselors. During the design and construction of the new Health Center campus, Jerry's vast knowledge and experience in large-scale real estate development have been invaluable to Saint John's.

Jerry's commitment to Saint John's is matched by his wife and 60-year life-long partner, Pat, whose contributions have touched everyone in the Saint John's family. As one of the founding members of the Irene Dunne Guild, she continues to be an integral part of this important support group. She is a committee member of the Women's Health Initiative and serves on several fundraising event committees. Pat has graciously hosted countless dinners and special events in their home to introduce friends and neighbors to Saint John's.

The Epsteins' dedication to Saint John's is rivaled only by their pride for the State of California. Jerry is a true real estate visionary and since 1952 has been involved in the development, construction and management of major building projects in Los Angeles. One of the highlights of his extremely successful career in real estate is the development of Marina del

Rey, the largest pleasure boat harbor community in the world.

Jerry's leadership in civic affairs extends to all sectors of the community and he has proudly served every California governor since Ronald Reagan on State boards and commissions, including the California Transportation Commission and California High Speed Rail Authority, City of Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners and Los Angeles State Building Authority, all of which he served as president.

A dedicated student of history, Jerry collects memorabilia associated with the Founding Fathers and other great American statesmen. He is perhaps most proud of the collection he recently donated to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which included an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, plus documents and letters signed by every signatory of the Declaration, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Hancock.

Pat and Jerry's energy is boundless when it comes to making a difference in their community. Jerry serves on the board of directors of The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles and a three-person committee overseeing the construction of the new L.A. County USC and Harbor UCLA Medical Centers. Pat is an officer of the Beverly Hills Hadassah and a member of the Governing Board of FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, one of the largest institutions of its kind in the Nation. A gifted artist, sculptor and collector, Pat is also a member of the city's artistic community and is passionate about the time she spends in her studio, Studio Eight, sculpting in different mediums.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Pat and Jerry for their generosity, dedication and love for Saint John's Health Center, the greater Los Angeles region and the State of California. They have given selflessly of their time, creativity, talent and financial resources to many important causes and it is with great pride that I join Saint John's in recognizing them for their significant and ongoing contributions to our communities.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAIWAN
NATIONAL DAY, OCTOBER 10TH
2008

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou and Ambassador Jason Yuan on Republic of China's National Day on October 10th, 2008. The Taiwanese people have every reason to be proud of their freedom, their full-fledged democracy and their economic wellbeing. The people have the best schools, health facilities and a first rate transit system throughout the island. The Taiwanese standard of living has long been the envy of much of the world.

In addition, Taiwan is a peace loving nation. It is friendly with all free nations and maintains superb economic and political relationship with the United States. Hopefully, it will soon work out a way to live in harmony with the Chinese mainland. The ROC President Ma Ying-jeou

has repeatedly said he seeks dialogues with China and put aside the disputes, in order to win peace and prosperity over the Taiwan Straits.

Taiwan is blessed. May blessings continue to favor Taiwan and its good people.

RECOGNIZING NASTIA LIUKIN 2008
OLYMPIC GYMNAST

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Miss Nastia Liukin of Parker, Texas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, as the most decorated U.S. gymnast from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Anastasia "Nastia" Liukin was born to Anna and Valeri Liukin on October 30, 1989 in Moscow, Russia. When she was two and a half years old, her parents decided to move from Russia to the USA. As the daughter of two gymnasts, it was only natural that Nastia found herself in the gym early on. Since the age of six, she has been coached by her father at the World Olympic Gymnastics Academy, her family's gymnastics club in Plano, Texas. Through hard work, diligence and dedication to the sport, Nastia has become a Senior International Elite Gymnast, is a four time World Champion, nine time World medalist, four time U.S. National Champion and has won multiple Pacific Rim and American Cup titles. In 2005 she was also named the Gymnast of the Year by the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame and was a nominee in both the World Top 10 Athletes Award and the U.S. Sport's Academy Athlete of the Year Award.

As a star member of the 2008 Olympic Team, Nastia became the 2008 Olympic All-Around Gold Medalist and received silver medals for her performances on the balance beam, uneven bars and in the overall team competition, as well as a bronze medal in floor exercise. With nine World Championship medals and five Olympic medals, Nastia joins the ranks of Mary Lou Retton and Shannon Miller as being the American gymnast having won the most World Championship medals, as well as the most medals in a single Olympic Games.

Nastia has not limited her successes to only the gym. In January of 2008, she was accepted to Southern Methodist University in Dallas in hopes of pursuing a career in international business or acting. However, after trying to juggle her training and academic commitments, Nastia decided to put college on hold until after the Beijing Summer Olympic Games.

Madam Speaker, Americans take pride in Nastia's athletic accomplishments and her commitment to academic enrichment. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this young golden girl, Miss Nastia Liukin.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE BRIDGES AT DEVIL'S SLIDE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this week marks a milestone in a half century long journey to provide safe and scenic passage along the beautiful San Mateo County coastline and honors the tireless dedication of my predecessor in Congress, Representative Tom Lantos.

On Friday, September 26, 2008, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), along with project contractors, citizens and elected officials, will officially unveil two newly-constructed bridges at Devil's Slide on State Route One.

These bridges are part of a larger project which will connect them to twin four thousand, two hundred foot tunnels. Together, the bridges and tunnels will bypass a historically-dangerous stretch of Route One that over the past twenty-five years has seen three closures and reconstructions due to erosion of the cliff upon which the road sits.

The existing roadway between the cities of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay was first opened in 1935. By 1958, local citizens were clamoring for a safer road, but environmental, financial, geological and land-use issues complicated the process until 1996, when San Mateo County voters passed Measure T by 76 percent, authorizing the bridge and tunnel construction. The project, though, would have been impossible were it not for the passionate work here in the House of Representatives by the late Congressman Lantos, who was present last year as crews broke ground for the tunnels' construction.

In honor of his invaluable efforts, the California State Legislature passed a resolution in July 2008 to name the tunnels the "Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide."

Since breaking ground, significant progress has been made on this ambitious and environmentally sensitive project. Along with the completion of the two bridges, crews have excavated a combined two thousand six hundred feet in the northbound and southbound bores of the tunnels. With specialized equipment, leading edge technology and carefully designed and engineered plans, crews work twenty-four hours a day on the tunnels which will eventually connect with the newly-constructed bridges. The resulting road of just over a mile will realign Route One into a safer, more reliable passage around Devil's Slide.

Madam Speaker, Tom Lantos' legacy in this chamber is well-known. With the opening of this important north-south roadway along one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in this or any country, his work will be memorialized for residents of our district and passing motorists for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR STEPHEN D. BLAKE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake who became the second command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command on June 19th, 2008 at ASC headquarters at Rock Island IL. CSM Blake serves as primary advisor to the ASC Commanding General on all matters pertaining to enlisted personnel assigned to the Command, particularly in areas related to their training and development and to the quality of life and well-being of soldiers and their families. He also responds to the concerns of civilian and contractor employees of the Command.

During his career of 26 years of distinguished service in the United States Army Command Sergeant Major Blake has served in a number of key enlisted leadership positions. He has had tours of duty in Germany and Korea as well as combat tours in Southwest Asia during both Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2003, Blake graduated from class 53 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. His military training included the Air Assault School, Primary Leadership Development Course, and First Sergeants Course. He was named the distinguished graduate from his class in both the Basic and Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Courses. He also holds an Associates Degree in Business Management from Excelsior College.

Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake developed SOP, using the Center for Army Lessons Learned Web site to gather the most recent tactics, techniques, and procedures used by units operating in Iraq. The SOP difficulty and intensity of the training was a confidence builder for Operation Iraqi Freedom for veterans and new soldiers alike.

Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (three awards); the Legion of Merit; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal (five awards); the Army Commendation Medal (nine awards); the Army Achievement Medal (nine awards); the Good Conduct Medal (eight awards); the National Defense Service Medal with Star; the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars; the Iraq, Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism and Korean Defense service Medals; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral Four; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral Three; the NATO Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medals from the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; the Air Assault Badge; and three Meritorious Unit Commendations. He is also a recipient of the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe.

Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake is a native of Tyler Mountain, WV. Blake and his wife, Karen Marie Riley of Ohio, are the parents of two children, Amber and Joshua.

Madam Speaker, it is because of soldiers like Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake that we will achieve victory in Iraq. With dedication and determination of our armed forces is what will protect our great nation. Madame Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake as a true American. I am proud to call Stephen a fellow mountaineer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I unfortunately was unable to be present and to vote on the legislation considered by the House on September 15, 16, and 17, 2008.

On rollcall numbers 589, 590, 591, 600, and 601, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall numbers 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, and 597, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 599, had I been present, I would have voted "no." Though the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) included some good provisions, many of which I had supported in the past, the bill also included many provisions that concerned me. I was very troubled by the legislative process. The drafting and introduction of this legislation included no Republican Members, and the bill was offered under a closed rule, prohibiting any Republican amendments for consideration.

On rollcall number 598, had I been present, I would have voted "yes." A bipartisan compromise was presented in the form of the Republican Motion to Recommit.

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to vote on these important measures.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RE- SOURCE COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the House companion, H.R. 6577.

Almost 40 million people now get their daily drinking water from the Great Lakes. It is the largest body of surface freshwater in North America and contains 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. It is the economic engine that drives the Midwest. And just as important, the Lakes are a national treasure.

Today we are taking historic action to protect this national treasure by passing the Great Lakes Compact. In 1998, a Canadian company proposed to take water from the Lakes by tanker to Asia, but the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG) banded to-

gether and partnered with their Canadian counterparts to find a way to protect our Great Lakes water. The result of that cooperation was the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact that we are passing today.

The Great Lakes are a closed system, and less than 1 percent of Great Lakes water is returned annually through snowmelt, rain and groundwater recharge. We need to protect this resource by not only keeping pollutants out, but also by keeping Great Lakes water in the Great Lakes basin.

All eight Great Lakes states have approved the Compact, and I am proud that my home state of Illinois acted quickly, passing it in August of 2007 as the second state to ratify the Compact. Additionally, Ontario and Quebec have passed companion legislation approving the Compact.

The Compact prohibits diversions of Great Lakes water outside of the basin without the permission of the other Great Lakes states, creates regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency, and includes other protections for one of our greatest national resources.

As a father and a member of Congress, ensuring that the Lakes are around for future generations is of the utmost importance to me, which is why I am proud to support the Great Lakes Compact.

HONORING WILLIAM GATES, SR.

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, almost 2.5 billion people live on less than \$2 per day. Malaria kills over 1 million children every year. Nearly 40 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS and almost 2.8 million people die from it annually. Madam Speaker, the great State of Washington is blessed to be home to many of the top minds in the world tackling these heart-sinking problems. And while it is easy to feel small and insignificant in the face of the enormity of these challenges, William Gates, Sr. has never been a wallflower.

While he is perhaps most well-known for being the father of the founder of the Microsoft Corporation, he is truly a powerhouse unto himself and a beacon of what a life driven with purpose and compassion can achieve. Mr. Gates currently serves as the chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but as the people of our great state know, that is an encore on top of a prominent legal career and record of community leadership that spans from school levy campaigns to the United Way to a place on the University of Washington Board of Regents.

In his role as chair at the largest philanthropic organization in world history, Mr. Gates has applied the same devotion that he has carried with him throughout his life to improving the lives of those less fortunate. Through his work we are seeing amazing results in our schools, our libraries, and our villages.

Mr. Gates believes that every life is valuable, that every person deserves the opportunity to learn, and that the power of knowledge can change our lives. He continues to challenge us to redefine how we think of our

neighbor and to extend the same compassion to our global friends as we would the elderly widow down the street. His work exemplifies the good we can achieve when that compassion is coalesced with the energy, determination, and resources to concentrate on targeted results-driven projects that are held accountable to achieving their goals.

We are fortunate in our State to have such an extraordinary example for the young and the old among us of what we might achieve when we answer the call to civic action. For his lifelong commitment to improving our communities, for his never failing to embrace the have-nots, and for his visionary leadership on global health and education, William Gates, Sr. deserves the highest accolades.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JERRY MIRANDA, USN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding military service and contributions to our country of Commander Gerald Nereus Miranda, Jr., U.S. Navy—known to us all as Jerry—on the occasion of the completion of his assignment as Deputy Director of the Navy Congressional Liaison Office for the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of San Diego, California, Commander Miranda is a 1990 graduate of the University of California at San Diego. He received his commission at the Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island that November. After completing his initial submarine training, he earned his submarine "gold dolphins" in 1993. He served aboard USS *Portsmouth* (SSN 707), USS *Florida* (SSBN 728), and as Executive Officer aboard USS *Key West* (SSN 722). He also served with Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was a key member of a Joint Special Operations Task Force battle staff while stationed in Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following his Executive Officer tour, Commander Miranda was selected to serve as Deputy Director, Navy House Liaison in February 2006. In this highly visible tour, he assisted in the passage of vital Navy budget legislation during the 109th and 110th Congresses. Additionally, he planned, executed, and led 42 congressional and staff delegations across the globe that included meetings with various world leaders in support of America's national security policy.

Over the past two years, Commander Miranda has been a fixture in my office. His expansive knowledge of the Navy's policies and priorities, especially his experience in the submarine force, has helped me advocate for the needs of my constituents and my district. Whether it was answering questions from my staff about submarine policy, coordinating congressional delegation trips to Groton or simply taking the time to stop by the office to check in, Commander Miranda has always been a ready and accessible resource. His professionalism, resourcefulness and dedication to the Navy and our Nation has proved invaluable to me and my colleagues, and he has

truly set a high bar for those who follow in his position.

I am proud to say that Commander Miranda has become a valued friend to me and my staff, and we will miss having his counsel and support here in Congress. As Commander Miranda prepares to leave Capitol Hill to serve as a commanding officer of a United States Submarine, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Commander Miranda and his family for their tireless contributions to a grateful nation and in wishing them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DANIEL KAY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Kay of Ottawa, Kansas. I want to extend my congratulations on his retirement and offer my gratitude for his 32 years of work for the Child Support Enforcement Division of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

Mr. Kay's dedication to his job has been a tremendous asset to the State of Kansas and SRS. I commend him on a career devoted to defending children in Kansas who can not defend themselves. The work he has done is greatly appreciated by the State, local communities, and families that have been reached with each child that he has protected.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in honoring Daniel Kay, and recognize his outstanding commitment to serving the children of Kansas. I know that whatever he takes on next in life, the people of Kansas remain grateful for his many years of faithful and hard work.

IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF
COAST GUARD HELICOPTER CG-
6505

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today to pay a special tribute to four members of the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wischmeier, Aviation Survival Technician First Class David Skimin, and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Joshua Nichols, were all killed when the helicopter in which they were conducting training exercises crashed near Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 4.

Commander Thomas Nelson, who was the Executive Officer of Air Station Barbers Point and was also flying as part of the training mission, remains missing.

The active search for Commander Nelson, which encompassed an area of more than 3,000 square miles and involved not only Coast Guard personnel but officials from the City of Honolulu, the United States Navy, and the Air National Guard, has now been suspended.

Commander Nelson, who is originally from Staten Island, had been stationed at Barbers Point since the summer of last year. During his 20-year career, he had served as Deputy Chief of the Office of Security and Defense Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters here in Washington, and at air stations in Louisiana, New York, and Washington state.

Lieutenant Commander Wischmeier, the pilot of the helicopter at the time it crashed, was from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from Naval Flight School in 1991 and over his 19-year Coast Guard career, he served at air stations in Florida, Louisiana, and Alaska.

Petty Officer Skimin was from San Bernardino, California. An experienced rescue swimmer, he had served at air stations in Texas, California, and Alaska over his 16-year career.

Petty Officer Nichols was from Gloucester, Virginia, and had been in the Coast Guard for 8 years. He was a flight mechanic and had previously been stationed in Alabama and at several bases in California.

Each of these men was married and had children.

These men gave their lives in service to our nation. As members of the Coast Guard, their mission—the mission to which they chose to devote their professional careers—was saving lives.

To those who are in peril at sea, the sight of a Coast Guard helicopter coming over the horizon means that help is at hand—and that the often desperate hopes of people whose lives are truly at stake are about to be realized.

Throughout their careers, these four men, who combined more than 60 years of service, each contributed their strength, skills, and dedication to making such rescues possible.

My prayers are with the families of those who have been lost to us, the men and women of Barbers Point, and the nearly 42,000 men and women of the Coast Guard who together comprise our thin blue line at sea.

My prayers are also with all the members of the Coast Guard. Every day as they conduct search and rescue operations, interdict illegal drugs, respond to pollution and national security incidents, and man cutters and aircraft, each member of the Coast Guard faces the same risks that Commander Nelson, Commander Wischmeier, Petty Officer Skimin, and Petty Officer Nichols faced with the same dedication to duty that these four showed.

Just this week, we have again seen the Coast Guard's dedication in action as they have worked to aid those who have been so terribly affected by Hurricane Ike, including rescuing more than 200 people.

We thank the members of this service for their heroic efforts—and mourn with them the tragic loss of their comrades.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone

who is a good friend and for whom I have great respect—Rep. MICHAEL McNULTY. For two decades MIKE has served as a Member for the House of Representatives, first for the 23rd and then for the 21st Congressional District of New York State. We were elected together to the House of Representatives in 1988, and this year we will leave together. It has been a great honor to work with MIKE for so many years. He has been and will continue to be a good friend.

MIKE began his career in public office in November 1969 as Town Supervisor of Green Island, 8 years later becoming Mayor of the Village of Green Island. He then went on to be elected to represent New York's 106th Assembly District in 1982. Six years later MIKE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 23rd Congressional District of New York in 1988, and was re-elected in 1990. In 1992, he was elected to represent the new 21st Congressional District, and was re-elected in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

During his ten terms in office, MIKE has served on the Armed Services Committee, the Small Business Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Select Committee on Hunger, and the Executive Committee of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

MIKE is also currently serving in his fifteenth year on the Ways and Means Committee. I must praise MIKE'S effectiveness as a member of this important committee. Throughout his tenure he has sought to serve wisely and justly, while never failing to attend to the needs of New York State.

In addition, I would like to note MIKE'S service in the chair as the Speaker pro tempore, a position he often occupied during his tenure. He served honorably in that role and was always considered to be fair and impartial.

Many of you may not know that MIKE is a true citizen of the world, having visited an incredible number of countries, spanning all seven continents. One of my most memorable experiences with MIKE was my first trip to Ireland with him and former President Clinton. I fondly remember that Congressional delegation trip and many others that MIKE and I took together.

I thank MIKE for his 20 years of serving the United States and New York and recognize his wife Nancy and his four daughters Michele, Jody, Nancy and Maria for sharing him with us for so many years. I congratulate MIKE on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

ARTICLE BY DR. PHYLLIS ZAGANO
CONCERNING CATHOLIC TEACHING
ON HUMAN LIFE

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD an article by Dr. Phyllis Zagano, Senior Research Associate-in-Residence at Hofstra University concerning Catholic teaching on human life.

[From the 2008 Religion News Service]

COMMENTARY: CATHOLICS DEMS AND BISHOPS
IN FOR A BUMPY RIDE
(By Phyllis Zagano)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is clearly confused about Catholic teaching on life issues. On NBC's "Meet the Press," Tom Brokaw asked her: "When does life begin?" She answered, "We don't know." Pelosi said "that as an ardent, practicing Catholic," this is an issue she's studied for a long time. "And what I know is, over the centuries, the doctors of the church have not been able to make that definition."

Pelosi is wrong, and some Catholic bishops have tried to correct the record.

I don't think the Democrats are worried.

A few years ago I rode the New York-to-Washington shuttle with a prominent politician who is a Catholic and a Democrat. He said that U.S. bishops collectively squandered their moral authority with the priest pederasty scandal. Whether for so-called "liberal" or "conservative" causes, he said, Catholic bishops are the political touch of death. No one listens to them. Including, it seems, Catholic-educated Pelosi. While the bishops try to straighten out Pelosi, who confuses medieval discussions about "ensoulment" with historical teachings on abortion, the Democrats are trying to sound like they are both for and against abortion.

Brokaw backed Pelosi into a theological corner by playing part of a televised interview in which California Pastor Rick Warren asked Sen. Barack Obama (and, later, Sen. John McCain), "At what point does a baby get human rights?"

Catholicism calls that two questions: First, is the embryo human life? Second, when does the embryo become a person? Obama addressed both questions. He said "If you believe that life begins at conception . . . then I can't argue with you." He also basically said deciding when the embryo becomes a person was above his paygrade. After seeing the Warren-Obama replay, Pelosi muddled Brokaw's question. She said—incorrectly—that the church only decided human life begins at conception "like maybe 50 years" ago.

Wrong, Madame Speaker. "The Didache" (the teachings of the apostles collected a generation after Christ) says, "You shall not procure an abortion, nor destroy a newborn child." Several church fathers—from Tertullian to St. Jerome—and the apostolic constitutions all forbade abortion. Some, however, confused matters by talking about ensoulment, asking when the human being became a human person. The ensoulment debate seems stuck in Pelosi's memory, and could be what she was talking about. She said St. Augustine thought ensoulment occurred about 30 days after conception. But trying to figure out ensoulment only leads to debate over whether abortion is merely similar to murder (killing a human being) or actually equal to murder (killing a human person).

No one knows for sure when the developing human being becomes a person with a soul. It might be at conception, or it might not. So Christianity, with other religions, has historically forbidden abortion in the face of this dilemma because the human being is always potentially a human person. The earliest fertilized egg is not a future banana or frog. It is human life. What's fascinating is that Sens. Joe Biden and John McCain agree that life begins at conception. And although neither expects (or possibly wants) help from the bishops, McCain has the most to gain by Pelosi's misstep.

Pelosi is at best misinformed, and has misinformed a nation. The Catholic bishops will try to counter her bad information. And

Catholic politicians, who have increasingly ignored a lot of Catholic teaching, don't seem to think that what the bishops say will make any difference. Seatbelts, everybody. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

HONORING DR. ROBERT F. KNAUTZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of Dr. Robert F. Knautz, the founding principal of the U.S. House of Representatives Page School. "Dr. K," as he was affectionately known by many of his former students, died on September 17, 2008, at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD. He left an indelible mark on the House Page School, the institution he was charged with creating in 1983. The House Page Program owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr. Knautz for his vision for the School, his commitment to quality education, and his compassion for students.

Dr. Knautz was a proud son of the Land of Lincoln. He was born in Chicago, IL, and remained throughout his life a devoted fan of both the Cubs and the Bears. Dr. Knautz obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northern Illinois University, earning his bachelor's degree in political science in 1963 and his master's degree in the same subject in 1970. Dr. Knautz also received his Ph.D. in education administration from Northern Illinois in 1982.

Before joining the House Page School, Dr. Knautz spent nearly two decades as an educator and administrator. He taught fifth grade and sixth grade for 2 years each, eighth grade for 3 years, and high school for 3 years. Dr. Knautz made the transition from teaching to administration in 1973, first having dual responsibility for a kindergarten through third grade building and a high school because the two buildings were adjacent to each other. Later he accepted a position at Hiawatha High School in Kirkland, IL, where he served as principal for 7 years.

As a result of a series of reforms in 1983, the U.S. House created the House Page School. Dr. Knautz saw the advertisement for the House Page School principal opening, and applied for the opening. In late July 1983, he flew to Washington to interview. He was offered the job the same day, accepted, and had to move his young family to Washington, D.C. When Dr. Knautz first arrived he lived in the Congressional Hotel (which became House Annex I and was later renamed the O'Neill Building), on the same floor as summer pages, who were moved into the hotel the previous year.

Unlike most principals, Dr. Knautz had to literally create a school from scratch. Also, since the new House Page School was scheduled to open on September 6, 1983, he had only 5 weeks to do so. Dr. Knautz was not only responsible for developing the curriculum, hiring teachers, and cleaning the physical plant; he was also responsible for purchasing textbooks, ordering supplies, and obtaining furniture. Dr. Knautz worked 15-hour days for a month to complete the preparations for the school opening and also found a place for his family to live in his rare spare time.

For Dr. Knautz, being the founding principal at House Page School was one of his proudest professional moments. He served as principal of the House Page School for 18 years until he retired in 2001. Many of the curriculum ideas and school policies he developed are used today at the School.

Dr. Knautz is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Elizabeth, son Jon, brothers Ronald and Roger, and a host of nieces and nephews. He was a loving father, a caring husband, a gifted teacher and brilliant administrator, always putting his full faith in people. The House of Representatives is forever grateful for the service of Robert F. Knautz.

TRIBUTE TO MARK GERALD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a conscientious constituent, a dedicated educator, and an outstanding role model. Mark Gerald is being honored by the town of Mullins, SC, for his tremendous service as a coach at Mullins High School. This is a job in which he has excelled, never losing focus or dedication even as he suffered debilitating treatments for colon cancer.

Mark Gerald is a 22-year employee of Marion County School District #2. He has held coaching positions for the Mullins High School junior varsity and varsity football teams and the men's basketball programs. He has served as athletic director and head coach of Mullins High School men's varsity basketball program. Coach Gerald has dedicated his adult life to the very district from which he graduated.

He left Marion County and enrolled at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, NC. After graduation he returned to the community and the people he loved, and has never left. Coach Gerald never turns his back on anyone in need. He reaches into his own pocket when a player needs a pair of shoes, or when a student doesn't have the basic necessities.

As a coach, Mark Gerald believes in creating a family atmosphere for his players. He spends his summer vacations traveling with his team attending summer camps and organizing the annual Mullins High School Alumni game and picnic during the month of July. He helps students young and old. For the youth, he sponsors the Raymond Felton Basketball Camp. He has successfully secured many college scholarships for his graduates. His dedication to athletics and his athletes has paid great dividends. His teams have won several state division titles and a state championship.

In July 2007, Coach Gerald was preparing for the alumni game when he fell seriously ill. He was initially diagnosed with diverticulitis, but within months he learned he had colon cancer. This spring, he successfully underwent surgery to have the diseased portion of his colon removed. Currently he is undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Despite his health challenges, Coach Gerald rarely misses a day of work. He schedules his doctors' appointments in the afternoons and never misses any practices or games. He has never let anyone hear him complain, and he continues to smile even through the difficult

times. Last season despite his health crisis, Coach Gerald led his team to a 21–0 regular season and another division title. The only loss of the season came in the state playoffs, and his team lost by only one basket.

Coach Gerald draws strength from his family and his faith. He is married to the former Linda Diane Bethea, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He is also a deacon at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he has been a lifelong member.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the outstanding dedication, leadership and determination demonstrated by Mark Gerald. He is an extraordinary example for all of us to follow. I wish him Godspeed, and continued success and happiness.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR
HARVEY J. JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I mourn the passing of a dear friend of mine, the Reverend Doctor Harvey J. Johnson.

Madam Speaker, born and raised in the Gulf Coast region of Texas, Rev. Dr. Harvey J. Johnson was a fixture of Texas. For the last 24 years he served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, where I had the pleasure of counting him as my friend.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson was a member of many important Dallas area community groups including the Together Dallas Task Force, the Dallas Independent School District's Advisory Board, the City of Dallas Board of Adjustment of which he was chairman, and he was a member of the Texas Attorney General's Child Support Board.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 35 years, Elnora Johnson; a son, Reverend Nathan (Michelle) Johnson; four daughters, Candy S. Wade, Sharon D. Brown, Felicia D. (Craig) Holloway, and Helena J. (Michael) Hill, 15 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; one brother, Melvin Byrdlon; one sister, Vinnell (James) Briscoe; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, church members, and friends.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Johnson cared deeply about his community and dedicated his life to serving it. For this our community was always better and he will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK YOVINO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. NUNES to pay tribute and congratulate the distinguished public service of Mr. Nick Yovino. After 37 years, Nick is leaving his position as Director of the Planning Department with the city of Fresno. Mr. Yovino will be honored at a reception held by the city of Fresno on Thursday, September 25, 2008.

Nick started as an intern in October 1971 and upon graduating from Fresno State he took a temporary position in the Planning and Inspection Department at Fresno City Hall. In 1972, Nick became a permanent employee as a Planning Technician with the city of Fresno. In 2000, he became Director of the Planning and Development Department and since that time Nick has been instrumental on numerous development projects helping the city of Fresno become a better place for the entire community. One major focus has been downtown revitalization resulting in the growth of government and commercial enterprises and leading the way toward a vibrant downtown we can all be proud of.

Mr. Yovino played an active role in the General Plans of 1975, 1984 and 2025, as well as plans for the Mixed Use Ordinance, Community Design Guidelines and the Full Entering of the Planning and Building Safety Services Division. In addition Nick was instrumental on the Tower District and Fulton-Lowell Specific Plans, the Bullard Community Plan, the Pinedale and Highway City Woodward Park Community Plan and the Southeast Growth Area Expansions.

Nick has a natural gift and ability of bringing people of diverse thinking together that has always resulted in making the city and county of Fresno a better community for residents and visitors alike. Over the years Nick has been an extraordinary leader and a friend.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that Mr. Yovino's dedication and accomplishments in planning and development with the city of Fresno gained him the respect and appreciation from all who had the pleasure to work with him and know him. He worked hard, he sacrificed time away from his family, and he expected little in return. With retirement now a reality, as Nick prepares to spend more time with his children and grandchildren, we thank him and honor him for his many years of service.

HONORING WILLIAM H. GATES, SR.

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a committed philanthropist, an exemplary public servant and an honorable veteran, William H. Gates, Sr. Through a lifetime of work and leadership, Mr. Gates has accomplished extraordinary good; changing millions of lives for the better. Although he cares little about personal accolades and awards—of which he has received many—I believe he is the living embodiment of the spirit of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is an award he richly deserves.

An Eagle Scout from Bremerton, Washington, Mr. Gates served 3 years in the U.S. Army during World War II before earning his bachelors and law degrees from the University of Washington in 1949 and 1950, respectively. His law career led to the establishment of one of the largest and most successful law firms in Seattle.

No matter his professional aspirations, Mr. Gates never wavered in his philanthropic spirit. As president of both the Seattle/King County and the Washington State Bar associations,

he focused his efforts on equal justice for the poor and disadvantaged, ultimately prompting the Washington Supreme Court to create an Access to Justice Board, now a national model.

Additionally, he and his late wife, Mary Maxwell Gates, served admirably with the United Way of King County, Washington, beginning in the 1960s and spanning several decades. Mrs. Gates became board chair of the United Way in 1973, a position Mr. Gates presently occupies. In all, Mr. Gates has served as a trustee, officer and volunteer for more than two dozen organizations in northwest Washington.

Perhaps his most lasting and indelible legacy will be his work as the co-chair and CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a philanthropy with an endowment of more than \$24 billion, the largest in history. With the help of his son, Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft Corporation, the Gates Foundation has provided an outlet for Mr. Gates to continue his lifelong quest for equality in every aspect of life—especially education.

Most are aware of the inspirational work the foundation has done around the world to combat crises in health and education in some of the most impoverished nations in the world. What is less known is the “smaller” help the foundation provides to local school districts and townships to help spur a promising educational program or fill a gap in technology funds. Countless examples exist nationwide of significant progress made in all areas of education because of a gift from the Gates Foundation.

The incredible vision of Mr. Gates, his son Bill and wife Melinda, is truly a blessing to the entire world and it is a vision Mr. Gates cultivated and perfected over many decades.

The tireless work of Mr. Gates on behalf of the less fortunate in the United States and around the world is well documented. The impact of his lifelong ambitions is legendary. Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom have, among other things, “been leaders in their chosen fields, have led lives of vision and character, and have made especially meritorious contributions to our nation and the world.” I can think of no one who fulfills that description better than William H. Gates, Sr.

FILIPINO VETERANS BENEFIT
VOTE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am truly disappointed that the United States Congress today would even consider giving benefits to Filipino veterans and ignore American veterans who were victims of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

In crafting H.R. 6897, which gives all Filipino veterans benefits, did you know that the Veterans' Affairs Committee dumped a provision to the bill that would have authorized \$4 a day for the American survivors of the Bataan Death March?

Did you know that of the 4,500 veterans that survived the march, there are only 1,700 American veterans or spouses alive today? Why would Congress ignore these American veterans and their spouses?

Passing any legislation that would give foreigners veterans benefits from the American taxpayer without providing just compensation to our citizen veterans is unfair. These are Americans who in the Bataan Death March were tortured, imprisoned, and starved; and, to date, have been denied benefits Congress would grant to Filipinos. Does the United States Congress have no conscience? Furthermore, it is incredible that the Japanese Diet is considering giving benefits to the Japanese captors who are responsible for torturing and maiming our own men. Now the U.S. Congress is adding another insult to those who suffered in the Bataan Death March. The provision that was not included in H.R. 6897, the Filipino Benefits bill, is included in H.R. 1570, The Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act, which I have introduced year after year. A copy of a previous "Dear Colleague" letter that I sent to Members of Congress and the Veterans' Affairs Committee contained the following information.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVORS DESERVE JUST COMPENSATION

Dear Colleague: In 1942, American and Allied troops fought bravely against the Japanese army during the Second World War on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Due to the low supplies and no hope of reinforcements, these men fought valiantly until they were forced to surrender to the enemy. Our troops were corralled in the Mariveles, just south of Bataan, and were forced to endure the journey of their lives—the Bataan Death March.

Treatment by their Japanese captors was inhumane and often fatal as those who could not continue marching were summarily beaten or executed on the spot. Many marchers attempted to escape into the jungles and some succeeded; however, most were forced to continue on their journey. Once they reached the railroad sidings, the troops were crammed into railroad cars like cattle. After reaching Camp O'Donnell in the jungles of Arlac Province, our soldiers were held as prisoners of war (POWs) for over 3½ years.

Over the years, Congress has adopted provisions concerning the pay, allowances and benefits of members of the uniformed services in "missing status" and "POWs". As a general proposition, the provisions are intended to leave members of the uniformed services who are in "missing status" and "POWs", including their dependents, in the same position they would have been if the members were not missing. Unfortunately, veterans of the Bataan Death March were never given their due allowances or benefits. It is only fitting that those soldiers who bravely fought and sacrificed for our freedom be appropriately compensated for their service to our country.

In an effort to give these brave men their just benefits, I have introduced H.R. 1570. This legislation would provide compensation to those individuals who were forced to partake and held imprisoned following the ruthless procession. I ask you to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this legislation and ensuring that those who gave so much in service to our Nation receive just compensation for their sacrifice and valor. Today a grave injustice was committed when American POW Bataan Death March Survivors were ignored and left behind.

While this statement is in opposition to the action approved by the U.S. House today, I in no way want to imply that the military service sacrifice by Filipino nationals to the United States should not be recognized, appreciated or properly compensated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my Congressional district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11, Monday, September 15, Tuesday, September 16, Wednesday, September 17, Thursday, September 18, and Monday, September 22.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote those days, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, 591, 602, 603, 604, 607, 613, 615, 617, and 618, and "no" on rollcall Nos. 585, 588, 592, 593, 594, 605, 606, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 614, and 616.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes Compact before the House today is the result of years of efforts by the Great Lakes governors, other elected officials including state legislators from both sides of the partisan divide, and others who live, work, or recreate in the region to work together to help ensure a set of shared principles and protections for the Great Lakes.

The collaboration that has produced the compact that is before us today was undertaken because of concerns that without a comprehensive and basin wide approach to the current and future threats to these bodies of water, we would lose them.

These threats include a growing demand for water by users—including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, concerns about the impacts of climate change, declining water levels of the Lakes, and pollution.

While the agreement has widespread support among elected officials, environmental groups, and others, I do understand that some have raised concerns about some aspects of the agreement.

That is to be expected because while this is a good agreement it is by no means a perfect agreement. It wasn't meant to be perfect. If it was, we would still be waiting for an agreement.

But it is a good agreement, especially since we know that simply doing nothing is not an option or solution. This agreement was good enough to bring governors from eight states and both sides of the aisle together. It was good enough to win the approval of legislatures in eight states (with a combined 1,300 legislators.)

Together with companion efforts in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Compact would place new emphasis on a shared commitment to conservation and set new decision-making standards for Great Lakes water use.

The compact would require each state to use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of basin water, ban new diversions of water from the basin, and calls for the development of regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency.

This legislation before us today would formally give Congress's assent to the compact, as required by law.

The document before us today also is a recognition by the stakeholders who are bound by its terms—and with approval by the House, the Congress as well—that we all have a shared duty "to act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve, and effectively manage the waters and water dependent natural resources" of the Great Lakes basin "for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all citizens, including generations yet to come."

One of the most effective means to do this is through unified and cooperative policies and programs as outlined in this agreement. It would be a shame if after the hard work and negotiations and compromise that has shaped this process from day one, that Congress would let this opportunity slip away.

The Senate has already approved this bill and I urge my colleagues here in the House to do likewise.

TO HONOR ZACH SMOTHERS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on August 23, 2008, Zach Smothers celebrated his 12th birthday in Galveston, Texas and possibly gave more than he will ever receive. Early in the party, Zach's 3-year-old-cousin, Gianna, fell into a swimming pool and sank straight to the bottom. Fortunately for her, someone close by was watching and took immediate action.

Twelve-year old Zach sprung up, saved the little girl from the pool, and proceeded to do what he had seen on television—CPR. Although the young man did not know it was CPR he was performing, he did know the practice could save a person's life. As Zach pumped hastily on his young cousin's chest, a dark liquid came from her blue lips and she began to breathe. He yelled for help and grabbed the attention of the adults, who rushed young Gianna to the hospital where she was given a clean bill of health.

It is a sincere pleasure to recognize Zach Smothers today. This young boy knew his younger cousin was in danger and came to the ultimate rescue. People like Zach make America proud and remind us that people do extraordinary things every day. Surely Zach Smothers knew on his birthday that it is truly better to give than it is to receive.

HONORING BILL GATES, SR.

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, from those to whom much has been given, much

will be expected. Bill Gates Sr. knows it, and has spent his life ascribing this principle and instilling it in his children. I stand here today to honor this extraordinary civic leader, champion for education, and lion of the causes of the powerless. His commitment to improving the lives of not only the children of our state, but all children no matter the circumstances of their birth, is deserving of our highest recognition. Therefore, I have joined with my colleagues in nominating Bill Gates, Sr. for the Presidential Medal of Freedom—our Nation's highest civilian honor.

As the co-founder and CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of our Nation's leading charities, Bill Gates Sr. has shown dedication to improving the lives of people he has never met. As our Speaker recently quoted, "It is the mark of a truly intelligent person to be moved by statistics." Bill Gates Sr. shows his compassion increasingly, as he works to bring vaccines to suffering peoples, education and access to underserved communities, medical relief to the sick, and opportunities to the optionless every day. The impact of the Gates Foundation is immense, but its guiding philosophy is simple, and one that Bill Gates, Sr. has always espoused: every life has equal value, and all people deserve the chance to live a healthy, productive life.

As a Seattleite and a Washingtonian I have had the opportunity to see his work in my own backyard. Bill Gates Sr. might have the most visibility as co-chair of the Gates Foundation to the rest of the world, but he also has a long record of leadership in our community. He once remarked, "Your wealth is a function of being an American", insisting that businesses and individuals have an obligation to give back to the society that enabled them to prosper. Most recently he led the University of Washington's exceptionally successful Creating Futures capital campaign, which will breathe life into "The Husky Promise", ensuring that academically deserving low- and middle-income Washington state students will have their tuition costs covered at the University of Washington. Whether as a lawyer in the 1970's leading the Seattle school levy campaign, in his role as founder of the Technology Alliance, or now as a regent for the UW, Mr. Gates has a demonstrated record of commitment and passion for giving back to his community.

I am very proud to honor Bill Gates, Sr. for his unstinting commitment to service in communities all across the world. A low-income student from Washington State can attend college because of his dedication to ensuring academic opportunities are available to all; a child in Africa received lifesaving drugs and with them, a life touched by kindness. Libraries in rural towns are connected to the world through information technology donated under Mr. Gates' care, while young students in my own district have the incentive to reach higher and grasp the promised fruit of a college scholarship. He has changed many lives and communities for the better. With my gratitude and great esteem, I commend Bill Gates, Sr. for his lifetime of service.

HONORING PERSON-TO-PERSON

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Person-To-Person, an organization dedicated to supporting people in Fairfield County.

For 40 years, this important organization has made profound contributions to our society by offering individuals assistance through their many programs designed to help improve lives. Person-to-Person has reached out teaching independent living skills to individuals who may be facing homelessness, severe financial challenges and through helping citizens cope with these problems.

Person-to-Person is a pillar of strength because of their commitment to help people put their lives back together facing severe challenges. I am grateful for the members of this important organization who have helped to make Fairfield County a better place to live and work.

SUSAN MARONE'S RETIREMENT
FROM FEDERAL SERVICE**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming retirement from federal service of Susan Marone who has served the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the House since April 1995. Since returning to Congressional service on Capitol Hill in 1995, Susan has been responsible for the day-to-day management of the Resume Referral Service/Outplacement Resource Center—a service of the Chief Administrative Officer providing vacancy announcement and placement services to Member and Committee offices, while assisting individual House employees and prospective applicants from outside the Congress with the process of applying for positions in the House. In her capacity of overseeing the Resume Referral Service, Susan has brought her considerable experience in the political arena to her work for the House which has enabled her to provide a strong understanding of the functions and day-to-day operations of a Congressional office in assisting Members, Chiefs of Staff and Staff Directors in finding ideal candidates for their office positions.

Susan's retirement marks a milestone of her long history of service to the Nation and its citizens. In addition to having previously worked for a United States Congressman and two United States Senators, her career of public service includes work with the New York State Legislature and the Mayor's office in New York City. She has also worked for two U.S. Presidents, a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and the U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris.

As Susan marks her retirement from the Federal Government and the House, she can do so in knowing the gratitude that we have for the exceptional service that she has delivered to the Members and Committees of the

House through the Resume Referral Service, where she created a vacancy announcement posting process that has been both timely and responsive to the fast-paced environment of Capitol Hill. In 2007 alone, Susan posted 486 positions for over 227 different offices, a thirteen percent increase in the number of postings over the previous year and a twenty-six percent increase in the number of Member and Committee offices served in that same year. This extent and volume of service is indicative of Susan's track record over her thirteen years with the Resume Referral Service in expanding its capability and responsiveness in serving the needs of Congressional and Committee offices and in positioning it as a vital resource in helping to meet the critical hiring needs of the Members of the House.

As Susan prepares for her retirement later this year and her move to Montepulciano, Italy next year, I extend to her the best wishes of the House and our appreciation for her years of dedicated and unwavering public service to the Congress and our Nation.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD L.
ELLEBRUCK**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Edward L. Ellebruck of Springfield, Ohio. Throughout his lifetime, he served his country and his community with dignity and honor.

Mr. Ellebruck began his career in public service by serving in the United States Air Force, where he was trained as an interpreter at the U.S. Army Language School in Monterey, California. There, he learned Russian, and was later assigned to serve in northern Japan with the Air Force Security Service to monitor Soviet military operations. He was also part of space exploration history. In 1961, he intercepted the voice transmission of the second Russian cosmonaut launched into space, Gherman Titov. Mr. Ellebruck also used his linguistic skills to assist Japanese students and their families in studying the English language.

Upon his return to civilian life, he spent the remaining 43 years giving back to his community and country in other ways. This included his work to help provide opportunities for individuals who were mentally retarded or had developmental disabilities. For many years, he served as a member, and later as the Chairman of the Clark County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD).

Mr. Ellebruck was also instrumental in the establishment of a not-for-profit work center for the mentally retarded known as Town & Country (TAC) Industries. The facility, located in Springfield, Ohio, employs an estimated 400 handicapped individuals from throughout the region, and provides them with employment opportunities that help them develop marketable and life skills.

For 25 years, he served as President of the Board of Directors of TAC Industries, where he and others helped to secure work contracts involving the U.S. Air Force and other government agencies through the National Industries

for the Severely Handicapped (NISH). These opportunities have made a real difference in enhancing the quality of life for TAC's participants.

While our community and country have lost a leader and a devoted citizen, Mr. Ellebruck's legacy of service is an example for all of us on what one individual can do for others.

HONORING THE SAGINAW RIVER
COAST GUARD STATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the personnel stationed at the Saginaw River Coast Guard Station. The Zion Lutheran Church of Bay City Michigan is holding a program and reception on October 12th to recognize the hard work of these dedicated service members.

The lighthouse constructed in 1842 was the first time the U.S. Coast Guard established a presence at the mouth of the Saginaw River. The original lighthouse was replaced in 1876 with the Saginaw River Rear Range Light and in 1939 it became the Coast Guard Station of the Saginaw River. The Coast Guard built a new Rear Range Light in 1964 and a new station across the Saginaw River from the original location in 1980.

Under the command of Gerald Backus, the station currently houses 27 active duty personnel and 5 reserve personnel. Their area of responsibility runs from Point Lookout to Oak Point along the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron shore, and up river to Green Point in Saginaw. They are responsible for servicing 134 aids to navigation from Alpena to river buoy 89 at the Carrolton turning basin. The station averages 110 search and rescue runs a year. They work closely with State and local law enforcement and emergency personnel to coordinate response efforts. To fulfill their mission the station is home to 8 boats including a 20-foot ice rescue air boat and a 49-foot buoy utility stern loading boat.

The station is the ICCE, Ice Capabilities Center for Excellence, formal training site for the U.S. Coast Guard. The crew serves as the instructors in ice rescue procedures and policies during the ice season and is considered the subject matter specialists on the topic of ice rescue. The station averages 40 ice rescues a year.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of the Coast Guard personnel at the Saginaw River Coast Guard Station. Their commitment to the safety, security and welfare of the persons traveling on the waters of the Great Lakes is to be commended. I would like to congratulate them on a job well done and pray they will continue to serve for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING LAKE PROVIDENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church and offer my heartfelt congratulations on its 140th anniversary.

Founded in 1868, five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the first members of the congregation were former slaves and their children, who worshiped together on former slave plantations. These faithful few endured many hardships, yet the congregation flourished under the guidance of their first pastor, Rev. Larry A. Thompson. Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church grew from a scattering of plantations, establishing a permanent structure and soon becoming a beacon for the surrounding community.

Over the past 140 years, Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church has seen over 20 pastors. Currently, Rev. H. Bruce Maxwell serves as pastor of the church, which has grown under each successive pastor. Today, the sanctuary seats over 3,700. Lake Providence Missionary Baptist now houses a range of ministries, offering programs for youth, young adults, and senior citizens. In the community it promotes health awareness, runs a prison ministry and offers bereavement assistance and counseling. Lake Providence Missionary Baptist stands firm in its vision to touch all citizens, no matter their age.

Madam Speaker, I join everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in applauding Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church. I ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in commending the church for continuing to shape the lives of the Nashville community and serving as a vital link in Nashville's history.

RECOGNIZING RICHMOND, TX
MAYOR HILMAR MOORE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON, Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Mayor Hilmar Moore of Richmond, Texas, who became the longest-serving mayor in United States' history this year. Mayor Moore served his community for 59 consecutive years and has led a life of distinction, service, and honor.

Mayor Moore is a native of Richmond and began his mayoral post in September of 1949, following his active duty in World War II. He is a fifth-generation Texan whose ancestors were among the Old 300 Colony of Settlers brought into the Fort Bend County area by Stephen F. Austin. In his lifetime, Mayor Moore has made significant contributions to a wide range of civic and business activities, including operating a successful 186-year-old family cattle business and serving as chairman of the Texas Department of Human Resources and director of the King Ranch, just to name a few.

To commemorate this milestone, in October of 2008, the Historic Richmond Association will honor Mayor Moore for his 59 consecutive years of dedicated service through the building of a plaza in downtown Richmond. The plaza will include a life-size sculpture of the Mayor and will be surrounded by beautiful landscaping, benches, and a paved walking area.

Richmond has been blessed for several decades with a strong and dedicated leader. Every community deserves a public servant as devoted as Mayor Hilmar Moore. His service cannot be overstated and I am proud to commend such a remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RICHARD LESLIE COMBS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the exemplary career of Denver architect Mr. Richard Leslie Combs, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Throughout his career, Mr. Combs has made significant contributions to the practice of architecture on the local and national levels.

Richard Leslie Combs was born in Glendale, California on July 17, 1945. The son of Leslie and Annabelle Combs, Dick grew up in Hereford, Texas with his brothers Greg and Brent. In 1970, Mr. Combs obtained a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Shortly after graduation, he relocated to Denver, Colorado where in January 1971 he was hired by the office of Charles S. Sink, Architect. Serving in the role of project architect and project manager, Mr. Combs' contribution to the office was immediate and he was named an associate that same year.

As a licensed architect with his certification from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), he managed some of the firm's most influential projects, including the McNichols Sports Arena. Upon its completion in 1975, McNichols was hailed as one of the first major league event centers in the country and quickly became an iconic piece of architecture for the city of Denver.

In 1979, Mr. Combs became a principle of the firm, whose name was changed to Sink Combs and Associates. He served as Vice President and Secretary and acted as the firm's quality control officer, ensuring that the work executed by the firm was of the highest professional standard. During this time, Mr. Combs oversaw projects such as the Panorama Point Office Building, 183 Inverness Office Building, SOCO Place, and 1900 Grant Office Building.

In 1985, with the addition of Don Dethlefs as a principal, the firm—now Sink Combs Dethlefs and Associates—began to expand its sports architecture expertise throughout the local and national markets and in Canada, completing projects such as the Fargodome in Fargo, North Dakota, the San Jose Arena, which is now known as the HP Pavilion, the Save Mart Center at Fresno State University, and the MTS Centre in Winnipeg, Canada. The successful completion of those projects enabled Mr. Combs and the firm and to build

a national reputation for exceptional client service, cost-effective building design, and expertise in sports and recreation architecture.

With the retirement of Charles S. Sink, Mr. Combs naturally assumed the role of the firm's leader. He became responsible for managing the company and nurturing relationships with the community, clients, and firm employees. Under his leadership the depth of experience and breadth of knowledge of the firm has expanded. His has retained key employees and groomed the firm for growth by naming Andy Barnard a Principal in 1993 and Chris Kastelic a Principal in 2004.

Mr. Combs' accomplishments reach far beyond the projects he has managed. Through his warm and caring nature, he has attracted and trained a new generation of architects and fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie within the office. He has mentored numerous young architects through their career paths encouraging personal growth, accountability, and public duty. He has demonstrated that architecture is not just about designing buildings but about serving clients and the community. Under his leadership, the firm has won numerous design awards and has participated in countless charitable pursuits and community outreach programs.

Richard Combs is a leading architect and businessman in Denver. He is the current President for the Denver Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, where he is working to promote sustainable, energy efficient building design, including resource conservation. As Congress increases its efforts to promote green buildings, his guidance has been extremely valuable.

Richard Combs has contributed over thirty-seven years of service to the practice of architecture while maintaining a rich and fulfilling personal life. Dick is married to Sue Combs and has three children—Leslie, Patrick and Daniel, and one granddaughter, Sadie.

He is retiring from a career that has left an outstanding legacy. I want to join his partners, employees, friends, and family in expressing my respect and appreciation and wishing him many well-deserved years of health, rest and relaxation.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO
COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman DAN LUNGREN and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, to recognize the Sacramento County Farm Bureau on the occasion of its selection as the first recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Achievement in Farm Health & Safety Recognition Award by the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at the University of California, Davis. The award is given in recognition of an individual, group, organization, association or business that consistently strives to reduce agricultural workplace injuries and improve overall health on the farm.

The Sacramento County Farm Bureau (SCFB) was established in 1917 to support the Sacramento County farming community.

SCFB is also a member of the California Farm Bureau Federation, a non-profit organization of farmers and ranchers with over 90,000 members throughout California. The Sacramento County farmers and ranchers supported by the SCFB produce approximately 75 different crops with a total annual crop value of over \$325 million.

On September 19, the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at UC Davis honored the SCFB and its leaders, President Ken Oneto and Executive Director Charlotte Mitchell, for its advancement of new agricultural health and safety practices and their development of model farm safety programs. The SCFB exemplifies exceptional involvement in promoting practices not only on the farm, but within communities through health fairs reaching farm workers, their families, and children.

Annually, the SCFB hosts a major safety seminar attended by approximately 200 farm workers and 20 employers and supervisors. To ensure a broad audience, all of the classes are offered in Spanish and English. The presenters are experts in their fields and come from a variety of private and public organizations. While the specific topics change each year, presenters always include representatives from the California Highway Patrol, local Fire Departments, County Health Department, CalOSHA, Blood Source, AmeriCorps, UC Davis and State Fund. The Sacramento County Farm Bureau's leadership in bringing agricultural employees together with safety officers and other agricultural safety representatives not only reduces workplace injuries, but improves family health and their communities overall.

In the last several years, the SCFB has also expanded its activities to include a well attended Health Fair for families. This major undertaking has enabled many families to receive free medical testing and basic health training that they might otherwise not receive.

Additionally, the SCFB sponsors two important programs for the agricultural community: the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program and the Foundation for Agricultural Education. The Young Farmers and Ranchers Program consists of a committee of the Farm Bureau members that organize young people between the ages of 18 and 35 who support the agricultural community. Established in July 2000, the Foundation for Agricultural Education's primary purpose is to provide scholastic financial awards to high school and college students continuing their education at the university level.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in acknowledging and congratulating the Sacramento County Farm Bureau and its leadership for its ongoing service to its members, California's farm workers, their families, and Sacramento's agricultural communities.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRES-

SIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Account: Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Predisaster Mitigation.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Harris County Flood Control District, 9900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 220, Houston, Texas 77092.

Description of Request: Provides \$1,000,000 (to the Harris County Flood Control District. It is my understanding that 100 percent of the funding would be used for the construction of one small structural project as well as the acquisition and demolition of approximately 38 homes located deep within the floodplain and floodway of the White Oak Watershed of Harris County. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Predisaster Mitigation Account. These projects improve flood reduction and flood mitigation efforts by saving National Flood Insurance Program payments from repetitive flood loss properties. The Harris County Flood Control District will spend approximately \$2,000,000, derived primarily from a dedicated ad valorem property tax and through a capital project agreement with Harris County.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6947, the FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Account: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Replacement.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Administration Office, Washington, DC; and the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, 2010 Butler Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

Description of Request: Provides \$5,000,000 for the Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge Replacement. Today, 21 thousand barges move 29 million tons of cargo worth \$10 billion through the Galveston Bridge each year. In 2001, after a lengthy review process, the bridge was declared a hazard to navigation by the Coast Guard under the Truman Hobbs Act. The current estimated cost of replacement is almost \$68 million. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, under the Truman Hobbs Act. Under the Truman Hobbs Act, the Federal Government pays 90 percent of replacement cost and the bridge owner—Galveston County—pays 10 percent.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE WALTER REUTHER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the three individuals being honored with the 2008 Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award. On October 9th, the

United Auto Workers will bestow the award on Berteen Ewles, Jimmie Wells and Ron Lane.

The UAW presents the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award to those individuals that exemplify commitment to their union and their community. Walter Reuther believed in helping working people, human dignity and social justice and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award carry on Walter Reuther's ideals.

Berteen Ewles is the President of Local 1811. She is responsible for over 700 members scattered at 13 companies. She has been involved in the Technical, Office and Professional sector of the UAW since 1986. She is also active with the Greater Flint Area CAP Council, the Michigan Democratic Party, state-wide organizing, and contract negotiations. In 2007 she received a YWCA Woman of Achievement award on behalf of the UAW Region 1-C.

Jimmie Wells has been a member of the UAW since 1986. She has served as the Vice President of Local 1811, as President of TOP, she has served on the Executive Board, the Women's Committee, as an Alternative UAW Convention Delegate, on the Constitutional By-laws Committee and the Education Committee. In addition, Jimmie has extensive civic involvement in community-based organizations.

Ron Lane conceived the idea of union representation at FJ Grafik, Inc. in 1986. This vision led to the employees achieving their first UAW contract two years later. Ron has served the UAW as the Region 1-C IPS Council Vice President, the Council District Chair, the Local 1811 Sergeant at Arms, and the Bargaining Chair. He has served on several committees at both the Local and Region 1-C levels. He is the liaison for all union represented accounts and local officials accounts for FJ Grafik.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Berteen, Jimmie and Ron as they receive the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award. May they continue their work on behalf of workers for many, many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CLARK COLLEGE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clark College, located in America's Vancouver, on its 75th anniversary.

Clark College can trace its beginnings to the Nation's Depression. The school's founders had a simple, but challenging concept: provide opportunity to students who might otherwise give up on college because they couldn't afford to live away from home.

Even though the founders were driven by a sense of urgency, they took the time to make sure that they provided students with a quality education. They offered smaller classes with more personalized instruction. The goal was to deliver courses for lower-division students that would give them the background and tools they needed to go on to larger institutions for specialized, upper-division work. And as many transfer students would discover time and

again, Clark graduates often were regarded as having superior training to those who had completed freshman and sophomore levels at the very 4-year universities accepting those transferred credits.

In its 75th year, Clark College continues to meet the ever-evolving education needs of people in our community. Graduates continue to share stories of how Clark College was a starting point for professional and personal achievement.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, 1,129 Clark College students earned more than 1,252 associate degrees and certificates from Clark College. In addition, 25 students received their high school diplomas and 853 men and women earned their general educational development certificates. Clark also welcomed more than 1,000 "Running Start" students from 29 local high schools.

Besides diplomas and certificates, Clark College students receive career and technical training that provides access to immediate employment. Through these programs, displaced workers receive retraining. Mature students and other lifetime learners have access to a variety of courses to enrich their lives.

Clark College forges community links by consulting with businesses to ensure that students are meeting the needs of employers. Clark College assists businesses with training and has formed partnerships with companies to offer specialized workforce skills.

Clark College is also a community resource for political forums and arts-related events such as concerts, plays, lectures, exhibits, films and its perennially popular jazz festival. Together with YWCA Clark County, Clark hosts the annual Women of Achievement awards, an occasion of regional significance.

Not content with merely following trends, Clark's faculty and staff members have taken the lead in devoting their time and talents to many pioneering efforts. In 2006, Clark became the first college in the state to become tobacco-free. Clark was one of the first Washington community colleges to harness the Internet for student education, and continue to expand technical programs such as eLearning, which provides classes via the Internet and multimedia formats.

On behalf of the citizens of Washington's Third Congressional District, I am proud to congratulate Clark College on its 75th anniversary. Members of the Clark College community can rightfully take pride in their history, their legacy, and—more importantly—their future in building a foundation for student success.

HONORING MARY OLSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to rise today to recognize the contributions of Ms. Mary Olson, a resident of Mahtomedi, Minnesota who has served as a dedicated Department of Defense civilian employee since 1980. On this, the occasion of her retirement, it is fitting to reflect on her remarkable career as a public servant.

For 28 years, Ms. Olson has tirelessly supported the United States and the Department of Defense as a Policy Program Manager and Human Resources Specialist focusing in the areas of pay, leave and quality of work life issues. Her insights and policy initiatives have contributed greatly to the Department's ability to acquire and sustain the talent required to successfully accomplish its mission. It is a pleasure to commend her for her service and to extend to her the gratitude of a grateful nation.

Ms. Olson has served both in the continental United States and overseas. When leadership and managers needed an answer on which they could rely, they called on Ms. Olson. Her expertise is in and of itself worthy of recognition. However, she has also mentored untold numbers of human resources personnel in a manner that instilled unparalleled professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a model for persistence in resolving issues adeptly and accurately. She leaves a legacy of comprehensive compensation policies, as well as a cadre of expertly prepared human resources practitioners who will ensure the Department has and will continue to have the policies it needs for talent management.

Mary has been an inspiration and example for younger Federal employees and to her family. She battled back from a debilitating accident that would have caused most to give up. In Mary's case, however, her courage, fortitude and generosity of spirit spurred her on to be a major contributor to the Department's Civilian Personnel Policies, and a leader for all with whom she came in contact. Her zest for life was and is contagious!

After many years away, Mary has returned to Minnesota where she will no doubt continue to inspire others. With Mary's retirement from Federal service, Minnesota has reclaimed a fine daughter who will be a great contributor to her community. Mary may be retiring, but, we can be assured that she will continue working in some form, and will through her words and deeds be an exemplary citizen.

On behalf of myself and the many Federal employees, managers and leaders who have been helped directly by her work, I offer sincere gratitude to Ms. Mary Olson and wish her and her family all the best in her retirement years.

TRIBUTE TO THE "NO LIMITS" AWARD WINNERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the "No Limits" awards from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. HealthSouth has presented these rehabilitation awards to members of their community who have remained steadfast in overcoming an illness or disability. This year I congratulate: Trudy White, winner of the "No Limits" Advocate Award and Dustin Dillon and Franklin Foster, winners of the "No Limits" Personal Achievement Awards.

In March 2007, Trudy White was admitted to the Altoona Hospital for shortness of breath with both respiratory and congestive heart failure and was placed on a ventilator for several

days. Trudy came to HealthSouth in May 2007 and was then transferred to Johnstown Select Specialty Hospital after being diagnosed with critical illness myopathy. Trudy was placed on a ventilator for several weeks while also battling diabetes. Trudy went through an extremely exhausting period but was able to overcome her illness. Trudy is currently in the Wellness Program and even volunteers her time with patient charts and at a lunchtime group. While Trudy's life was completely interrupted by her illness, she was able to overcome each challenge with an embracing smile, a warm heart, and a strong mind. While still working to fight against her illness, Trudy is an active mother and grandmother attending her grandson's baseball games and hosting pizza parties at "Trudy's Place."

Dustin Dillon is the recipient of the "No Limits" Personal Achievement Award. Dustin was nominated for this award by his father. Dustin was born 10 weeks premature and had a bleed on his brain requiring a shunt when he was only 2 months old. While going to school and attending classes, Dustin would suffer from headaches and stomach problems. As a result, Dustin was taken to the hospital for a CAT scan and then transferred to another hospital. Dustin suffered a stroke while awaiting diagnosis and went into a coma. The doctors told Dustin's parents that his chance for recovery was less than 5 percent. Dustin's father, Gary, would sit and talk with his son in the evenings and encourage him to respond. Dustin was able to move his hands and feet at his father's request. After an examination, Dustin was transferred to HealthSouth Altoona. After spending a month there, Dustin was able to talk, sit up, eat regular foods, and wash and dress himself. Dustin has returned to school and continues his therapy as an outpatient. Thanks to Dustin's hard work and the help of his therapist at HealthSouth, Dustin was able to return to school at West Branch Senior High School.

Franklin Foster is also a recipient of the "No Limits" Personal Achievement Award. Frank has suffered four strokes since 2004 and has been a patient of HealthSouth ever since. The strokes have severely impaired Frank's speech and limited his ability to swallow. Though it is difficult to understand Frank's speech, he continues to use his speech clarity strategies he has learned in therapy. Frank has incredible patience and never appears to be frustrated. Frank loves to tell jokes, and he works hard so others can appreciate and comprehend his humor. Frank's cheerfulness has inspired many on staff at HealthSouth, and he continues to work to overcome his disability.

Congratulations to Trudy, Dustin and Franklin. Their accomplishments are a testament that with hard work, persistence, and a big heart, we can overcome any hardship. I congratulate each of them on their perseverance, and I wish them the best as they continue to overcome their illnesses and disabilities while setting an example for the rest of the community.

IN HONOR OF RACHEL C. KING
COUNSEL FOR THE HOUSE COM-
MITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, and I would like to submit this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of all the Members and staff of the Judiciary Committee regarding our dear friend and colleague, Rachel King, who, after a long battle with cancer, passed away on August 25, 2008, at her home in Wayne, Maine, overlooking Dexter Pond, surrounded by family and friends.

We were privileged to know Rachel during her time as counsel to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Many of us, and many others who work on Capitol Hill, already knew her from when she worked with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Rachel was one of the most intelligent, passionate, and committed advocates in the fight for justice and equality. On issue after issue, whether it was the death penalty, mandatory minimum sentencing, drug policy, child soldiers, or denial of due process, Rachel was a clear, strong, and articulate voice for justice, and she was loved and admired for it. She continued to pursue this commitment energetically at the Committee right up until the week before her last days in Maine.

She was well-known and well-respected for her tireless advocacy against capital punishment. She authored two books about the death penalty, each from the perspective of families affected—one, regarding families of murder victims; the other, families of the condemned. She also wrote a novel detailing the lives, challenges and triumphs of advocates in Washington, DC, working for progressive social causes. And many did not know that she was pursuing a master's degree in creative writing at Johns Hopkins University, in addition to the Juris Doctorate and Masters in Law degrees she already had.

We will remember Rachel not only for the wise and experienced counsel she gave us on issues going to the heart of what a criminal justice system should look like in a civilized society, but also for her gentle and tireless spirit.

We are grateful that she chose to spend the last part of her distinguished career working with us.

TOM ROSS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Tom G. Ross on the occasion of his retirement after more than 40 years of serving and protecting others in law enforcement.

Tom began his career in July of 1967 and faithfully served as a law enforcement officer for more than forty years, including twenty-eight years in the City of Long Beach, California and more than 12 years in the City of Smithville, Missouri. Over the years, Tom has received special recognition from his command staff due to his strong personal qualities, professional skills and his willingness to put his country and fellow citizens before himself.

Tom has earned the gratitude and respect of his fellow officers and fellow citizens of Smithville, Missouri. His life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Tom Ross for his dedicated service to ensuring the safety of the people of Smithville, Missouri. I know Tom's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL
DAY, OCTOBER 10TH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend to the people of Taiwan my heartiest congratulations as we approach October 10 or National Day—the founding day of the Republic of China.

Since Taiwan's government was originally founded on the Chinese mainland nearly one hundred years ago, the people and government of the republic have made great economic and political strides.

Over the last several decades, Taiwan has been transformed from a one-party state, into a thriving global economic powerhouse, a generous and responsible member of the international community, and one of the most vibrant multi-party democracies in the Western Pacific.

Madam Speaker, this year was an especially eventful year in Taiwan's democratic evolution as voters on the island went to the polls to elect a new president and vote on a nationwide referendum. The results saw Taiwan's voters overseeing the second peaceful transfer of power there since Taiwan's remarkable transition to democracy in the 1990's.

The Taiwanese people deserve our respect and admiration for moving forward with this historic election—courageously going to the polls despite pressure and threats of violence from the Beijing authorities and their so-called "anti-secession law."

Again, I rise to congratulate the Taiwanese people, and I hope that this important holiday will continue to inspire everyone on the island to continue working together to preserve a bright future for democratic Taiwan.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFETRACK RESOURCES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lifetrack Resources in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on its 60th anniversary. During the past six decades, Lifetrack Resources has grown from a small charity into one of the largest community-based nonprofits serving families and individuals throughout the Twin Cities region.

Lifetrack Resources was originally founded on September 1, 1948, as the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center to meet the needs of injured veterans returning from World War II and the polio epidemic. In a true collaboration, the Amherst H. Wilder Charity, the Junior League of St. Paul, the MN Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the board of directors of Family Nursing Service of St. Paul came together to meet the needs of the community. These partnerships have continued through the years, and young children with disabilities received preschool education and both children and adults were provided physical, occupational, and speech therapy services at Lifetrack Resources. Over the years, Lifetrack developed model rehabilitation therapies and employment programs that were expanded through mergers with the Jewish Vocation Service to establish a comprehensive rehabilitation center and the St. Paul Hearing and Speech Center to provide audiology services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2000, St. Paul Rehabilitation Center was renamed Lifetrack Resources to embody the organization's extensive service to the greater Twin Cities area.

Today, Lifetrack Resources provides effective employment services and therapies to a wide-range of adults and children who encounter multiple obstacles to achievement—including those facing some of the most difficult challenges—immigrants and refugees, people with mental illness, individuals with criminal records, and our homeless population. Partnering with community organizations, Lifetrack Resources helps over 11,000 people each year to make positive changes in their lives by providing the skills and support they need, resulting in increased employment and economic opportunities and empowered healthy families. I have seen first hand how the success stories that Lifetrack Resources fosters continue to not only save government funds and improve our economy, but also strengthen our community's health and well-being.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Lifetrack Resources' committed donors, staff, volunteers, community partners, and clients, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 60th anniversary of Lifetrack Resources.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION ACT OF 2008

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2008. My bill would amend Federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police, FOP, because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that Federal, State, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 616, rollcall No. 617, and rollcall No. 618, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 616, "yes" on rollcall No. 617, and "yes" on rollcall No. 618.

CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF HALF MOON BAY RESORT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss a regrettable situation which we have been monitoring for some time now.

I am talking about the expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort in Antigua, which belonged to a group of American citizens, who developed the property into an internationally recognized vacation destination and have owned it for over 35 years.

The Hurricanes that hit the Caribbean in 1995 severely damaged the resort, making it necessary to negotiate a financial package to rebuild the property. Instead of assisting the owners in that regard, the Government of Antigua saw this as an opportunity to force the owners to sell it—at what would be its lowest value—to certain "friends of the Government". When the owners refused to sell and expressed a determination to rebuild instead, the Government of Antigua responded by repeatedly blocking their efforts to do so.

The Government of Antigua made its first overt attempt to expropriate the property in December 2000. At that time, some twenty

Congressmen and Senators intervened by writing directly to the Prime Minister of Antigua and the Antigua Ambassador in Washington, expressing their concern at such a move. That caused the Government of Antigua to back off for a few months.

However, after a short time, the Government of Antigua returned to its original plan and proceeded to a parliamentary declaration allowing the Government to exercise eminent domain over the property. The owners defended their rights and spent the next six years in litigation—with our State Department doing little more than placing an occasional inquiry with the Government of Antigua as to how they were getting along.

In June of 2007—a year ago—the Privy Council in London reviewed the case brought by the U.S. owners and, taking the lines of our own Kelo Supreme Court Decision one step further, decided that the Government of Antigua had the right of eminent domain to forcibly acquire the property, even when "public purpose" is applied to competing commercial interests. However, the Privy Council also confirmed the owner's right to fair and adequate compensation to be paid within a reasonable time. Now, a year later, the owners have once again had to return to the Courts, for an order compelling the Government to provide that compensation.

By expropriating property belonging to American Citizens and by ignoring the rights of the owners to prompt and fair compensation, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has breached the WTO International Trade and Investment Rules, as well as the Caribbean Basin Initiative and can no longer claim any rights accorded to preferred trading partners.

I hope the government of Antigua and Barbuda understands the impact this may have on their treatment under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and how this totalitarian seizure of private property will affect the future of foreign investment there.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT WALT GARCIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay special tribute to a dedicated American and true patriot for whose service to this country, first as an Officer in the United States Army and followed by a distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we owe our sincere gratitude, Mr. Walter Garcia.

Walt Garcia was born in California to proud and loving parents; mother Tsuyako and father Alfred. He and his three brothers, Joseph, Frank, and Fred, grew up in a happy home, each serving the other, alternately as friend, protector, and part-time antagonist. After graduating high school and earning his degree in Business Administration from San Francisco State University, Walt joined the United States Army where he served for five years and rose to the rank of Captain.

Walt joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1986. His first assignment, as part of the Phoenix Field Division, was as a Special

Agent in Foreign Counterintelligence, and member of the FBI Reactive Squad and FBI SWAT.

Walt's further service to the Bureau was primarily in the area of International Terrorism and support to the Special Operations Group. In 1995, he was selected to the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team Tactical Helicopter Unit. The members of this elite team considered Walt to be one of the most able and talented pilots to have ever served Hostage Rescue.

As a Supervisory Special Agent for Hostage Rescue, Walt was greatly respected and widely admired for his quiet but powerful presence. All who worked with him remember this friend and leader who avoided the spotlight and always put others first.

His FBI family, agents and pilots alike, can share dozens of stories about Walt's bravery and determination in the field. They can also recount exhaustive examples of this man's extraordinary gift as a strong and focused, yet quiet and selfless leader. Whether sharing the events surrendering Walt's quick thinking, his courage under pressure and his talent as a pilot on the occasion in which he single-handedly pursued fleeing drug suspects and, using only his helicopter, blocked their escape and retained them for capture, or when remembering how he calmed a younger agents baby, providing much needed leadership to the new father in the art of cooing while changing a diaper, those around him always knew of the standard he set for himself and for others in all things pursued.

He was a loving husband for 27 years to wife Yvonne and was a proud father to sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex. Friends and neighbors from his community in Stafford County, Virginia, will always remember the active support he provided to his family in all their varied activities. While it may be difficult for Brook Point High School football fans to recall the game scores over the last eight seasons, few would forget Walt as the most active cheerleader consistently in attendance.

The same can be said for all events in which Alex, Nicholas and Sean participated, whether as a soccer coach for Alex, football enthusiast for Nicholas, or proud father and passionate fan of Sean's many musical performances; Walt was their number one supporter.

Walt Garcia's best friend, beloved wife Yvonne, and their remarkable three sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex, will always cherish their memories of time spent together with this devoted husband and father. The community of friends and neighbors in Stafford County, Virginia, along with extended friends and close family across this great county, cherish the gift that was his friendship and love.

And finally, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation was fortunate to have counted this talented and dedicated agent as one of their own, we Americans will forever be grateful for his brave and faithful service to this Nation.

THE DAILY 45: ATHENS, CALIFORNIA SETS MURDER MILESTONE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 35

people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. At a time when millions of homeowners are facing daunting challenges associated with the economic meltdown of the housing market, last Sunday, homeowners and residents of Athens, California were facing a crisis of a different sort. On Sept. 21, when a still unidentified man was shot to death, his loss of life marked the 14th gun-related incident, and the eighth gun-related death, in this community alone!

This latest victim, an African American man, had a life, a family and, I'm sure, someone who loved him. I grieve for him and the veil of violence that neither Athens nor any other American city should have to endure.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say, 'Enough is enough, stop the killing!'

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge October 10, 2008 as the 97th anniversary of the Republic of China, more commonly known as Taiwan.

It is important for Congress to recognize the accomplishments of Taiwan and its democratic government. Taiwan is a loyal friend of the United States and a staunch ally in Asia. Taiwan is a shining example of a solid democracy, recently exemplified by the free and orderly Presidential elections in April and the peaceful transfer of power to President Ma. This transfer of power is a hallmark of a true democracy.

On the eve of Taiwan's anniversary I congratulate President Ma, Washington Representative Ambassador Jason C. Yuan, and all of the Taiwanese people for their unwavering pursuit of freedom.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following (dollar figure for which is to be adjusted to reflect totals actually provided in the bill):

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

Account: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin—Granville Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800,000 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air

National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio Air National Guard Base. The current 25 year old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure to meet with Joyce Jones, who is a Spina Bifida Association board chair, and past board member of the Spina Bifida Association's Central Indiana Chapter. Ms. Jones's daughter, Lisa, is afflicted with spina bifida, and also is active within the chapter and is a past Chapter president. Ms. Jones visited my office to discuss the daily challenges that her daughter faces as an adult suffering from spina bifida. As the House of Representatives prepares to adjourn, possibly for the year but certainly through the November elections, I rise tonight to ask my colleagues to join me in the best spirit of bipartisanship to help raise awareness of the struggles of people like Lisa Joyce by recognizing October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

For my colleagues who may not know, spina bifida—which literally means split spine—is our Nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect. This defect often presents itself within the first month of a pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column of the unborn child. Due to this opening, a person with spina bifida faces complications with almost every organ system, including physical, developmental, educational, and vocational challenges throughout life. The estimated total medical and surgical costs for persons affected by spina bifida in the United States exceed \$200 million. Currently an estimated 70,000 to 130,000 Americans are afflicted with this condition and that number is growing by about 3,000 annually.

Compounding this tragedy is the fact that spina bifida, and many other so-called neural tube defects, are largely preventable. In fact, research has shown that adequate consumption of folic acid or vitamin-B by women of child-bearing age before and during their pregnancies could lower the possibility of a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect by almost 70 percent. The important point, however, is that folic acid is water soluble and it does not stay in the body for very long; so women need to take it every day to help reduce the risk of neural tube defects. Throughout October, the Spina Bifida Association and others will work to raise awareness of the fact that all women of child-bearing age are at risk for having a pregnancy affected by spina bifida; and the fact that they can significantly lower that risk by taking a daily dose of folic acid.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is perhaps the most valuable tool we have to

help convey this message and I hope that my colleagues will spend October, as I will, speaking out about this critically important issue.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker. In accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following list (dollars figures for which are to be adjusted to reflect totals actually provided in the bill):

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: Title III, Army Procurement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: TPI Composites

Address of Requesting Entity: 2145 Airpark Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45502

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$6,000,000 to build 50 lightweight, armor ready SRATS vehicles, including composite cab/vehicle structure, for use in theater. (Specialized Reconnaissance Assault Transport Systems (SRATS))

Account: Title III, Air Force Procurement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sierra Nevada Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 2611 Commons Boulevard, Beavercreek, Ohio 45431

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,000,000 to do a digital upgrade based on COTS technology. (Senior Scout Digital Rio Raton ELINT System)

Account: Title IV, Army RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dynamics Research Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 2900 Presidential Drive, Suite 100, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,000,000 to eliminate the disparity that exists between pre-mobilization training for Army active duty and reserve component health care providers by training the reservists at civilian medical simulation centers. (Reservists Medical Simulation Training Program)

Account: Title IV, Army RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Phygen, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1400 Marshall Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413-1040

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$4,500,000 to toughen metal surfaces to ensure maximum life by improving wear resistance and reducing friction which keeps engineered components operating for longer periods. (Ultra-Endurance Coating)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Riverside Research Institute

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 208, Beavercreek, Ohio 45434-0208

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 to provide the trained and skilled workforce needed to process, exploit, and disseminate intelligence community advanced technologies, the development of which over the next 5-15 years will exceed

current ability. (Advanced Technical Intelligence Center)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Qbase, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2619 Commons Boulevard, Dayton, Ohio 45431

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,500,000 to develop and demonstrate data analysis tools for increases in physical and cognitive human performance. (Imaging Tools for Human Performance Enhancement and Diagnostics)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SI International

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Commerce Center Boulevard, Fairfield, Ohio 54324

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 to conduct scientific research on, and to deploy improved technologies on, reducing the cost of aerospace systems sustainment. (Science for Sustainment)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Woolpert, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4454 Idea Center Boulevard, Dayton, Ohio 45430

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,000,000 to combine new sensor technology and a rapid and secure data transmission workflow for more accurate and timely information. (Sensor Fusion)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 2875 Presidential Drive, Suite 190, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,000,000 to develop and implement a sustained capability to process and exploit airborne intelligence data. (TIR (Thermal IR) Processing and Exploitation Cell)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Science Applications International corporation (SAIC)

Address of Requesting Entity: 4031 Colonel Glenn Highway, Beavercreek, Ohio 45431-1602

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,500,000 to develop sensor algorithms and concepts that utilize laser radar for high-confidence, confirmatory target identification. (Active Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) Phenomenology (AUP) & Automatic Target Recognition Technology Transition (ATR))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Greentree Group

Address of Requesting Entity: 1360 Technology Court, Suite 100, Beavercreek, Ohio 45430

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,500,000 to capture and manage information from disparate sources used to provide complex systems acquisition program status. (Acquisition Data Repository)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SelectTech Services Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 8045 Washington Village Drive, Centerville, Ohio 45458

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 to automate the response to triggered sensors. (Automated Sensor-Communication Response Technology)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: KLA-Teacor

Address of Requesting Entity: 160 Rio Robles, San Jose, California 95134

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,500,000 to continue development of sub 200nm light source technology that will be integrated into wafer inspection tools for the manufacturing and inspection of microelectronics. (Optically Pumped Atomic Laser (OPAL))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: CACI MTL Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3481 Dayton-Xenia Road, Dayton, Ohio 45432

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,000,000 for research and advanced development of next generation image exploitation algorithms. (Integrated SAR/PI Evaluator for Critical Target and Activity Recognition (INSPECTAR))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wright State University Department of Emergency Medicine

Address of Requesting Entity: 3139 Research Boulevard, Suite 205, Dayton, Ohio 45420

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3,000,000 to develop a nationally recognized center for educational and operational programs for first responders and medical teams. (Homeland Emergency Learning and Preparedness (HELP))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wright State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 to train electronic warfare combat engineers to replace the large number who are retiring. (New Electronic Warfare Specialists Through Advanced Research by Students (NEWSTARS-RAPCEval))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SET Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 2940 Presidential Drive, Suite 270, Fairborn, Ohio 54324

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,500,000 to develop a more robust version of the current Counter-Bomber system. (Multi-Sensor Person-Borne Suicide Computer Bomber Detection System)

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eclipse Energy Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1004 Sycamore Avenue, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,000,000 to develop variable transmittance technology for pilot visors and tactical goggles. (Smart View Program (SVP))

Account: Title IV, Air Force RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Avetec
Address of Requesting Entity: 30 Warder Street, Suite 210, Springfield, Ohio 45504

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,500,000 to develop advanced aircraft energy management systems analysis, modeling and simulation tools across the system's lifecycle. (Integrated Aircraft energy Management Modeling and Simulation)

Account: Title IV, Defense Wide RDT&E

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eagle Tool & Machine

Address of Requesting Entity: 663 Montgomery Avenue, Springfield, Ohio 45501

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Renaissance Services

Address of Requesting Entity: One South Limestone Street, Suite 1012, Springfield, Ohio 45501

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: QuesTek Innovation LLC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1820 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,500,000 to improve the safety and service life and reduce the maintenance cost of current gear components. (Corrosion Resistant Ultrahigh-Strength Steel for Landing Gear)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is September 23, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,028 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more inno-

cent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,028 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is September 23, 2008, 13,028 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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 25, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

The above title line and text will be replaced when the Extension of Remarks Committee Scheduling Report is imported into this document.