A TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA Y. CUMMINGS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cynthia Cummings, Executive Director of Community Parents, Inc. and community activist.

Cynthia Cummings is the Executive Director of Community Parents, Inc. (CPI), a non-profit community based organization, serving 275 children and families in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Far Rockaway. Additionally, she presides over the Administration for Children’s Services Head Start Training Institute at Berean Baptist Church, offering professional, career and credential programs. Continuing accomplishments include securing and renovating a permanent facility in Far Rockaway.

Immediately following completion of her degree in Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University in 1975, Ms. Cummings began her career as the Teacher/Director of Moravian Head Start in Harlem, where she developed her administrative skills operating the program now known as Arthur and Thelma Adair Community Centers. She decided to pursue her studies further at New York University in Community Health Education as she worked at SUNY Health Science Center on the National Study on Sickle Cell Disease. Her interest and work in the health industry resulted in her being included in several research publications.

She maintained an important connection with her community as chairperson of Community Parents Head Start, while then employed at Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. In 1991, her predecessor passed the torch and Ms. Cummings relinquished the chair of CPI to assume the role of Executive Director. The program grew under her leadership, achieving the NAEYC accreditation and expanding its services into Far Rockaway, Queens. Concurrently, Ms. Cummings has spearheaded many partnerships to improve quality and to enhance services for Head Start children and families. CPI was selected as a promising practices site for the National Head Start Family Literacy Project and was featured in Newsweek Magazine. The organization was featured as one of 14 programs selected by the Administration for Children’s Services New York City Head Start Best Practices sites.

Most recently, in collaboration with Bank Street College, the agency was selected as an Emotionally Responsive Practices site for continued research on best practices.

Among her professional affiliations are, chairperson of DC 1707 Local 85 Head Start Employees Welfare Fund, representing the interests of approximately 3,000 members. She also is a trustee of The Head Start Management Welfare Fund. Additionally, she is an active member of the National, Regional and State Head Start Associations contributing to the development of their respective annual training conferences. Locally, she is Board member of Brooklyn Kindergarten Society and remains active in the Cornell Black Alumni Association and involved in the Decatur-Stuyvesant Block Association. You often will see Cynthia greeter you at the door during the annual Brownstoner’s of Bedford-Stuyvesant house tour.

Cynthia has testified before the General Health and Welfare Committee of the New York City Council and was a panelist for the Citizens’ Committee on welfare reform. She has presented at The National Center for Family Literacy Conference and at the National Association for the Education of Young Children on the Importance of Family Literacy. As a Johnson and Johnson Management Fellow, she continues her study of organizational management annually at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA. She also continues her activism as a participant in the CORO Leadership NY program.

She is the recipient of Councilmember Annette Robinson’s Spirit of Leadership Award, was honored by the Mid-Bedford Heights Lions Club and Vanguard Independent Democratic Association and received a proclamation from Councilmember Albert Vann for her civic efforts. An avid horticulturist, one often will see her lovingly tending to her home gardens. Her creative, artistic expression further is nurtured through dance training and performing with Mo’ Jazz, a bilthe troupe of athletic and creative women over, let’s say, forty.

Cynthia is married to her soul mate, Richard Cummings, a pianist and composer, and she remains blessed to have in her life, her mother, Ellen Lewis, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday. Representing the ascending generation are her two daughters, Diarra, a Columbia University graduate, following professional ballet and modern dance associations, and Imani a graduate of The University of Tampa, who now resides in sunny California currently pursuing a second career in acupuncture.

TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to report that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is getting construction workers off the bench and back on the job. The Recovery Act provides $64.1 billion for transportation and infrastructure investments within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Nearly $40 billion of those funds have been distributed to States by existing highway, transit, and clean water statutory formulas. Of the $27 billion provided for highway infrastructure formula funds, in the past three weeks, 33 States have submitted and received approval for nearly 800 projects totaling $2.9 billion, more than 10 percent of the Recovery Act highway funds.

Construction is underway across the country: Silver Spring, Maryland: $2.1 million project to resurface and improve safety along a 1.1-mile section of New Hampshire Avenue; Syracuse, Utah: $15 million project to widen State Highway 108; and Richmond, Vermont: $1.7 million project to rehabilitate a bridge over the Winooski River.

In addition, the Federal Transit Administration has awarded grants to the Kentucky, Missouri, and Maine State DOTs to purchase more than 500 vehicles, including trolleys, buses, vans, and ferries and construct almost 50 bus shelters.

Amtrak has approved $938 million of capital improvement projects: including $105 million project to replace a moveable bridge over the Niantic River; and $82 million to rehabilitate 68 passenger cars.

The Federal Aviation Administration has identified $913 million of the $1.1 billion of airport projects, including runway, taxiway, apron, and terminal improvements.

All across America, the Recovery Act is creating good, family-wage jobs to restore our nation’s infrastructure and economy.

H.R. 1746, THE PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1746, the “Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009”, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (“FEMA”) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (“PDM”) program, a program to help communities across the nation protect against natural disasters and other hazards. I thank Ranking Member Mica, and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. Norton) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Diaz-Balart), Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for joining me in sponsoring this bill.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program provides technical and financial assistance to state and local governments to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage to property caused by natural hazards. Examples of mitigation activities include the seismic strengthening of buildings, acquiring repetitively flooded homes, installing shutters and shatter-resistant windows in hurricane-prone areas, and building “safe rooms” in houses and buildings to protect people from high winds.

Action on this bill today is crucial because, under current law, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program will sunset on September 30, 2009. Therefore, Congress must take quick action to continue this vital program.
In 1988, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure authorized FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This effective program provides grants to communities to mitigate hazards, but only provides grants to "build better" after a disaster. At the time, no program existed to help communities mitigate risks from future disaster impacts.

In the 1990s, under the leadership of FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt, FEMA developed a pre-disaster mitigation pilot program known as "Project Impact." Congress appropriated funds for "Project Impact" in each of fiscal years 1997 through 2001. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure first authorized the current Pre-Disaster Mitigation program in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The PDM program reduces the risk of natural hazards, which is where the preponderance of risk is in our country. The devastating ice storms that struck the middle of the United States (including Missouri, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kentucky) earlier this year and the floods currently on the Red River in the Midwest are examples of the tragic, real impacts of natural disasters that occur nation every year. Over the last decade, natural disasters have cost our nation an average of nearly $30 billion per year.

Mitigation has been proven to save money. Studies by the Congressional Budget Office and the National Institute of Building Sciences show that for every dollar spent on pre-disaster mitigation projects, future losses are reduced by three to four dollars. In 2005, the Muthazard Mitigation Council, an advisory body of the National Institute of Building Sciences, found "that a dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of $4." The Council found that flood mitigation measures yield even greater savings. According to a September 2007 CBO report on the reduction in Federal disaster assistance that is likely to result from the PDM program, "on average, future losses are reduced by about $3 (measured in discounted present value) for each $1 spent on those projects, including both federal and nonfederal spending."

While empirical data is critical, perhaps more telling for real-life mitigation "success stories" is the town of Valmeyer, Illinois. The town was devastated by the great flood of 1993. With $45 million in Federal, state, and local funding, the town relocated to bluffs 400 feet above the site of the former town. When faced with floods last year, the residents of that town were out of harm's way, as the Chicago Tribune reported in a story aptly titled "Valmeyer Illinois—Soaked in '93, Town Now High and Dry." The June 19, 2008 story quotes an 86-year old resident named Elenora Anderson. Her home was destroyed by the 1993 flood but as she said, "I'm sure glad I don't have to worry now that we're high enough here on the hill."

This month, we have seen the communities of North Dakota and my home state of Minnesota damaged by floods. Many of these same communities were devastated by floods in 1997. However, because of mitigation after the 1997 floods, the communities face far less risk. Even before this year's floods, mitigation investments were paying off. For example, in Grand Forks, after the 1997 floods, FEMA spent $23 million to acquire vulnerable homes in the flood plain. In 2006, a flood came within two feet of the 1997 flood level, and according to FEMA, the 1997 mitigation investment saved $24.6 million. That investment represents a return of 107 percent after just one flood.

Another success story comes from Story County, Iowa. There, six homes that had been flooded in 1993 and in 1999 were bought out with $549,662 in FEMA mitigation grants. In 1998 when a flood struck again, FEMA estimates that $541,900 in damages to the homes was avoided. This mitigation project paid for itself in just one flood, and the estimated savings do not include the costs of warning, rescue, or replacement.

Mitigation is an investment. It is an investment that not only benefits the Federal Government, but state and local governments as well. Projects funded by the PDM program reduce the damage that would be paid for by the Federal Government and state and local governments in a Major Disaster under the Stafford Act. However, mitigation also reduces the risks from smaller, more frequent, events that state and local governments face every day, as not every storm, fire, or flood warrants the assistance of the Federal Government.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, through property improvements, takes citizens out of harm’s way, by elevating a house, or making sure a hospital can survive a hurricane or earthquake. In doing so, it allows first responders to focus on what is unpredictable in a disaster rather than on what is foreseeable and predictable.

H.R. 1746 reauthorizes the PDM program for three years, at a level of $250 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012. The bill increases the minimum amount that each state can receive from the PDM program from $500,000 to $575,000, and codifies the competitive selection process of the program as currently administered by FEMA.

The bill also eliminates the existing sunset in the program. As the evidence clearly shows, this program works well and is cost effective. It should no longer be treated as a pilot program with a sunset. Rather, state and local governments should have the certainty of knowing this program will be available in the future so they can conduct vital longer-term mitigation projects.

Last year, the House passed a virtually identical bill, H.R. 6109, but the other body did not take action on this bill. While a one-year extension was included in the Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act to keep this vital program alive, Congress must act. If we do not, this worthy program will sunset on September 30, 2009.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1746, the "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009."

H.R. 1747, THE GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER REPLACEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I today introduce H.R. 1747, the "Great Lakes icebreaker Replacement Act". U.S. industries in the heartland of the United States are totally dependent on Great Lakes icebreakers to keep them supplied with raw materials during the winter months. Without them, steel mills would shut down for want of iron ore and electrical generation would halt for want of the coal necessary to power generators. People could not just lose their jobs—but their lives.

During the 2006–2007 winter season, transportation of 10,400,000 tons of coal were shipped on the Great Lakes to keep the region supplied with electricity. However, we don’t have the icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes that we have had historically. During the spring of 2008, U.S.-flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes suffered more than $1.3 million in damages to their hulls because the Coast Guard did not have sufficient assets to keep the shipping lanes open.

People who are not from the Great Lakes region probably do not realize that there is ice on the Lakes and their interconnecting channels from early December until April. Some years, the Coast Guard has been breaking ice in the St. Mary’s river until mid-May. Think of these icebreakers as the snow plows for Great Lakes shipping. It is the Federal Government’s responsibility to keep these marine highways open so the needs of the public can be met.

In 2006, the Coast Guard took delivery of the new icebreaker MACKINAW. Unlike the old MACKINAW, this vessel is a combined buoy tender-icebreaker so that it can execute Coast Guard missions year-round. Five of the Coast Guard’s icebreakers on the Lakes are close to the end of their useful lives. Further, the buoy tenders on the Lakes are having difficulty breaking ice of the thickness that is commonly found on the Lakes.

The $153 million authorized in H.R. 1747 authorizes the funding to build a sister ship to the MACKINAW. The design of the MACKINAW is proven and the vessel has shown that it is up to the job of breaking ice on the Lakes during the winter and tending buoys during the spring, summer and fall months. Not only will this funding ensure that our nation’s vital industries are supplied during the winter—construction of this icebreaker will create jobs at U.S. shipyards and the related supplier industries at a time when job creation is so vital to an economy losing some 600,000 jobs per month.

For all of these reasons, it is critically important that we provide the Coast Guard with the resources necessary to build a replacement icebreaker for the Great Lakes region. 

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET AUTHORITY IN THE FY 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, the Budget Resolution, as ordered reported last night by the House Committee on the Budget, provides a solid foundation for the surface transportation authorization and the Chair- man SPRATT and the Committee on the Budget for their leadership and vigorous support for transportation and infrastructure programs.
If the Budget Resolution is applied over the six-year period from fiscal years 2010 to 2015, the Resolution assumes a base allocation of $324 billion for highway, highway safety, and transit programs, including $312 billion of contract authority. Importantly, this allocation re-stores $840 billion over the six-year period over the highway contract authority that had been cut from the Congressional Budget Office baseline, which assumed fiscal year 2009 rescissions would recur in all future years.

In addition, the Resolution establishes a Reserve Fund to allow this base allocation of $324 billion to be adjusted upward as necessary to accommodate higher funding levels to the extent they can be supported by the Highway Trust Fund.

The Resolution also assumes the Airport Improvement Program is funded at $4.0 billion in FY 2010, $4.1 billion in FY 2011, and $4.2 billion in FY 2012, consistent with H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 5, 2009. This is an increase of $840 million over the baseline funding level for this program over the three-year period from FY 2010–2012.

The Resolution rejects the Office of Management and Budget’s proposal to change how programs funded by contract authority are treated for budget scoring purposes. This proposal, had it been adopted, would have converted the mandatory contract authority that currently funds our highway, highway safety, transit and airport grant programs to a simple authorization of appropriations for budget scoring purposes. I am pleased that the Budget Resolution continues to recognize the unique nature of trust-funded programs by rejecting this ill-advised proposal.

### Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act

**SPEECH OF HON. ANNA G. ESCHOO OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

The House in Committee of the Whole, on the State of the Union, had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESCHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act and I salute Chairman RAHALL for bringing this important bill to the floor today.

Last year a series of wildfires devastated counties across California, including Santa Cruz County in my Congressional District. The fires burned 1.4 billion acres of land across the State and cost over $1 billion to contain. Experts expect a similarly difficult fire season in California this year. Over the past decade wildland fires have increased in size and quantity, and projections indicate that this trend will continue due to climate change, drought, and other factors.

The skyrocketing costs of fighting wildland fires have forced the Forest Service and Department of Interior to “borrow” funds from non-fire programs, distracting these agencies from their core missions. Wildland fire activities now account for 48 percent of the Forest Service budget and more than 10 percent of the Interior Department budget.

This bill will create the FLAME Fund to help cover the costs of fighting fires after the money appropriated by the federal government runs out. Agencies may use this fund only if the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture deems the fire large enough or dangerous enough to warrant using the funds.

The FLAME Act requires the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to submit a report to Congress containing a comprehensive wildland fire management strategy. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found
that the federal land management agencies lack such a plan and the USDA Inspector General found that the Forest Service lacks any system to ensure that the highest priority fuel reduction projects are being funded first. This report by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture will address the recommendations made by both GAO and the USDA Inspector General.

To ensure that the money is going to where it is most needed, the bill requires that yearly reports be made available to the public on the use of the FLAME Fund. It also requires the Secretaries to conduct a review of wildland fire incidents that result in expenses greater than $10,000,000 and requires the Secretaries to notify Congress whenever the FLAME Fund drops to a level estimated to cover just two months worth of expenditures.

The FLAME Act establishes a wildfire grant program within each department that will assist communities in preparing for wildfires. Grants will go towards purchasing firefighting equipment and training programs for local firefighters. The money will also be used for education and public awareness of wildfires and to develop community wildfire protection plans.

This bill is necessary so that agencies no longer have to move funding around to make up for the increased costs of wildfire suppression programs. The fund will provide a safety net in the event of catastrophic fires, such as those that occurred in California last year. It will also ensure that the Federal Government has an effective and comprehensive plan for wildland fire management.

I’m proud to support this bill and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 25, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for Rollcall No. 151.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 151—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act.

A TRIBUTE TO LINDA BRADLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Linda Bradley, a champion of Nursing and health and wellness promotion.

Linda Bradley was born in Brooklyn, New York to Lola Balance and the late Jerry Balance. Linda is the oldest of four siblings, her brother and sisters are Denise, Michelle and Jerry. Ms. Bradley is a registered nurse and has participated in a community career day, appeared on a Brooklyn cable show and mentored two young women who are now R.N.’s. Linda is the current Health Ministry Director at Solid Rock S.D.A. church, who promotes ongoing health emphasis activities. Linda has assisted in the administration of NIH/Loma Linda Health Study II surveys from 2004–2007 at Solid Rock Church. She has taught as a Sabbath School teacher in the community, she has participated in a community career day, appeared on a Brooklyn cable show and mentored two young women who are now R.N.’s. Linda is the current Health Ministry Director at Solid Rock S.D.A. church, who promotes ongoing health emphasis activities. Linda has assisted in the administration of NIH/Loma Linda Health Study II surveys from 2004–2007 at Solid Rock Church.

Linda believes that she is a living testimony of God’s blessing and healing power and is very committed to nurturing the spirit, mind and body of every person she comes in contact with. Linda believes in excellence and that knowledge is power and whatever knowledge she has is to be shared. Linda has often described the essence of her being as “one who shares” in every aspect of her life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BORDER SECURITY SEARCH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I introduce to the floor today to call attention to the Border Security Search Accountability Act of 2009, which I will be introducing in the House today.

With the support of 16 bipartisan, original cosponsors, the bill will call on the Department of Homeland Security to establish strict guidelines for Customs and Border Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s electronic device seizure policy.

It is important to ensure that Customs and Border agents have the tools necessary to go after potential terrorists.

This bill allows for the appropriate search, review, retention and sharing of information on an individual’s electronic device as it is necessary for security purposes.

Equally important is the need to protect the rights of travelers, and especially American citizens.

My legislation ensures that when an individual’s property is seized at a point of entry, there is a well-defined procedure in place that will protect their privacy and electronic data, especially the doctor-patient and attorney-client privileges.

This legislation also requires the Department of Homeland Security to post information about individuals’ rights related to border searches in visible areas near the search points, so that individuals will understand their rights if their property is seized.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND EARTH HOUR MOVEMENT

HON. ALCIE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Earth Hour 2009, sponsored by the World
Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF has been a major advocate for our earth and addressing the environmental threats we face. Earth Hour 2009 is an opportunity for individuals all across globe to join together in responding to the rapid deterioration of our earth’s climate. On March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm (EST), the world will come together to participate in the first global vote for action on climate change. With their light switch as their ballot, hundreds of millions of people in more than 75 countries will cast a powerful, visual vote for action by turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour was celebrated two years ago in Sydney, Australia in partnership with the WWF, when 2.2 million people and thousands of businesses turned off their lights for one hour. In March 2008, Earth Hour went global with more than 50 million people in over 400 cities participating, including an estimated 36 million Americans.

Earth hour 2009 has expanded its reach with the support of nearly 1,000 cities around the world, including U.S. cities Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, DC. Additionally, international cities committed to the cause include Beijing, Copenhagen, Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, and Paris.

Madam Speaker, by participating in Earth Hour here in the U.S., it sends a message that Americans care about climate change and stand with the rest of the world in raising awareness about this escalating crisis. With every flick of a light-switch, a vote is cast for our environment.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTTIE DOBSON-SHANNON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lottie Dobson-Shannon. Lottie Dobson-Shannon is an educator with the Department of Education, Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy. She was born in North Carolina and moved to New York at the age of nine. She was raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, New York.

Shannon began her career in 1972 at the Department of Education and worked her way to a management position. In 1987, she became the Project Director of the New York City Board of Education Mentoring Program, where she is still a mentor in the Women in Government Mentoring Program. She involved the parents to become successful leaders in the Department of Education, Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy. She was born in North Carolina and moved to New York at the age of nine. She was raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, New York.

Shannon began her career in 1972 at the Department of Education and worked her way to a management position. In 1987, she became the Project Director of the New York City Board of Education Mentoring Program, where she is still a mentor in the Women in Government Mentoring Program. She involved the parents to become successful leaders in the Department of Education, Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy. She was born in North Carolina and moved to New York at the age of nine. She was raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, New York.

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government, arts and culture, business, education, and religion.

BID on Culture is a new initiative developed through the partnership between the 125th Street Business Improvement District and the Harlem Arts Alliance to help build a community-based, vibrant community with an unparalleled history of contribution to the nation in all fields of human endeavor. Let me recognize the five selected artists whose banner designs will be displayed on the 125th Street Corridor.

Andrea Arroyo, a Mexican born, New York-based artist whose work has been exhibited in twenty-four individual and more than eighty group shows in galleries and museums. Andrea is in the public collections of The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, The Library of Congress, the Mexican Museum in San Francisco, the American Folk Art Museum in New York, and numerous private collections in the US, Mexico, Europe and Japan. Her public art projects include commissions for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, the New York School Construction Authority, City Arts and the Flatbush YMCA. Laura Gadson is a native New Yorker raised in Jamaica Queens. A graduate of Fiorella LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the City College of New York. She has been a teaching artist since age 14 for a variety of public and private New York City institutions. Ms. Gadson's craftwork is in the private collections of Susan Taylor, Iyanla Vanzant and other collectors. Her work has been exhibited in the New York State Museum in Albany, The Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, Colombia University and she currently has two quilts on a National Tour until 2010. A Harlem brownstone has been her home studio and personal gallery since 1993. Obatola Wilhelmina Grant, a native New Yorker and resident of Harlem is an assemblage artist, creating pieces from discarded objects. Obatola was formerly the Director of Programs and Administration at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and before that the Director of Community Outreach for SHARE, Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Arts from Hunter College and expects to graduate in June from Hunter with a Masters of Science in Urban Affairs. She has exhibited at Bank Street College, Union Theological Seminary, the Simmons Gallery and the New York Public Library.

Sharon Lewis, a graphic designer, originally from Detroit, Michigan, now based in New Rochelle, New York, Sharon is a Production Associate at DMD Insight, a boutique agency specializing in integrated marketing for arts and cultural architecture, design, philanthropic and financial services clients. She has a BFA in Industrial Design from Columbus College of Art and Design and her career focus has been print design in the fields of publishing, advertising and law.

Shiyla was a Harlem-based artist, whose work has been featured on television on The Cosby Show, HGTV—Crafting Coast to Coast, in the magazines Essence, Brides and Beauty, and YSP, and the book Jumping the Broom: The African American Wedding Planner, among others. Shimoda’s exhibit and presentation schedule includes Bank Street College, The National Black Arts Festival, The Mt. Vernon Library, Mt. Vernon NY, the Center for Book Arts, and the Donnell Library in New York City. She also serves on the Crafts panel for the Artists’ Fellowships of the NY Foundation for the Arts, has taught beading at Brooklyn Academy of Music and Harlem School of the Arts, assisted Sonya Clark and Joyce Scott at Penland School of Crafts, NC and Ralph Lauren with his 1998 beaded jewelry collection.

The 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) is a non-profit organization funded primarily from an additional tax assessment collected from the property owners within the defined boundaries. Organized in compliance with state and city laws, the property and business owners determine the services and programs needed for the district. The BID will utilize the competition to bring visibility to its streetscape improvement efforts and to enrich the community’s central business district. The Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) is a non-profit membership service organization committed to nurturing the artistic growth and organizational development of artists and arts organizations primarily in Harlem and its surrounding communities. Comprised of over forty artists, individuals and organizations, HAA is the only service organization of its kind in Harlem and plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network and capacity of its richly diverse membership. Counted among its members are young emerging artists as well as established and internationally recognized artists. Also represented are small grassroots organizations and major cultural institutions in Harlem and beyond. Major funding for HAA is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Corporation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council.

Barbara Askins, President of the 125th Street BID says the BID on Culture project “seeks to maximize the value of the 125th Street corridor by initiating efforts to secure the future of cultural presentation and production in Harlem and to encourage the ongoing revitalization of 125th Street as a premier arts and culture entertainment destination.”

Michael Unthank, HAA Executive Director, says that “over the past 10 to 15 years, 125th Street Corridor has emerged as a major destination anchored by not just local and national chain retail outlets but also by major cultural institutions such as the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Apollo Theater.”

TRIBUTE TO SHIYLA

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McNAMARA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation the service and sacrifice of firefighter and 9/11 first responder John McNamara.

A 10-year veteran of the New York Fire Department, John is currently assigned to Engine Co. 234 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He is a first responder who not only assisted during the search and rescue efforts following September 11th, 2001, but also assisted the New Orleans Fire Department and the citizens of Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Formerly a resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and currently a resident of Blue Point, Long Island, John is valiantly struggling to survive a nearly three-year battle with Stage 4, metastatic colon cancer. John, age 43, and his wife Jennifer have a 2½ year old son named Jack.

In the firefighting tradition of “leaving no man behind,” John’s friends and fellow firefighters at Engine 234 / Ladder 123, Engine 220 / Ladder 122, the Blue Point Volunteer Fire Department and the New York City Firefighter Brotherhood Foundation are working hard to see that John and his family are supported as his battle grows more difficult.

Like John, many of the brave first responders who served at Ground Zero are now struggling with debilitating diseases as a result of their courageous efforts. As a nation, we made a promise to help all those who suffered as a result of the heinous acts of September 11th. We must keep that promise. We must ensure that those brave first responders receive the medical care and other support they need.

Today, we in Congress honor John McNamara for his service to New York and to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO MARSHA T. DUPONT

HON. EDPOLUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marsha T. Dupont.

Marsha was born in Brooklyn, NY, to Deacon Clyde Tarrant, Sr., and the Late Catherine Britt Tarrant. She is the only girl child out of three children born to the: Deacon Clyde Tarrant, Jr. and the Late Bruce Tarrant.

She received her education from Public School 11 and Rochut Junior High School both of Brooklyn, New York. Marsha received a scholarship from Fashion Industries Vocational High School, where she graduated valedictorian and Female Athlete of the Year, class of 1972. She continued her education attending and graduating from LaGuardia Community College and Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in pattern making and fashion design. She later changed her career and attended and graduated from the Grace Downs Vocational Air Career and Hotel Management College in Glen Cove, Long Island. Marsha was employed by the Inter-Continental Hotel for 10 years as Reservations Manager. She changed employment to the Drake Swissotel Hotel in New York City where she also worked as Reservations Manager for 17 years. She received numerous awards and departmental training certificates and she was also cited as Employee of the Month and Manager of the Year. Marsha was loved and respected by her staff and fellow co-workers; she always giving career opportunities to others.

Marsha’s love and flare for fashion and decorating encouraged her to form a company
“Duchess Unlimited” where she worked as a Wedding Coordinator and coordinated anniversaries and other types of social events at cost.

Marsha joined the Mt. Olie Baptist Church in 1959 under the leadership of the late Rev. R.D. Brown. She sang in the Junior Choir, was an original member of the Buds of Promise, a member of the Junior usher Board and later joined the Young Adult Choir. Rev. Brown appointed Marsha to the Senior Trustee Board to “observe.” She was the youngest female trustee. This was a major accomplishment for Marsha, for little did she know that God was preparing her for the future. In 1989 she was elected as the first female Chairperson of the Board and is still serving in that capacity today. She has given 20 years of service to the trustee board.

At present Marsha works as the Director of Housing/Food & Beverage for the Office of Conventions and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She was appointed to this position by the President of the Convention in 1995. She is a member of the religious Conference Management Association and Coalition of Black Meeting Planners. She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Women.

Marsha began her work as a member of the Brooklyn District of the New York State Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. in the 1950’s under the leadership of Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. as Chapter representative. Marsha gave great support and dedication to the late Brother Larry Brown and the late Minister Allen D. Jamison as Borough Presidents of the Brooklyn District. After their passing she then was appointed Borough President. The Brooklyn District took on new life and direction under her leadership.

Marsha is also a Charter Member of the famous Tri-boro Mass Choir of which she credits the choir’s annual prayer and fasting shut-in with God. Morgenthau, who dealt with Talat in Istanbul, believed strongly that Pasha was fully responsible for the killings of the Armenians.

These figures in Bardakci’s book provide further evidence that those who masteredmind the genocide against the Armenians were obsessed with exterminating all the Armenian people. Talat Pasha’s meticulous figures bring to mind the Nazis who kept records of 17 million victims, including the Jews who were exterminated during the holocaust. In aggregate, the Nazis kept 50 million pages of documents now available for the families of those who lost loved ones, scholars, and the public.

Unfortunately, Bardakci does not believe that the Armenian Genocide took place. Like his government, he is an unapologetic denier. However, he believes that Turkish people should be exposed to historical documents. Bardakci is correct that Turkey needs documents. This week’s Times article astutely notes the chilling silence that swept over Turkey in response to these figures. Turkey needs to come to terms with its past.

It is with sadness that it may take the figures of the man who orchestrated the genocide to convince the Turkish government and the Turkish people that 90 years ago the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenians. I am hopeful that Turkey will soon unclench its hold on its people’s memory and officially support the official estimate of approximately 1.5 million Armenians.

These are our constituents who lost loved ones, scholars, and the public. Unfortunately, Bardakci does not believe that the Armenian Genocide took place. Like his government, he is an unapologetic denier.

The book details Pasha’s methodical reordering of the disappearance of nearly 1 million Armenians in a 2-year period. Pasha served as interior minister to the Ottoman Empire and helped orchestrate the Armenian Genocide. Like the Nazis, Pasha kept detailed population figures of the Ottoman Empire’s Christian ethnic minority, the Armenians.

Before 1915, 1.2 million Armenians lived in what today is modern Turkey. By 1917, the number had dropped to 284,000 Armenians. Bardakci received these original lists of population figures from Pasha’s wife, Hayriye Talat, in 1983. However, he waited to include them in his book until he felt Turkey was ready to receive them.

As the New York Times reported in November of 1920, Talat Pasha used to say, “the only way to dispose of the Armenians question is to kill the Armenians.” As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau made many courageous efforts to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians, as well as alert Americans to the genocide that was taking place. Morgenthau, who dealt with Talat in Istanbul, believed strongly that Pasha was fully responsible for the killings of the Armenians.

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It is with sadness that it may take the figures of the man who orchestrated the genocide to convince the Turkish government and the Turkish people that 90 years ago the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenians. I am hopeful that Turkey will soon unclench its hold on its people’s memory and openly discuss the Armenian genocide; instead of using words like “alleged” or funding a multi-million dollar lobby in the United States to distort fact.

It has taken a while, but Americans look back constantly on our own history. We question why we enslaved millions of Africans. We question why we slaughtered millions of Native Americans. We discuss it in our schools. We reflect on our history. Doing this helps our nation deal with its past and enables us to learn and heal.

Not only does Turkey deny the Armenian Genocide, it asks Americans to deny it as well. It asks the United States Congress not to honor the victims of the genocide. The Armenian Diaspora exists in opposition to the genocide. Why should Armenian-American voices be silenced? Why are the voices of those who want to end the vicious cycle of genocide being hushed? Why do we allow ourselves year after year to be threatened by Turkey?

These are our constituents who lost loved ones in the Genocide. We must honor their memory and not be bullied by Turkey.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATILDA M. GARCIA IN HONOR OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women’s History Month, I rise today to honor Matilda Martinez Garcia, a devoted advocate for Hispanic Americans in Florida. Ms. Garcia exemplifies the power of women to make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Garcia is a third generation Floridian whose grandfather came from Spain to Tampa via Cuba. Ms. Garcia serves as a liaison between the Tampa government and the Hispanic community as a council member of the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Council. She also serves on several boards including the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Council, LULAC and the University of Florida’s Mental Health Institute.

Ms. Garcia is a member of the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Board of Directors, which is comprised of Hispanic Americans with varied roots who share pride in being Hispanic. The organization serves to share rich Spanish language, culture, and traditions with the community during Tampa’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Ms. Garcia served as the Former State Director of The League of United Latin American Citizens. LULAC’s mission is to advance the economic, educational, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. In 2007, Ms. Garcia spoke at a LULAC convention seminar on the historic and ongoing contributions that Latina leaders have made to the civil rights struggle in the U.S. and the development of LULAC as a civil rights organization. Women’s leadership has long been a cornerstone of the Latino community.

As a member of the Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS) Board of Directors, Ms. Garcia speaks to children about her life growing up in Tampa as the child of Spanish immigrants and the challenges facing the Hispanic community.

In 2001 the Department of Child and Family Studies created the Matilda Garcia Initiative, which funds research scholars to study issues of immigration, citizenship, and naturalization. In 2002, the Community of Tampa Bay proudly awarded Ms. Garcia the Silver Medalion Humanitarian Award. This award is given to members of the community who have helped to promote dialogue and respect among cultures, religions, and communities. In 2008, Ms. Garcia attended the 89th Democratic National Convention as Florida’s oldest delegate. At the convention Ms. Garcia inspired Florida’s delegates with her
youthful sense of humor and her passion about changing American politics.

Madam Speaker, Matilda Garcia is a highly regarded woman who has touched the lives of many in Tampa. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifelong contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

INTRODUCING THE ENERGY EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AUTOMOBILE TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Automobile Tax Credit Act, legislation that will help Americans reduce pollution and the amount they pay for gas. My legislation accomplishes these important goals by providing Americans a tax credit of up to $2,000 when they sell or trade in a car and obtain a vehicle that has at least a 20% higher average fuel economy than the sold or traded-in car. The bill also creates a federal tax deduction for any state or local taxes paid on the purchase of the more fuel-efficient automobile and makes interest on loans to purchase the more fuel-efficient automobile tax deductible. This legislation will help Americans reduce the amount they pay to fill up their cars by making it easier and cheaper to obtain more fuel-efficient cars. I hope my colleagues would agree that Congress should provide free market incentives to make it easier for Americans to exchange their current cars for cars that create less pollution.

Providing tax deductions and tax credits to make it easier for Americans to purchase fuel-efficient automobiles is a win for American consumers, a win for the environment, and a win for those of us who favor free market solutions to pollution and high gas prices. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO NATALIE ADDISON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Natalie Addison, the Assistant Manager of Collections at Starrett City and resident of Brooklyn.

Natalie, a native of Queens, was raised in the Queensbridge Housing Projects. She attended and graduated, with a concentration in business subjects, from Washington Irving High School in Manhattan. Pursuing her interest in the field of business after high school graduation, Natalie excelled at the Berk Business School. Natalie was a high achiever who graduated with the honor of Valedictorian for Business and Management.

Continuing to advance on her employment path, Natalie worked for the Equitable Life Insurance Company. Always interested to expand the application of her knowledge, she transferred to the New York City Board of Education and was assigned to the Community District 19 office located in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

Currently, Natalie is employed by Starrett City at Spring Creek. As the Assistant Manager of Collections, Natalie interacts daily with Starrett’s legal department. An eventful life appears to throw Natalie a financial curve ball, Natalie’s ability to aide people with finding a method of paying their rent becomes paramount.

Her compassion and concern for her constituents demonstrated through her patient efforts and on their behalf immediately make the tenants realize the necessity to become more responsible for the well-being of their families. She makes an official matter understandable by providing a caring voice.

As the “First Lady” of the Alpha Riders MC, Inc., located in East New York, Natalie was challenged by a motorcycle accident that left her seriously injured and hospitalized for four months. She attributes her rapid recovery to God and a dedicated staff at the Warburg Lutherman Home For The Aging, where she and the Alpha Riders still today volunteer their time each month to others in need of love and assistance.

Natalie has been married to Barry “Mr. B” Addison for thirty-one years and they are the proud parents of Ebony, Barry II and very proud grandparents of Lil Andre.

TRIBUTE TO SALLY GORDON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a wonderful lady and a true Nebraska treasure. Today, Sally Gordon will be celebrating her 100th birthday in a place which has come to know and love her—The Nebraska State Capitol.

Sally was the Nebraska Legislature’s first female Sergeant-at-Arms when she was first hired in 1983—and she has been putting Nebraska lawmakers in their place ever since. In this day and age, such dedication to public service is rare and her amazing stamina has put many of her colleagues to shame over the years.

She truly exemplifies the word “elegant” and I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with her during my time in the Nebraska unicameral. Sally, may your force never diminish and your voice never fade. Happy Birthday.

HONORING WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Washington County Historical Society and their devoted preservation of the history of Washington County and Minnesota.

Founded on April 11th, 1934, the Society has grown from 75 members meeting in the public library to more than 700 members operating four buildings, two museums and a growing research library.

In 1941, the Society purchased the Warden’s House Museum and today it is one of Minnesota’s oldest buildings and the second oldest continuously operating house museum. The Society purchased the Boutwell Cemetery and the Hay Lake School in 1978 and shortly thereafter the school’s neighbor, the Johannes Erickson Log House, was donated for the Society’s care and restoration. All three buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society provides educational programs and historical expertise with the ultimate goal of collaborating with the community, facilitating historical discussion and providing an opportunity for all Washington County residents to learn and enjoy their area’s history. Minnesota is so rich with history, heritage, and tradition. This work is such a tremendous service to us all.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Washington County Historical Society on their 75th Anniversary. Their efforts have demonstrated the importance of historical preservation and resulted in a strong sense of community heritage throughout Washington County.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ASSISTANCE DOGS IN HELPING WOUNDED VETERANS LIVE MORE INDEPENDENT LIVES, AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CREATING A TOWER OF HOPE DAY

HON. ALICE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that acknowledges the admirable role of assistance dogs in helping our wounded veterans live more independent lives, expresses gratitude to the Tower of Hope, and supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

We currently have over 170,000 troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of those brave service men and women have been seriously wounded in combat. Many of these courageous soldiers suffer from brain injuries, single and double amputations, and other traumatic wounds. As a result, they are required to spend weeks, months, and years in hospitals recovering from their injuries.

Madam Speaker, we must not forget that these brave men and women are still in genuine need of assistance to continue their recovery. Assistance dogs will help to empower veterans in need of assistance to live a more comfortable and independent life.

The Tower of Hope is dedicated to providing wounded soldiers with service dogs. The Tower of Hope was created following the September 11th terrorist attacks in an effort to bring about hope and happiness to our wounded veterans. Among other things, these dogs have provided comfort and support to wounded veterans with the necessary everyday tasks such as using the stairs, retrieving items, pulling wheelchairs, and even turning lights on and off. In addition
to these essential life tasks, service animals offer priceless companionship and unconditional love.

Madam Speaker, we are at a point in our history where the demand for our troops is high and the nature of their work puts them in grave and dangerous situations. We must not overlook the great sacrifices that our soldiers make each and every day in the name of freedom. It is unacceptable that fewer than 75 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have service dogs because they cannot afford them or are unaware of their benefits. Currently, such brave men and women have to wait up to two years to receive an assistance animal. Our soldiers deserve nothing less than our steadfast support and access to services that improve their quality of life.

The Tower of Hope has been dedicated to substantially improving the lives of veterans. Through tireless and devoted work, the Tower of Hope has raised funds for training assistance dogs and labored to educate people about the benefits of such animals. Most of all, the Tower of Hope has been able to award grants to veterans, allowing them to enjoy these dogs’ services at no cost. This resolution lauds the outstanding work of the Tower of Hope and expresses gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who have made these grants possible.

Additionally, this resolution supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Madam Speaker, throughout this year, this great nation has been shaped by our willingness to help our neighbors in their greatest hour of need. This giving spirit that defines our country is embodied in the Tower of Hope. We owe it to our veterans and the history of this country to support the development of a program that inspires hope and strengthens our tradition of compassion to those who need it most.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America’s veterans by supporting this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING EFFICIENCY ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in 2007, Congressman Upton and I introduced legislation—which became law as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act—that will revitalize the way Americans light their homes.

Our legislation bans the famously inefficient 100-watt incandescent light bulb by 2012, phases out remaining inefficient light bulbs by 2014, and requires that light bulbs be at least three times as efficient as today’s 100-watt incandescent bulb by 2020. That bill was the product of bipartisan and bicameral efforts to forge a consensus between industry and environmental groups. The result was not only broadly accepted, it was groundbreaking. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates that the provisions will eventually save $18 billion in energy costs every year, and prevent the release of more than 100 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. That’s the equivalent of taking 20 million cars off the road.

Today, we will introduce legislation that builds on this success by setting efficiency standards for outdoor lighting. Outdoor lighting currently consumes approximately 4.4% of all the electricity produced in the United States. Most of this lighting is currently provided by outdated and inefficient technologies. Our bill sets efficiency standards to phase out these inefficient technologies (which include incandescent and halogen lights), paving the way for more efficient and cost-effective lights (such as super-efficient light emitting diodes, or LEDs). The first standard will be set in 2011, the second in 2013, and the last in 2015. The Department of Energy would then have the authority to set rules that raise efficiency standards even further.

The bill also requires outdoor lights to come with bi-level controls, which permit users to alter the amount of light emitted. You don’t need the same level of brightness at dusk as you do in the middle of the night. This is important, because these controls will give cities, counties, and other users more control over their own energy usage, empowering them to maximize their own energy conservation efforts.

Finally, like in 2007, we protect the efforts of early innovators such as California, which has already passed an outdoor lighting standard. Our bill allows California to fully implement its law before imposing nationwide preemption.

The energy savings that will flow from these efficiency improvements are stunning. A leading industry group estimates that this bill could eventually reduce energy usage from outdoor lighting by more than 25%, saving more than $6 billion in electricity costs each year. That’s the equivalent of more than 50 coal fired power stations.

And like our 2007 legislation, we are proud that this bill is a bipartisan, consensus effort forged after extensive discussions between leading environmental and industry groups.

The United States will not be able to get its arms around the twin, daunting challenges of global climate change and dependence on oil until we pursue efficiency and energy conservation wherever it is technologically feasible.

We believe that this bill, like its 2007 counterpart, is a vital and necessary piece of the solution. We urge its swift passage.

HONORING DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and lives of two remarkable colleagues from the South Florida Delegation, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. With unprecedented courage, a love of family and a strong commitment to service, these women have made history in our community, our state, and in our nation’s history. Their dedication to duty is like the time to honor their work and thank them.

I had the pleasure of serving with DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in the Florida State Legislature, where she made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida House at the age of 26, and later the Florida Senate. I was proud when she joined me in Congress in 2005 as the first Jewish Congresswoman ever elected from Florida. DEBBIE works tirelessly for the people of South Florida and has dedicated her life to public service. In just four short years, she has made herself known on Capitol Hill as a leader on the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary and as a Chief Deputy Whip for her party.

DEBBIE takes special interest in ensuring that Americans and people around the world are treated fairly and with respect. She is a leader in the Jewish Community, an advocate of human rights and has introduced and passed key legislation protecting Florida’s working families, women and children. Despite many legislative victories throughout the year, DEBBIE’s greatest accomplishment is her family. Aside from prioritizing the needs of her constituents, she also makes life at home a priority as a loving wife to Steve Schultz, her husband of 17 years, and an exceptional mother of twins Jake and Rebecca and youngest daughter Shelby.

We recently learned that DEBBIE successfully battled breast cancer after finding a lump during a routine self-examination last year. In an effort to create awareness of breast cancer among young women she has shared her story and introduced the EARLY Act, legislation that develops and implements a national education campaign to increase awareness of the threats posed by breast cancer in young women of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. DEBBIE’s story is an inspiration to women across the nation and she represents what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication and perseverance. She is undoubtedly one of the most influential Members of Congress and I know that a bright future lies ahead.

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN has been a public servant for more than two decades and this year marks her 20th in the United States Congress. In 1989, she was the first Hispanic woman and first Cuban-American elected to the House of Representatives. She began her career as an educator in Miami, FL and was elected to the Florida Senate in 1982, becoming the first Hispanic woman in the Florida House. She later served in the Florida Senate.

ILEANA’s list of accomplishments runs long, but she is best known for ensuring that the needs of the diverse community she represents are met. She takes a particular interest in education, safety for Florida’s families and protecting our environment. In her role as the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs she has worked to advance democracy around the world, promote human rights and improve our nation’s relationships abroad. She continues to be a strong voice for the oppressed people of Cuba and an advocate for peace in the Middle East. In 2008 alone, her work has led to the designation of the State of Florida when she was inducted into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame, a great honor in our state.

Alongside a successful 25 year career in public service, has been Ileana’s dedication to her family. She is a loving wife to husband Dexter Lehtinen, mother of Amanda Michelle and Patricia Marie and stepmother of Katharine and Douglas. By her side each day are
offer.

tage of the opportunities this country has to freedom, when Ileana was just seven years old, the un-

erlieved in July 2005 and, the following April, wel-

ceived public service.

STANDING PUBLIC SERVICE
HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR OUT-

or hard work against all odds, his family and friends struggled with the tumor burst, causing his intestine to erupt. After being rushed to the hospital, Mr. Pine was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and immediately began chemotherapy. While his family and friends struggled with the shocking news, Mr. Pine stayed strong. Throughout chemotherapy, Mr. Pine remained dedicated to the fire department. On good days, he would go in to work. On bad days, his coworkers would cover his shifts and send him the paycheck. In April 2008, Mr. Pine was able to return to work full-time and fire in one last fire. When a deadly brushfire swept through Olney Springs on April 15, Mr. Pine responded to the call. When he got there, two of his fellow firefighters were stuck behind a downed power line. Although, as a trained fire engineer, Mr. Pine was required to stay at the controls of his pumper truck, he went into the blaze and saved the two men. He was their hero.

Mr. Pine showed amazing strength and courage until the very end. Tragically, he lost his battle with cancer on August 19, 2008 at age 29. I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Pine and am proud to announce that his name will be added to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Pine was a kind, loyal and genuine man who inspired those around him. May he be remembered along with the other heroes in Colorado who have given their lives protecting this country.

THROUGHOUT CHEMOTHERAPY, MR. PINE REMAINED DEDICATED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fire engineer William “Billy” D. Pine, an American hero who touched the lives of many. Born on July 3, 1979 in Yuma, Colorado, Mr. Pine lived a brave and courageous life putting out fires in his community.

Known as the lovable firehouse prankster with an infectious smile and contagious laugh, Mr. Pine was both admired and respected by his fellow firefighters. After joining the Pueblo Fire Department in 2004, he quickly became active in the Union and planned firehouse activities. Mr. Pine was a “firefighter’s firefighter” and his coworkers quickly became his second family.

Mr. Pine was committed to both his work and his family. He met his wife, Janice, shortly after moving to Pueblo in 2003. The two were set up on a lunch date by a mutual friend and immediately became inseparable. They married in July 2005 and, the following April, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Sydney Taylor. Mr. Pine loved being a father and was dedicated to providing a good life for his family.

However, on October 4, 2006, when Sydney was only 6 months old and he only 27, the unexpected happened. When Mr. Pine rolled over in bed to help his wife with her homework, a tumor burst, causing his intestine to erupt. After being rushed to the hospital, Mr. Pine was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and immediately began chemotherapy. While his family and friends struggled with the shocking news, Mr. Pine stayed strong.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the faculty and students of Franklin Central High School for their dedication as dynamic and sharing members of our community.

Earlier this month, FCHS students raised over $24,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. The students raised the money at their inaugural dance marathon. This program was a six hour event with 325 students participating. In addition to the dancing, the dance marathon included a dodge ball tournament and a girl’s basketball free throw contest that raised $6,000. The faculty and staff set an excellent example by raising an additional $3,500 to contribute to their students’ efforts. All in all, the inaugural dance marathon was an extremely successful program that surpassed its intended goal of $15,000.

The Riley dance program was originally established in 1991 in memory of Ryan White, an AIDS activist and Riley patient. Since the program’s inception, thousands of Indiana’s high school and college students have committed themselves to raising funds for Riley. It is a program that Riley has come to depend on to facilitate research and provide treatment to children in need of vital health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Franklin Central High School for their dedicated public service.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 90th birthday of Mr. Fred A. Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent.

On March 31, 2009, Mr. Curls will be 90 years young. This weekend on March 26th and 27th, he is to be honored in Kansas City, Missouri by family, friends, and acquaintances. I am privileged to be a part of this ceremony.

Mr. Curls is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could boast nearly 70,000 members. Mr. Curls was and has been very influential in delivering votes for a candidate or a cause. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Mr. Curls’ office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For nearly fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of color who could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. Great grandchilden have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility for giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc. was one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat. The “kids” have also held many public office. Two of them were and one is presently a Missouri State Representative, one was a city councilwoman, and two have been School Board members in the Metropolitan Kansas City area.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, mostly in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against “restrictive covenants” whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants. In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the “Class of 1937,” which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its “Legacy Awardees” for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He has also been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the “Missouri Walk of Fame” designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City’s African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has been believed in the saying “make it happen.” He has put his principles into practice, and the effects of his efforts have “made it happen” throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He has broad shoulders and all his life and has held us on those shoulders all these years to promote equality in all walks of life.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 90th Birthday celebration. Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri.
As African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history with the election of our first African-American President, Barack Obama. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

THE OVERSEAS VOTING PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman Michael M. Honda (D–CA) to re-introduce the Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act which would protect the voting rights of the millions of Americans who are currently living overseas. The Overseas Citizens Voting Act of 1975 guaranteed the right to vote for military personnel and U.S. citizens living overseas. However, a quarter of our men and women in the armed forces stationed overseas didn’t even receive a ballot for November’s election. More than half of overseas Americans that tried but could not vote, were unable to because their ballots were late or did not arrive.

Right now, far too many overseas Americans are being disenfranchised by a tangle of bureaucratic red tape. The problems are many, including issues like lack of awareness of available voter assistance programs, and archeaic state voting laws. Our bill proposes simple, inexpensive fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARGARET’S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district, St. Margaret’s Episcopal School, that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. The St. Margaret’s football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Small Schools State Championship. In the championship game, St. Margaret’s defeated Hamilton Union (Hamilton City) 59 to 7.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title “Champions.” The members of the winning football team include: Team Co-Captains Jeremy Bailes, Alex Brolick, David Mothander, and Chase Smith along with teammates John Murayama, Matthew Duenes, Conner Edgcomb, Michael Schmail, Austin Holden, Brennan Smith, Kent Iizuka, Tyler Adams, James Murayama, Travis Anderson, Davis Edwards, JT Carpenter, Adam Miyawaki, Justin Oh, Leo Garcia, Jeff Askin, Colfax Selby, Alfredo Valencia, Will Findiesen, Connor McClure, Max Carpenter, Brett Nicholas and Mack Santana.

The team is led by Head Coach Harry Welch; Assistants Rod Baltau, Chris Colaw, Mark Davidson, Jay Noonan, Mel Taylor, Fr. Reggie Payne-Wiens, Brent Ward, and Butch Ward; Athletic Trainer Dave Tomlinson; and Team Managers Kira Cah, Anna Maria Carabini, Emily Furman, and Valerie Wu.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to teamwork and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and recommmend them, and the entire St. Margaret’s community, for this truly great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND INCENTIVES FOR A NEW DECADE ENERGY ACT OF 2009

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wind Incentives for a New Decade (WIND) Energy Act of 2009, which extends the production tax credit (PTC) over the next decade to demonstrate that we are committed to powering our nation with more alternative and clean electricity.

Electricity prices have soared more than 26 percent since 2000, making wind energy and other renewable energy resources a crucial component to ensuring that Americans have access to clean, reliable, diversified, and affordable electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind energy today accounts for approximately 3 percent of electricity produced in the United States. However, wind energy capacity has the potential to significantly increase in the United States in the future—but only if we have a stable investment climate.

A clean, reliable, and renewable energy source, wind-generated electricity produces no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, in 2007, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) estimated that wind energy displaced more than 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. A 2007 report compiled by the American Solar Energy Society indicates that widespread use of wind has the potential to displace up to 1.78 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

By extending the PTC through 2020, my bill would create long-term fiscal stability primarily in the wind energy market. This certainty is vital to wind energy project planning and development. By providing a long-term credit, wind energy developers can attract investors and plan out schedules for project development, thereby creating an efficient and cost-effective process for allocating resources and encouraging investment in this industry. This alone has the potential to reduce the costs associated with many of these projects thereby making wind-generated electricity more competitive with other types of electricity that is generated.

The wind energy industry currently employs over 85,000 individuals and indirectly employs tens of thousands more in industry-related support services. With a current national unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, which is higher in the construction sector (21.4 percent) and manufacturing sector (11.5 percent), providing long-term stability in the tax code for the PTC would help create sustainable, good-paying jobs. In fact, in 2008 the U.S. wind industry invested over $7.8 billion in wind turbines, primarily made of steel, which translated into purchases of more than $3 billion of steel and cast iron components.

Additionally, a report published in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a 5- to 10-year extension of the PTC, relative to one- or two-year extensions, could reduce the cost of wind projects by up to 15 percent, result in better transmission line planning, enhance private research and development spending, and significantly increase domestic manufacturing of wind equipment thereby, creating American jobs. In addition, this report goes on to indicate that by extending the PTC through 2020, wind energy has the potential to increase in the United States from about 3 percent to 17 percent of our electricity supply by 2030.

Unfortunately, since its creation in 1992, the PTC has been allowed to expire three times, only to be retroactively renewed and extended. In addition, Congress has nearly allowed this credit to expire many times, but then has passed 11th hour extensions of the provision. The 3-year extension of the PTC included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill is a good start; however, given the history of extending this credit, it is not a long-term investment in one of our nation’s limitless green energy resources. For instance, information compiled by AWEA shows that each time the PTC was allowed to expire but then was reactively renewed and extended, the subsequent year wind energy installations decreased 73 percent—93 percent compared to the prior year.

Kern County, which I represent, is a model of renewable energy resources, and Tehachapi, California, is a leader in wind energy development. In fact, the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, located in the Tehachapi Mountains of eastern Kern, has attracted wind energy developers because, if you have ever been there, the wind blows nearly all the time through the mountain tops and valleys. Under-scoring the vast wind energy potential in that area, over 3,500 wind turbines have already been installed, which produce electricity to power more than 250,000 homes and create more than 650 jobs (both directly and indirectly) in the local communities. In addition, Kern County produces over 30 percent of the total wind-generated power in California, and accounts for about 5 percent of the total wind power generated in the United States. Even with all of this, I am still not sure that our nation’s limitless green energy potential is being translated into purchases of more than $3 billion of steel and cast iron components.

As a result of the current PTC’s expiration, Tehachapi faces an uncertain future. Currently, Tehachapi Wind Resources Area as well as the United States’ vast potential for wind energy can be developed in a reliable and timely manner,
which not only benefits Kern County, but California and the United States.

It is time for Congress to take decisive action to help ensure that Americans have reliable and affordable renewable electricity. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that we can maximize the potential of our American renewable energy resources, such as wind, and create thousands of new, skilled jobs, both in manufacturing and engineering in this country.

VIOLENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR. OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in condemnation of the recent murders of two British soldiers and a British police officer in Northern Ireland.

Two discontent republican groups, the Continuity I.R.A. and the Real I.R.A., have claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first, an off-duty British soldier and police officer, were killed in a terrorist attack on Saturday, March 21st. Two more British soldiers were gunned down on Sunday, March 22nd. Two British soldiers and a police officer were gunned down. Two pucks delivered workers were also tragically injured in the attack.

The second attack came on a recent Monday when soldiers shot a member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on duty near Belfast.

This small group of political dissidents is not representative of the overall peace and unity that so many have worked so hard for since the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. They should not be allowed to return us to the days of the Troubles.

I call on anyone with information on those who perpetrated these attacks to come forward so that justice can be served. Foolish attacks such as these will not put a stop to the peace process that has been gaining momentum over the last ten years in Northern Ireland.

With the mutual condemnation of these attacks from both sides of the political spectrum, I am hopeful that Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson will take the lead in reinforcing their commitment to peace in the province.

Events like these recent attacks represent the past in the North of Ireland. We must be focused on developing the economy in the North of Ireland, educating children, and training workers—not reverting to the bloody violence of the past.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in denouncing this recent disturbing and senseless violence in Northern Ireland.

With all of the progress made since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the people of Northern Ireland will only accept peace as the answer. We must not allow these murderers to be successful in disrupting that goal.

HUNTINGTON BEACH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Huntington Beach on its one hundredth anniversary.

One of the most beautiful, comfortable, successful, clean, and vibrant cities of America has transformed itself from a tiny oil-producing cow-grazing piece of land, into the vibrant metropolis that it is today. The home to nearly 200,000 people, Huntington Beach, CA has become a great example of what cities across America should strive to be.

Anybody who has ever strolled along the boardwalk, played volleyball in the sand, surfed the waves, trekked over the pier and watched the sun set know that they are experiencing something special. But leisure is not the only thing valued in Surf City, USA.

The city has established a commitment to education with 35 elementary schools, five high schools, as well as two community colleges within the city’s limits. The people of Huntington Beach are also very hard workers who have labored to contribute a great deal to their city, state, country, and world.

The city plays host to a diverse range of industry, from low-tech to high-tech aerospace, among them the Boeing Company. The city is also home to part of the upper stage of the Saturn V rocket, which was engineered and built by Douglas Aircraft (later McDonnell Douglas), which took the first American flights to the moon.

I must point out another aspect to this city that is near and dear to my heart, as the Chairman of the unofficial, yet powerful, House Surfers Caucus. Visit Huntington Beach, and within a short distance of each other, you will find the International Surfing Museum, the Surfing Hall of Fame, the Surfing Walk of Fame, Quicksilver, and my personal favorite, Jack’s Surfboards. Every year, thousands gather on its beaches for the yearly U.S. Open of Surfing Contest. Although I’m not a competitor, it does not prevent me from getting up early in the morning, whenever I can, to join other surfers in the area beyond the breakline, and hopefully catch a wave or two. Surfing adds a unique and important flavor to the local culture, and Huntington Beach has indeed earned its designation as Surf City, USA.

Yes, Huntington Beach has much to be proud of. The city has so much to offer that people from every corner of the world have traveled to visit or settle in this beautiful city. And who can blame them? Huntington Beach boasts one of the most beautiful coastlines in the country, amazing weather, and friendly and innovative people. Several times, the FBI has cited the city as being one of the safest communities in the United States.

Huntington Beach continues its quest for offering a great quality of life and advocating the advancement of freedom, fun, and human progress. Establishments such as Central Park, the Huntington Harbour, the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve, among others, are a testament to this dedication. As this great city, Surf City, USA, celebrates its centennial, let us look to its example and work to emulate its success. I congratulate Huntington Beach on its centennial. I’m sure the next hundred will be just as grand.

FAREWELL, BEST WISHES, AND THANKS TO AMY SCHICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER OF MASSACHUSETTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee bid farewell earlier this week to Amy Schick who has served as the Subcommittee’s Congressional Fellow over the past year. Ms. Schick returned to the Office of Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, where she will have her next assignment as part of the Presidential Management Fellowship program.

The Transportation Subcommittee was fortunate to have Amy as a part of the Subcommittee team. She did a superb job researching a variety of transportation issues; preparing hearing and briefing materials; and, managing the thousands of project requests that were submitted to the Subcommittee during the fiscal year 2009 appropriations process. In addition, Amy had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the budgets of the Surface Transportation Board and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Amy’s organizational skills and unwavering positive attitude set a high standard for the Subcommittee. Her outstanding commitment to public service was evident not only in how she performed her duties on the Subcommittee but also through her dedication and brave service in the United States Army Reserves.

I am profoundly grateful for Amy’s service to the Subcommittee over the past twelve months and I am confident that she will go on to achieve great things at the Department of Transportation. I, along with my Subcommittee staff, wish Amy all the best in her future endeavors.
Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly missed the vote on rolcall No. 162: On passage of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Rollecall No. 125, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 987. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Rollecall No. 126: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1217. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Rollecall No. 127: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1284. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some great achievements by student athletes in my district.

This past weekend Jamesville-DeWitt boys' varsity basketball team, which is my hometown, defeated Peekskill 77–75 in overtime to win the Class A Boys High School basketball championship.

The 25th congressional district winning ways continue at the New York Public schools championship with Bishop Kearney boys' varsity basketball team defeating Seton Catholic 65–48 to bring home the Class B Boys High School basketball championship.

And the women of the 25th district got into the act when Newark girls varsity basketball team defeated Albertus Magnus 75–68 to take the Class B Boy's High School basketball championship.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Frank Raflo of Leesburg, Virginia. He died on March 15, 2009, at the age of 89.

A long-time resident of Leesburg, Frank was a giant in his community who made public service a priority. He was a member of the town council for several years, as well as serving as mayor for two years. During his tenure as mayor, Frank oversaw the effort to build an airport in Leesburg. He was also a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including a year as chairman in 1985.

Frank served his community in unselected positions as well. He was one of the charter members of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club in 1957. The club holds the annual Kiwanis Halloween Parade that local children look forward to year after year. With his wife Frances, Frank championed parks and outdoor spaces in Loudoun County. They were influential in the creation of the W&OD Trail in Leesburg, and a park along the trail was subsequently dedicated for them. In more recent years, Frank wrote a column in the local paper, the Leesburg Today.

The town of Leesburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia will greatly miss the service of their friend, Frank Raflo. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

I would like to share an in memoriam of Frank Raflo that ran in the Leesburg Today on March 18, 2009:

(From the Leesburg Today, Mar. 18, 2009)

FRANK RAFLO, IN MEMORIAM, 1919–2009

(By Margaret Morton)

Small in physical stature, but towering in intelligence, integrity and love of community, Frank Raflo, who died Sunday at age 89, was one of the pantheon of legendary Loudoun leaders during the second half of the 20th century.

All this week, tributes poured in for a man whose broad, inclusive interests made him a benchmark. A generous dispenser of advice for others making their way in the world, Raflo retained all his long life a curiosity into what made people and institutions tick.

Blessed with a sharp brain, with a penetrating eye for fiscal detail and a consuming interest in all that went on around him, Raflo lived an extraordinary life in which he had a number of careers—businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

In his later years, Raflo's column, Just Being Frank, in Leesburg Today, in which he dispensed his particular brand of down-home wisdom, had a loyal following. Readers were drawn to his often whimsical but always knowledgeable observations on a variety of subjects ranging from human beings, government malfeasance, the price of coffee, hemlines going up or down, how to find good tomatoes or a good shoelace, whether it was a true sale or not, and so on.

In addition, Raflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within the Iron Gate.

Serving on both the Leesburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors, Raflo's love of both was remarkable. Director of the Loudoun Office of Transportation Services Terrie Laycock, who started work with county government in 1977 as an aide to board members, worked closely with Frank, who served on the county board from 1972 to 1986, including as chairman in 1985. "You never questioned that his motives were anything other than for Loudoun County: No politics, no personal advancement, it was always from his perspective for what he felt was best for the county," she said.

He was a dedicated Democrat and an equally dedicated Kiwanian, a charter member of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club, and founder of the Kiwanis Halloween Parade in Leesburg.

Growing up in Leesburg, Raflo attended Leesburg High School where he always was at or near the top of his class. That keen intellect led to his being accepted into the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, where he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa student.

As a businessman, Raflo and his wife, Frances, operated a women's dress shop on South King Street; a panache of partner- ship in all his endeavors that that lasted until Raflo's death. Loudoun Museum Executive Director Karen Quanbeck remembered his days on the Fashion Board at Loudoun County High School.

Raflo created the group, comprised of junior and senior girls who would model fash- tions from his store at charity fashion shows, typically on weekends, Quanbeck recalled. "It takes a lot to get teenage girls out of bed at 6 a.m. on weekend weekends." She recalled Raflo as "very jolly and very support- tive of the girls on the board. He was always interested in us and what we were going to do with our lives."

A strong believer that local government was the most effective form of public service to be found, Raflo served two terms on the Leesburg Town Council from 1949–1951 and 1953–1955, as well as serving as mayor from 1961–1963.

Whether or not people agreed with him, "they always knew where he stood," his son Alan said this week, recalling the tales of many battles that came home with his father during his years of public service.

Raflo enjoyed a long working partnership with the late B. Powell Harrison, who, while not an elected official, shared many simi- lar ideas about the future of Leesburg and the county. Harrison's widow, Agnes Harri- son, recalled the long partnership between the two men, who voted together on many projects to better both the town and the country. Their offices were next door to each other, and, both being notable talkers, "they would meet on the street on the corner and discuss many, many things," she said. "If everyone who lived in Leesburg were as public minded as Frank Raflo it would be an even better place than it is," she said.

Alan Raflo similarly recalled his father talking to everybody he met on the street in his retirement. When once he asked him how he was feeling, his father replied, "Oh, I want to get back to everybody."

Both Agnes Harrison and longtime friend Mac Brownell recalled the courage shown by both Raflos in the face of family tragedy, having lost two of their children in car acci- dents. "They suffered serious sadness and disappointment, but they kept going. They were a brave couple," Mac said.

"I always had great respect for Frank. I saw a side of him that so touching, that peo- ple don't often see, particularly the way he spoke about children. He had a very tender heart," Brownell said.

Laycock also spoke of Raflo's interest in those who were less fortunate, whether from a financial standpoint, or if they had physi- cal or mental disabilities. "He was always...
looking out for those who often don’t have opportunity.” Raflo felt that whenever possible patient should be brought out of mental institutions, “deinstitutionalizing” them and releasing them to their communities. “He felt strongly that if people could stay near their families or where they’d grown up, they would have a better quality of life.”

Laycock

Among the many awards and honors Raflo received in his lifetime was one he received in 2009, when he was awarded the highest honor by the Kiwanis Club. The club chose Raflo to receive the honor for his work in the community, particularly his work in the area of mental health.

Forman

More than 100 people attended a celebration in his honor, including members of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Leesburg Town Council, and the Loudoun Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. Among those attending were former residents of Leesburg who praised Raflo for his dedication to the community.

Gibbons

Raflo was instrumental in the creation of the Loudoun County Museum and the Loudoun County Historical Society. He was also a strong advocate for the construction of the Loudoun County Courthouse and the Loudoun County Jail.

During his time in the government, Raflo was often cited for his advocacy of education. He was a strong supporter of the funding of public schools and was known for his dedication to ensuring that every child had access to a quality education.

In addition to his work in government, Raflo was also a strong advocate for the arts. He was a founding member of the Loudoun County Arts Council and was instrumental in the creation of the Loudoun County Arts Foundation.

In conclusion, John Edward Raflo was a true giant in the history of Loudoun County. His dedication to the community and his commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents made him a beloved figure who will be remembered for generations to come.
irritation with Raflo’s tendency to tell stories. ‘‘They’d strum their hands on the table and dismiss him because it was all so whimsical, but he had proven true to his word.’’

Raflo would say that the Democratic Party was sliding down the tube in Virginia, ‘‘and it did,’’ Bennie said, recalling that Raflo kept telling her that he would have to do things differently if it were to succeed.

‘‘He was always looking into the future, and had enormous experience. And he was often right,’’

Raflo was the son of Joseph Raflo and Fannie Bulitesky Raflo. He was predeceased also by his daughter Joe Raflo; son Philip Raflo; and granddaughter Mary Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and great-grandchildren Josephine, Luke, and Delaney. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Congregation Sha’are Shalom in Leesburg, followed by interment at Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to be sent to Leesburg Kiwanis, PO Box 445, Leesburg, VA 20178, Attention Bob Wright; Leesburg Voluntary Health and Hospice Care, 209 Gibbon St., NW, Suite 202, Leesburg, VA 20176.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
AMERICAN DREAM ACT OF 2009

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to talk about the American Dream Act, a bill that I have introduced today with my long-time partners in this endeavor, Representatives LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. We are joined in our effort by a bipartisan group of dedicated original co-sponsors. I believe that all of us have come to this effort for the same reason—to keep our country from squandering the promise of thousands of young people who have been raised here, worked hard in school, and would like to pursue higher education or serve their country in the military. These students face tremendous obstacles in reaching their potential because, through no fault of their own, they exist in a legal limbo with no way to adjust their immigration status.

In America, we value every young person. We reward hard work and good moral character. We value the drive to continue one’s education, and we don’t penalize children for the misdeeds of their parents. But current federal law punishes many children for the decision that their parents made to bring them to this country. Now, when these young people finish high school, their choices are few: they can try to find work illegally in order to support themselves or they can hope to somehow continue their education while under a legal cloud. They consider themselves Americans because this country is the only home they’ve ever really known, but their lives are filled with uncertainty and their future is limited so long as they have no legal status.

This is a travesty. It means that their community can never be assured that they have grown up in and call home—will never fully reap the benefits of their abilities. We have set up obstacles to their success at every turn, and our goal here today is to find a way to ensure that we don’t waste their potential.

My own interest in this issue was intensified when a family near my district wrote to me asking for help for a young undocumented student. This young woman was brought to the United States when she was a small child. She attended public schools in California, where she was an honors student in high school, received awards for her outstanding community service, and graduated with a near perfect average. When it came time for her to go to college, she found that she was ineligible not just for federal financial aid, but for in-state tuition as well. But this young woman was one of the rare undocumented students in this country fortunate enough to get help from a private source. She participated in a community mentoring program through which she met a couple who came to consider her a part of their family after working with her for many years. They couldn’t bear to see this young woman given up in her dreams simply because she was an undocumented student. They decided to fight for her.

The American Dream Act is a small but important piece of legislation that will help these students reach their potential to become productive citizens of our country. It makes no sense to me that we maintain a system that brings in thousands of highly-skilled foreign guestworkers each year to fill a gap in our domestic workforce, and at the same time do nothing to provide an opportunity to kids who have grown up here, gone to school here, and want to prepare themselves for these jobs or serve their country in the military. This is the illogical outcome of our current immigration laws that the Dream Act will fix. I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to add that the issues addressed in the American Dream Act are just a fraction of the problems in our immigration system. The Dream Act came about because our immigration laws are, and have been for some time, broken. It is very important that we pass this piece of legislation this year. But it is my fondest hope that we will put together a comprehensive immigration reform package that includes the Dream Act as it was introduced today, and it is my intention to work for and pass that comprehensive immigration reform package this year.

CRIMINAL CODE MODERNIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2009

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, the Criminal Code Modernization and Simplification Act revises the criminal code to update, simplify, and consolidate many of the criminal provisions in Title 18 of the United States Code. It has been over 50 years since
the criminal code was last revised. The exist-
ing criminal code is riddled with provisions that are either outdated or simply inconsistent with more recent modifications to reflect today’s modern world. I introduced this Act in both the 109th and 110th Congresses. This new version would eliminate criminal laws enacted during 2007 and 2008.

This measure is intended to continue the dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal code, with the hope that other Members, the Senate, the judiciary, the Justice Department, criminal law professors, and other interested professionals will provide input and seek to develop a more comprehensive re-write.

With the increasing federalization of local crimes, there is a need to review and revise Title 18 to ensure that such federalization is minimized and tailored to appropriate crimes where State and local prosecutions may not adequately serve the public interest. Federal prosecutions constitute only seven percent of the criminal prosecutions nationwide. We need to ensure that the federal role continues to be limited and that the State and local offenses are not subsumed within an ever-expanding criminal code.

Through the years, the criminal code has grown with more and more criminal provisions, some of which are antiquated or redundant, some of which are poorly drafted, some of which have not been used in the last 30 years, and some of which are unnecessary since the crime is already covered by existing criminal provisions.

This bill cuts over 1/3 of the existing criminal code; reorganizes the criminal code to make it more user-friendly; and consolidates criminal offenses from other titles so that title 18 includes all major criminal provisions (e.g. drug crimes in title 21, aviation offenses and hijacking in title 49).

To the extent possible, and for the most part, I applied a policy-neutral intent, meaning that changes were made to streamline the code in an effort to assist policymakers, practitioners (judges, prosecutors, probation officers) and other persons who rely on the code to implement criminal law enforcement and compliance with newer and more specific, intent. Each offense starts with a “willful” violation. The term can mean that a person must have actual knowledge that his actions were prohibited by the statute. E.g., Ratzlaf v. United States, 510 U.S. 135, 141–42 (1994) (interpreting “willful” to require “both knowledge of the reporting requirement and a ‘specific intent to commit the crime,’ i.e., ‘a purpose to disobey the law.’”)

Courts and commentators have decrying the confusion that follows use of the word “willful” in statutes. The lower courts repeatedly cite the fluctuating meaning of the term “willfully,” which has “defied any consistent interpretation by the courts.” United States v. Granda, 565 F.2d 922, 924 (5th Cir. 1978). Judge Learned Hand criticized use of the term “willful” in statutes: “It’s an awful word! It is one of the most troublesome words in a statute that I know. If I were to have the index purged, “willful” would lead all the rest in spite of its being at the end of the alphabet.”

The revised criminal code employs a straightforward approach—where possible, the term “knowingly” is used to define the requisite intent for every crime except those for which the more specific provision was added to the code after the general provision was enacted, and there was no substantive difference in the newer and more specific sense.

This project required significant resources and assistance from the Legislative Counsel’s Office, and in particular, Doug Bellis, the Deputy Counsel of that Office, and Caroline Lynch, Chief Republican Counsel, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, both of whom devoted substantial efforts to preparing this bill and should be commended for their extraordinary efforts.

HONORING KARIN BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special lady from the State of Florida, Karin Brown. She has dedicated her life to being an exceptional educator, community activist and fighter for Florida’s children.

Karin currently serves as the President of the Florida Parent Teacher Association, an organization to which she has dedicated many years of service at both the local and state level. A wife to Bill Brown for nearly 40 years, mother of five and grandmother of three, she has made it her life mission to create a healthy relationship between students, parents and teachers and ensuring a stable environment in the classroom and at home for children.

Her civic involvement includes serving on various community organizations, county, state and federal governing boards, task forces and as a liaison to organizations all focusing on child development, education and well being.
During my years in the Florida State Senate, I worked closely with Karin when she was Vice President of Protect America’s Children in passing the Jennifer Act. This legislation, which I sponsored and became law in 1997, makes any credible threat or attempted assault of a minor 16 years of age and under a third degree felony.

In 1982 Karin and her husband found out that they were expecting their fifth child. The doctors also handed Karin a life-threatening diagnosis of Arterial Venous Malformation on the left side of her brain. Karin and her son survived and one year after giving birth, successfully overcame more than nine hours of brain surgery. She does not see her handicap as an ailment; on the contrary, it motivates her to continue serving the community and working for children.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Karin Brown, a woman who lives her life with courage, a will to live, and a genuine passion to serve others.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**
**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

Mrs. BONO MACK, Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK
Bill Number: H.R. 1105
Account: Department of Education, National Projects; Innovation and Improvement
Entity Requesting: Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Earmark: $26 million is provided to Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF). RIF is one of our nation’s oldest and largest children’s literacy organizations. RIF partners with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations and corporations throughout our country and provides millions of underserved children with free books and reading encouragement from over 20,000 locations. Over the past 4 decades, RIF has provided books to more than 300 million children. RIF encourages reading both inside and outside of school by allowing youngsters to select books to keep at home.

RIF’s Inexpensive Book Distribution Program: This program provides books for low-income children and youths from infancy to high school and various activities to motivate them to read, through aid to local nonprofit groups and volunteer organizations.

Spending Plan: Nearly 89 percent of RIF’s 2007 federal funds were used to purchase books and RIF was able to use this as leverage to raise an additional $8.6 million from local communities to support book ownership. With the help of Congress, RIF was able to provide more than 16 million books to 4.6 children last year.

**FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. RÁUL M. GRIJALVA**
**OF ARIZONA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Goodlatte Amendment and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this harmful amendment.

While I strongly support the FLAME Act, I am opposed to this amendment because it would undermine current protections for forest workers as well as preventing proper environmental review of projects. It would do this by dramatically expanding existing good neighbor authority that only applies to certain projects on National Forests in Colorado and Utah right now.

Specifically, this amendment would waive provisions of the National Forest Management Act protecting taxpayer interests. It would give discretion over projects on National Forests to state foresters, eliminating federal oversight and accountability, and it would limit the public’s knowledge of when timber is sold.

I am also concerned that the amendment, if successful, would put into question federal labor standards and current wage protections for forest workers.

My subcommittee held a hearing last year which shined a light on how pineros, literally men of the pines, were not being adequately compensated or paid for their work under existing law. Delegating this to the state or some subcontractor or the state without assurances for workers is foolish.

Directly to this issue, the GAO released a report yesterday recommending caution on allowing broader authority until the federal government could ensure greater “transparency, competition, and oversight.”

I agree with the GAO and believe that this amendment is just too broad and would waive too many existing laws that protect workers and the environment.

In sum, I want to voice my strong support for the FLAME Act, which will enable our public lands agencies to finally get ahead of the vicious cycle of budget-consum ing catastrophic fires, and begin the process of working to protect communities and restore the nation’s lands. I urge opposition to this amendment and support for the underlying bill.

**RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**
**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of H. Res. 273 and a co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to celebrate the 188th anniversary of Greece’s declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to win their independence.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army.

The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel’s announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child.

Bishop Germanos’s message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside Greece and Cyprus.

Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with many cultural events and private gatherings.

These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community’s many contributions to our nation’s history and culture.

I am also pleased that President Obama is continuing the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day.

My fellow co-chair Representative BILIRAKIS and I sent a letter last month urging the President to recognize this truly important day.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe. I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and finding a mutually agreeable name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Additionally, I strongly support the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Program. Greece is the only member of the original fifteen European Union nations not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program.

I, along with my colleagues, will continue to work to ensure that the process for Greece’s entry into the Visa Waiver Program continues to move forward.

Additionally, I have recently reintroduced legislation which urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
It is time for this suppression of religious freedom to come to an end and for Turkey to move in the direction of freedom and democracy.

I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece’s independence.

Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York’s Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

“Zeto E Eleftheria!” (Long Live Freedom!)

A TRIBUTE TO TRACYE RAWLS-MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tracye Rawls-Martin.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, MS ATC is a Certified Athletic Trainer and one of 5 African American Athletic Training Education Program Directors in the United States. She is “mother,” advisor and professor to more than 16 Athletic Training Students within the BS/MS Degree Program in Athletic Training & Sports Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus. She began her academic career as a Dance Education major and progressed to a Pre-Physical Therapy major and finally fell in love with an Athletic Training major. After completing two semesters in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Kingsborough Community College, she decided it was time to move on to a more exciting and productive field—the field of Athletic Training and Sports Sciences. The field of Athletic Trainers was made for her because it is designed for Health Care Professionals who specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. All Certified Athletic Trainers must have at least a bachelor’s degree in athletic training, which is an allied health profession, must pass a comprehensive exam before earning the ATC credential, must keep knowledge and skills current by participating in continuous education and must adhere to standards of professional practice set by a national certifying agency.

The combination of dance education & athletic performance was a winning combination for her practice where she loved helping people, teaching, watching and participating in sports. In addition to nurturing her students through academic requirements for the program, she has had the honor and privilege of working with over 1000 athletes worldwide; high school, junior college, division one collegiate athletes, semiprofessional and professional. Her current responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education Programs at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus include teaching (18 credit hours teaching a variety of courses), advising students, recruiting students within the BS/BA Degree Programs, assist in the recruitment of faculty, continue to encourage good citizenship and professional conduct among all students and faculty so as to promote the best interest of athletic trainers, maintain continuing education credits, participate/coordinate and conduct committees within the Division, School of health Professions, the University and the Brooklyn Committee, service (active member with the local, regional and national athletic training organizations, Athletic Training Students Club/Members and Faculty noted on national website, Instructor for American Heart Association, Book Reviewer for Lippincott Williams and Wilkin publishing company, participant in several health events for children, i.e. TEAM L.I.U. Teenagers Educated About Asthma Management.

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world’s largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live out their life long dreams whether it is to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracey will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life’s mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a “University for Children.”

TRIBUTE TO MR. JITEN SHAH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jiten Shah for his service to western Kentucky. He has effectively served as the Executive Director of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) since 1987, where he has worked to create economic opportunities for the mostly rural region.

Recently, Federal Computer Week recognized Mr. Shah as one of the magazine’s Federal 100 of 2009. This award recognizes the top executives from government, industry, and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2008.

Mr. Shah was the driving force for the creation of ConnectGRADD, Inc., a regional broadband internet network. This extraordinary enterprise brought affordable, high-speed wireless Internet to a rural seven county region, which is larger than the state of Delaware. Mr. Shah developed the plan and built the coalition of support to make this project a reality.

By providing a united vision and strong advocacy, Mr. Shah helped level the playing field for the 212,000 residents of the growing counties. Now, this region is in a better position to spur economic development and entrepreneur ship among its residents.

Mr. Shah’s outstanding effort is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Mr. Shah for his commitment to the people of western Kentucky.

PAYING HOMAGE TO SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHERY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HINCHERY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the County of Sullivan in New York State on the occasion of its Bicentennial. I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing this milestone, and I am proud to join the residents of Sullivan County in commemorating this significant anniversary.

Created from neighboring Ulster County on March 27, 1809, Sullivan County was named in honor of American Revolutionary War leader, Major General John Sullivan. Since that time, Sullivan County’s natural beauty and abundance have greatly influenced its development. Early settlers focused their efforts on tapping the generous natural resources of the region and building vibrant timber, bluestone, and tannin industries. These early commercial activities were replaced by growing agriculture and tourism sectors starting in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Sullivan County also served as an important transportation corridor and link between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. Transportation projects such as the Newburgh-Cocheaton Turnpike, the Delaware & Hudson Canal, and the New York & Erie Railroad helped to develop the region and fuel the expansion of metropolitan New York seventy miles to the County’s south.
The first of Sullivan County’s grand hotels was constructed in 1846 and over the next century, hundreds of additional hotels, camps, bungalow colonies, and resorts were constructed. During the peak decades of Sullivan County’s resort industry, the communities in the Catskills surged each summer with an influx of families looking to enjoy Sullivan County’s tremendous beauty and many offerings. The County became increasingly popular as a vacation destination for Jewish families, who helped to build up the entertainment and hospitality industry that came to define the Catskill region. Sullivan County became widely known as part of the Borscht Belt, and its resorts and hotels helped to launch the careers of many of this country’s most beloved comedians and entertainers in the decades following the Second World War.

Sullivan County is renowned for its profound beauty and tremendous natural assets, including the picturesque Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains and Delaware River Valley. The Delaware River Valley in Sullivan County is designated by the National Park Service as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and recognized for its incredible recreational, historic and cultural resources. This River corridor, located in close proximity to the New York metropolitan area, continues to attract many thousands of visitors who are drawn by the area’s fishing, hunting, boating, golfing, and other activities.

Tourism remains a vital part of the economy for Sullivan County today. As the birthplace of fly-fishing, the County continues to attract sportsmen from around the world to the area’s famous trout streams. The Town of Bethel in Sullivan County, once the site of the legendary Woodstock Music Festival in August 1969, now hosts the stately Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, which attracts nationally renowned performers. Sullivan County has worked diligently to build upon its historic legacy and its impressive surroundings and revitalize its economy with new industries, including green technology and a new generation of hospitality businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the residents and businesses of Sullivan County as they celebrate this Bicentennial and as they continue to build upon the region’s rich history to ensure that Sullivan County remains an extraordinary place to live and to visit.

HONORING COLONEL MARY BETH BEDELL

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009


During this time, her husband, Dennis Bedell, and their children, Kergin, Carl, and Brian, supported her as she served the Army without hesitation. The people of Missouri and the United States thank Colonel Bedell and her family for their mutual service and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the career of Colonel Mary Beth Bedell, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication, leadership, and service throughout her tenure with the US Military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative HOWARD BERMAN in introducing the American Dream Act, a bill that would enable thousands of ambitious young people to attend college and fulfill their God-given potential.

The Act is the product of Congressman Berman’s tireless efforts on behalf of undocumented students. Recognizing the senseless-ness of wasting their promise, we worked together to craft this crucial legislation, which stands as a testament to his commitment to fighting for the most vulnerable Americans. I commend him for his leadership on this important issue and thank him for his friendship.

The Act’s premise is simple and just. Undocumented students deserve the same opportunities as the 2.8 million others who graduate from this country’s high schools every year. We cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people who are products of our schools and our communities. Indeed, in this era of globalization, America will struggle to maintain its competitive advantage if we continue to deprive some of our most promising students the chance to earn a college education.

The American Dream Act offers a prudent, equitable solution to the challenges that undocumented students face in attempting to gain admission to our colleges and universities. First, it provides a path to legalization and citizenship to students who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived here for 5 years, and have completed two years of higher education or military service. Second, because they often face severe economic hardships, the bill also eliminates a federal provision that discourages states from allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. The fight to fix a policy that squanders the intellectual gifts of so many is part of a much wider struggle. Our immigration system is broken. It divides families, enables the persecution of workers and denies immigrants basic legal protections. The American Dream Act is a critical component of comprehensive immigration reform. As we work with President Obama’s administration over the coming months to overhaul our immigration system, we should ensure that The American Dream Act is a critical component of our plans.

The millions of high school students who comprise the Class of 2009 are mere months away from graduation. Among them are thousands of kids who have the potential to become doctors, lawyers and even members of Congress but face insurmountable legal obstacles. We have a moral obligation to remove these impediments so that all of our young people can accomplish their goals. Moreover, this nation cannot afford to waste the investment we have already made in these young people and inhibit their potential by denying them the opportunity to earn a college degree. Please join me in supporting the American Dream Act.