

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF ARCHIE GREEN

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Archie Green, a distinguished San Franciscan, who died on March 22, 2009.

Born on June 29, 1917, Archie went on to a long and unique career. A scholar-worker, as he called himself, he blended his participation in the Civilian Conservation Corps, his service in the United States Navy during World War II, his experience as a shipwright and union member, his dedication to the study of workers' culture, his responsibilities as a family man, his scholarly training that resulted in a Ph.D. in folklore, his experience as a university professor and, above all, his unwavering dedication to social justice.

Archie Green's contributions are many and I wish to mention a few of the most prominent ones. Archie envisioned a national center that would preserve and present American folklife and spent years lobbying the Congress tirelessly for the passage of federal legislation that would make this a reality. In time, this effort was successful and the American Folklife Preservation Act was unanimously passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ford in 1976. This led to the establishment of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. For this work, Archie was honored in 2007 with the Library of Congress' Living Legend Award.

Archie wrote many books and articles about the diverse traditions of working people and other ordinary Americans. In our city of San Francisco, he worked diligently to draw attention to the contributions of all working people. He was instrumental in the preservation of structures along the waterfront that are a direct link to shipping, longshoring and other maritime occupations that were so important to the city's growth. He was also a leader in the effort to erect plaques identifying other important labor landmarks around the city.

In 2000, he was one of the founders of the nonprofit Fund for Labor Culture & History, a national organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of "laborlore," which has convened meetings that bring together activists, trade unionists, scholars, and artists to discuss their various perspectives on workers' culture.

While we mourn the loss of our friend, we celebrate the life of a generous and inspirational person who used his many skills to raise the nation's awareness of the traditions of working people and the indispensable role they have played in forging our personal identities and our national heritage.

I hope it is a comfort to his wife, Louanne Green, his three sons, his sister, his four grandchildren, and to his many family and friends that so many in our country mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

HONORING JAMES SABIN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Sabin upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Sabin was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Mr. Sabin graduated from Huntington Beach High School in 1958 and soon after graduation he joined the U.S. Navy. He completed Navy boot camp and was on his way to Norman, Oklahoma for training at the Aviation Fundamental School. Upon completion of training he was designated as an Aviation Mechanic and was sent the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. He served at Corpus Christi for twenty-six months then was assigned to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Soviet Union and Cuba had entered into a close alliance and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had begun secretly installing Soviet missile sites in Cuba. Conflict was coming and Mr. Sabin found himself on the front line. The Navy sent battle groups into the area while the Army and Marines prepared to send airborne and amphibious units into Cuba.

Mr. Sabin served in Guantanamo Bay for fourteen months, between 1961 and 1962. For his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Upon exiting the military he attended junior college and worked as a salesman for a soft drink company. He also became involved with the ministry and in 1981 he became Pastor of the Cathedral of Faith in Chowchilla. He has been involved in the ministry for thirty-seven years. He became a funeral director for the Worden Funeral Chapel in 1992, serving the needs of families at times of great sorrow with sincere compassion.

Mr. Sabin and his wife, Sandra, have two children and four grandchildren. He is a life member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896, where he serves as Post Chaplain and a member of the First Assembly of God Church.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate James Sabin upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Sabin many years of continued success.

NUCLEAR FORENSICS AND  
ATTRIBUTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House has passed the Nuclear Forensics bill.

This bill seeks to deter terrorists' use of nuclear weapons or radiological material by creating international mechanisms for identifying and tracking such materials back to their source, ideally before they are used.

We have talked for decades now about the need to secure "loose nukes" and radiological material, and we have taken some concrete if underfunded steps to do so, such as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. We have not expended a similar effort to widely deploy technologies and implement international agreements to make the tracking of such material so easy and reliable as to make such measures a deterrent themselves.

As the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science noted in a 2008 report on this topic:

A believable attribution capability may help to discourage behavior that could lead to a nuclear event. The chain of participants in a nuclear terrorist event most likely includes a national government or its agents, since nearly all nuclear weapons usable material is at least notionally the responsibility of governments. A forensics capability that can trace material to the originating reactor or enrichment facility could discourage state cooperation with terrorist elements and encourage better security for nuclear weapon usable materials. In addition, most terrorist organizations will not have members skilled in all aspects of handling nuclear weapons or building an improvised nuclear device. That expertise is found in a small pool of people and a credible attribution capability may deter some who are principally motivated by financial, rather than ideological, concerns.

This bill would, among other things, establish within the Department of Homeland Security a National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center to provide centralized stewardship, planning, assessment, gap analysis, exercises, improvement, and integration for all federal nuclear forensics activities. There is a clear need to centralize this activity within the federal government, and this provision is a first step in that direction.

At the international level, the bill encourages the President to pursue bilateral and multilateral international agreements to establish an international framework for determining the source of any confiscated nuclear or radiological material or weapon, as well as the source of any detonated weapon and the nuclear or radiological material used in such a weapon. U.S. leadership will be essential to the success of this program, and I will certainly be looking at the President's detailed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Fiscal Year 2010 budget submission to see whether this effort will receive the kind of funding it needs to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

HEALTH INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this legislation does one simple thing, Mr. Speaker—it requires health insurance companies to be upfront and honest with their policy holders when they place limitations and restrictions on benefits prior to selling them an insurance policy.

Currently, the way insurance regulations are set, many Americans are unaware that their health insurance may not cover injuries resulting from certain recreational activities because their policy is unclear or very broad.

This lack of clarity has created a confusing situation for individuals that may ride motorcycles, horses, snowmobiles, or participate in other recreational activities.

While millions of Americans enjoy these activities safely every year, when an individual is injured, they often find that their insurance will not cover their medical expenses.

H.R. 1253 would require that any limitations and restrictions on insurance benefits be explicit and clear. Insurance companies would be required to make available to participants and beneficiaries in an easily understandable manner a description of the limitations and restrictions included in the policy.

By passing this straightforward legislation, we will protect our constituents that ride motorcycles, horses, snowmobiles, or participate in other recreational activities from being caught by surprise when they thought that their policy covered any possible injuries from their accident.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

I want to thank Congressman BURGESS for his work on this legislation as well as Chairman WAXMAN, DINGELL and BARTON.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to this resolution. I do so not because I oppose our recognizing peace as preferable to, and more productive than, war. On the contrary, too seldom do we celebrate and encourage the end of violence and warfare on this Floor so I welcome any such endorsement of peace in international relations. However, I cannot agree with the final "resolved" clause of this resolution, which states that:

... the House of Representatives calls for recognition of the peace treaty between

Egypt and Israel as a model mechanism upon which partner nations may build to overcome longstanding barriers to peace and effective mutual cooperation.

What the resolution fails to mention, and the reason we should not endorse the treaty as a model, is that at the time the peace was being negotiated at Camp David the United States committed itself to an enormous financial aid package to both Egypt and Israel in exchange for their accession to the treaty. Over the past thirty years, the United States taxpayer has transferred to—some might say "bribed"—Israel and Egypt more well over \$100 billion as a payoff for their leaders' signature on the treaty. Particularly in this time of economic hardship, where so many Americans are out of work and facing great financial challenges, I hardly believe we should be celebrating that which increases the strain on taxpayers. I believe we should cease all foreign aid to all countries, as it is a counterproductive and unconstitutional transfer of wealth from U.S. taxpayers to governments overseas.

I do believe we should, where possible and without meddling, encourage nations and regions at war or in conflict to work toward peace. But I also believe we should lead by example: that we should demonstrate by our actions the benefits of friendly relations and trade with all nations which seek the same. I strongly oppose the idea that we should bribe the rest of the world to do what we demand. Therefore, while I celebrate the achievement of peace between Egypt and Israel, I do not believe this "model" to be productive or in the best interests of the United States. I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution.

HONORING PAUL HARVEY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a man whose iconic voice forever changed broadcast radio and to whom our Nation will be forever indebted.

As a high school student, Paul Harvey began his storied career in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Spending time to help clean the studios of KVOO, Paul was eventually given the opportunity to fill-in on the air. It quickly became clear that Paul Harvey was a gifted broadcaster as he was soon promoted to become the station's program director.

After spending time covering World War II and serving in the United States Army Air Corps, Paul Harvey moved to Chicago where he began broadcasting for ABC. He quickly became a fixture on Chicago's airwaves and on April 1, 1951, 'Paul Harvey News and Comment' debuted. Eventually gathering an audience that spanned 1,200 stations and well over 25 million people, Paul Harvey was often the "largest one-man network in the world."

Madam Speaker, the list of awards and honors to the credit of Paul Harvey is long and distinguished. His election to the National Association of Broadcasters Radio Hall of Fame reflects a career that spanned more than 70 years. In October 2005, Paul Harvey was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's most prestigious civilian decoration.

Illustrating the extent to which Paul Harvey captured the American voice, his broadcasts and newspaper columns have been reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD more than those of any other commentator.

Because of my time in radio, I am especially thankful for the life and character of Paul Harvey. There is no doubt that every broadcaster has taken inspiration from the unique style and unparalleled legacy of Paul Harvey. Epitomizing the values and ideals of everyday Americans, Paul Harvey was a master of his craft and a pioneer in the format of broadcast radio that many Americans continue to rely on.

Paul Harvey, Good Day.

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to vote "yes" on the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This bill will designate more than 2 million acres of wilderness in nine states, including 127,000 acres on Mt. Hood and in the Columbia River Gorge. It also includes wilderness protection for other Oregon treasures in the Cascade Siskiyou, Oregon Badlands, Spring Basin, and Copper Salmon areas.

It is worth noting that in addition to wilderness on Mt. Hood, the legislation contains nearly 80 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, including stretches of Fish Creek, which contains crucial habitat for endangered fish, the East Fork of the Hood River, where wildlife habitat and low impact recreation opportunities abound, and Fifteen Mile Creek, another critical area for fish and wildlife, recreation, and scenic beauty. The bill designates 34,000 acres of new National Recreation Areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest and creates a long term transportation plan to address the challenges of getting to and from the mountain. It also directs the Forest Service to participate in three land conveyances. These exchanges will provide additional protection for the North side of Mt. Hood, the Pacific Crest Trail, and a parcel of land that is critical to the community in Clackamas County.

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

Oregonians have worked tirelessly and waited years to have these treasured natural areas protected. I am extremely pleased that the hard work of so many committed local stakeholders is coming to fruition, and I hope that we pass this bill today and send it swiftly to President Obama for his signature.

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the glorious contributions of Greek civilization to the world, and to congratulate the people of Greece on the 188th anniversary of their independence.

I can speak no more simply than Edith Hamilton who wrote in her classic 1930 study of Greek civilization that “the Greeks came into being and the world, as we know it, began.”

I stand here as the Member of an institution whose very existence is owed to the Greek imagination and beneath a dome supported by columns of Greek inspiration. The principles of democratic governance, the ones which our Founders drew upon heavily to establish this republic, were first expounded upon in ancient Greece, and it is to that first age of reason that all democratic civilizations owe a debt of gratitude.

But it was not only the political philosophy of Greek civilization that left its mark on the world. One cannot walk the streets of this city without noticing its obvious tribute to the architecture of our democratic forebears. Stone columns line our most important buildings and stand guard our most cherished documents.

In addition to the philosophical and physical structures we honor in our own time from Greece, we also pay tribute on this day to its legacy in the arts and sports. The epic of Homer, the poetry of Pericles, Pindar and Aeschylus, the comedy of Aristophanes, the history of Herodotus, the Olympics and the marathon—any simple recitation will be incomplete and not wholly do justice to the accomplishments of centuries. But, let it be said that time has shown the greats of their time to be the greats of all time.

Our more recent histories our bound together as well. Just as our independence was a tribute to the ideas of ancient Greece, so too was Greek independence inspired by the American Revolution. Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, founder of the modern Greek state said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that “it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”

Since that kind and graceful message so long ago, the relationship between the United States and Greece—allies in times of both peace and conflict—grows stronger. Generations of Greek-Americans have maintained their traditions here, just as other civilizations for centuries have passed on the guiding lights of Ancient Greece. I am proud to join the Greek-Americans of New York’s Second District in celebrating the 188th anniversary of their independence day.

82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CESAR CHAVEZ

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, work, and 82nd anniversary of the day Cesar Chavez was born.

He was born on March 31, 1927 near Yuma, Arizona. Chavez was a civil rights, Latino, farm worker, and labor leader. To some he was also a religious and spiritual figure; and to all, he was a community servant and a crusader for nonviolent social change. He also spent his time as an environmentalist and consumer advocate. But above all, he was a person who had the strength and courage to fight for what he knew was right and to try and rid the world of injustice.

After spending most of his childhood as a migrant farm worker with his parents, Chavez joined the U.S. Navy in 1946 and served in the Western Pacific just after WWII.

For more than three decades Chavez led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions, as well as countless other rights and protections for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. Against previously insurmountable odds, he led successful strikes and boycotts that resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture. His union’s efforts brought about the passage of the groundbreaking 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act to protect farm workers. Today, it remains the only law in the nation that protects the farm workers’ right to unionize. We must continue to protect farm and agricultural workers who are a dedicated labor force and a vital contributor to our economy.

As I reflect on his life and work, I am privileged to be a fellow Veteran of the U.S. Armed Services and a fellow Mexican American. It was my honor to serve the country that we both felt strongly enough to continue to fight for its betterment. Chavez not only fought for Latinos, but he fought for the dignity of this nation, and for that we are forever grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 163 through 165. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on each.

HONORING AAUW OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American

Association of University Women of Napa County on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of their founding. AAUW–Napa County has done visionary work to serve the community as well as fulfill their charter of advancing justice and equality for women.

Over 80 years ago, inaugural President Stella Linscott and a band of determined Napans started the AAUW Napa County branch with the goal of promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. This organization that began as a response to sexism and discrimination in our society has become a pillar of our community.

Their endless contributions to the Napa Valley over the years include annual scholarships for local women, voter education forums, the Adopt-A-Road program and contributions to AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Foundations. The Napa County Branch of AAUW is an important component of a statewide organization that has played a crucial role in finally achieving gender equity in college enrollment in California.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank AAUW–Napa County for the remarkable work they have done for everyone in our County. It is through the hard work and generous contributions of many members of our community that this branch has thrived for the past 80 years, and I know that we will continue to see progress for many years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. H.R. 1105 The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP  
Account: Army Corp of Engineers—Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corp of Engineers—Nashville District

Address: 110 9th Avenue South Nashville, Tennessee 37203–3863

Description of Request: Funding in the amount of \$42 million is required for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to replace the Chickamauga Lock. The lock is a major economic engine in the Tennessee Valley region. Commodities passing through the lock have origins and destinations in 17 states in the South, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, traveling an average 1,400 miles. Over the last several years, 2.5 million tons passed through the lock annually, and the forecasted traffic demand is expected to grow considerably. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers indicates that replacement of the existing lock is far more economical than continuing costly maintenance and repair.

Distribution of funding:  
Construction: 100%

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on March 30th, I was detained in my district and therefore missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 163 on the Motion to Table the Privileged Resolution. Had I been present I would have also voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 164 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 20—Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom's Opportunity to Access Health, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act. Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 165 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 479—Wakefield Act.

## HONORING HANK PITTMAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hank Pittman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Pittman was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Mr. Pittman was born in Madera, California in September 1947. He was raised in Chowchilla, graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1965 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He completed Navy boot camp in San Diego and was designated as a shipfitter. He was assigned to the USS *Long Beach*, a guided missile cruiser, and in 1966 was deployed to the Western Pacific. The cruiser served in the Gulf of Tonkin to detect enemy aircraft attempting to evade identification by hiding among U.S. aircraft returning from missions over North Vietnam. The USS *Long Beach* also provided support for Search and Rescue helicopter units that rescued downed fliers. During this tour, the ship was responsible for downing Soviet-made North Vietnamese An-2 planes attempting to fire on South Vietnamese Navy units. In July 1967 the USS *Long Beach* was re-deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin and shot down two MiG fighters with RIM-8 Talos missiles. Crew members were awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for these actions.

Upon returning to the U.S., Mr. Pittman was selected for a two month training course at the Navy Divers' School in San Diego. When he completed the course he was designated as a Hull Maintenance Technician (Diver). His next duty station was with the USS *Simon Lake*, a submarine tender in Holy Loch, Scotland. During the next eighteen years he completed more courses and steadily progressed in rank while serving on a number of ships, naval air stations and bases.

In 1976, while serving aboard the USS *Holland*, Mr. Pittman received a letter of commendation for superior performance in critical operations repairing the hull of the USS *Battfish*, a nuclear-powered attack submarine. Two years later he successfully completed a

seventeen week Deep Sea Diving and Salvage Course at the Washington Navy Yard. Mr. Pittman was promoted to Chief. Throughout his career he served on many ships and at many stations around the U.S., Southeast Pacific, Europe, the Indian Ocean, Australia, the North Atlantic, Africa, Panama and the Caribbean. Chief Pittman retired in February 1987. For his service he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, four awards for the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the M-14 Rifle Ribbon, the .45 Pistol Ribbon and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Pittman worked as a security officer, forklift operator and wood cutter. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896, where he served six years as Post Commander and attends the Church of Latter Day Saints. He has three children and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Hank Pittman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pittman many years of continued success.

## REMEMBERING BILL TATUM IN THE PAGES OF THE NEW YORK CARIB NEWS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a New York CARIB News tribute to the late Wilbert Bill Tatum, honoring the journalistic heavyweight for his commitment to his craft, his community, and to social justice and equality. He passed away in late February, ending a decades-long tenure as the owner, chairman, and publisher of the Amsterdam News—a premier and pioneering Black newspaper in the heart of Harlem. He wielded his pen as a sword, holding public servants' feet to the fire and rarely mincing his words in pursuit of truth. A philanthropist of formidable character and impassioned conviction, Tatum lent a powerful voice to the African American community through his words and his inspiration. The following article—"Wilbert Tatum Remembered," published on March 17 and written by Victoria Horsford—details the legacy of the great Bill Tatum.

## WILBERT TATUM REMEMBERED

Wilbert Bill Tatum, Amsterdam News Chairman/CEO and publisher emeritus died, a long way from home, on February 26 in Croatia. The ultimate Fourth Estater, Bill Tatum was equal parts race relations maven, humanist, entrepreneur, and warrior. He left a legacy of integrity and passion in journalism.

Tatum was a face in the proactive Harlem crowd for almost four decades, which predates the \$2.3 million purchase of the Amsterdam News in 1971, by him, Percy Sutton and other business associates. In 1983, Tatum assumes full control of the paper. By 1996, Tatum bought out all of his AmNews partners, became the sole owner and Begins the Tatum Era. Founded on December 4, 1909, the Amsterdam News emerged as one of the

most important Black newspapers in the U.S. on par with the Pittsburgh Courier, The Afro-American, and The Chicago Defender. Tatum kept burnishing the paper's image while keeping a watchful eye as events unfolded of special interest to the Amsterdam News readers.

Tatum's editorials railed against inequities vis-à-vis the Black community re: housing, employment, term limits, the NYPD, immigration. No one nor organizations was off limits to the acidic Tatum editorial. He relished a good fight taking on mayors and local corrupt community leaders, businessmen and untoward clergy. For years, he ran acid-tinged "Mayor Ed Koch must go" editorials. In the 90s, he began a long run of "Mayor Rudy Giuliani must go" editorials. He allocated equal editorial space to unsung community heroes and contributed regularly to scores of charities.

Tatum was one of a few publishers who believed in the innocence of the young Black men convicted in the racially marred Central Park jogger rape case. He was best when he was opinionated and tapping into instincts. The AmNews had taken on a new life during his watch. It was the World According to Bill Tatum. And what a delightfully, crazy, unpredictable, diabolical, lovable, plot-rich moral world it was. He ceded control of the paper to his daughter Elinor in 1997. Last Friday, 2/27 during a NY1 TV interview, Elinor said "My dad loved the Amsterdam News," she added. "He was born in North Carolina, was one of 13 children, a descendant of sharecroppers whose granddad started a newspaper. He wanted to make this world a better place for people who looked like him." A Lincoln University and Occidental College alum, Tatum had a master's degree in Urban Studies.

The following are remembrances of Bill Tatum. Governor David Paterson reflects on Tatum "as a decent person who stood out amongst the giants of NYC for his commitment to justice and social equality." Mayor Michael Bloomberg intones. "The paper was really heard across the city...and on many occasions, around the world. He covered issues of concern to African Americans in ways that other media opportunities they might not otherwise have had. He was a real character in the nicest sense of the word!" NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson says. "Bill was a pioneer in publishing...who always stood up for causes he believed in and spoke out against injustice and highlighted issues too often forgotten and ignored. Bill always let you know when he disagreed with you in a genuine forthrightness." Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer says. "NY lost one of our great citizens. . . . Bill wore many hats at the Amsterdam and its success is due to his dedication and vision."

Reverend Al Sharpton remembers. "Bill Tatum was an iconic and vitally important figure in both journalism and civil rights. We have lost a great advocate, a penetrating writer and unmatched institution builder and for me a great friend and father figure."

Survived by his wife Susan and his daughter Elinor, Bill Tatum's wake was held on Thursday, March 5, at the Provenzano Lanzo Funeral Home at 43 Second Avenue. His funeral was held Friday, March 6 at 10 am at Harlem's Riverside Church at 490 RSD, near 120 Street.

The family requests that you make donations to the Amsterdam News Educational Foundation, 34 East Third Street, NYC 10003.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 26, 2009, during the debate on the FLAME ACT, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall 161, the Rep. Goodlatte Amendment. I meant to vote "no."

## IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID WARREN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when David Warren came to the Richland County Public Library (RCPL) in Columbia, S.C., in 1979, he brought leadership and vision that would expand and transform the library and reintroduce it to the Richland community. Since that time, the RCPL has grown in size and scope—including the construction of a 242,000-square-foot Main Library, the expansion of five and the construction of 2 new branches, an increase in the circulation of materials to 3.3 million and the library's collection to over 1.3 million pieces.

As executive director of the Richland County Public Library, Warren has been recognized across the country and internationally for his leadership and strength in library management. His reputation as an innovator has led to numerous appointments with local, state, and national organizations. Under Warren's leadership, RCPL was named the National Library of the Year in 2001, bringing positive national attention to the Midlands and South Carolina. His vision and ability to think outside the box has enabled RCPL to set a new standard for public library systems in South Carolina and the Southeast.

Named Librarian of the Year by the South Carolina Library Association in 1991 and Public Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators for 1992/1993, Warren's leadership and commitment to his community has justly earned him this recognition and much appreciation from those who have benefited from his tremendous efforts.

I congratulate David Warren on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and service.

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN WOODWARD, JR.

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of John Woodward, Jr., whose very life proved that one could be gentle, kind, civil and honest—and financially successful.

John Woodward became an entrepreneur relatively late in life. After serving in Guam and Okinawa with the U.S. Army during World

War II, John was drafted by Chrysler Corporation while he was still a business major at the University of Southern California.

He spent the next few decades working his way up the auto industry corporate ladder, including about a decade traveling around the country establishing dealership franchises. Then, in 1976, John and his wife, Nada, who he had met during World War II when she was an Army nurse, moved their family to Thousand Oaks, California, where he opened Westoaks Chrysler Dodge.

The dealership's motto was, "Where People Care." By all accounts, John made sure the dealership lived up to that motto right up until he sold it last year.

In addition to opening his own dealership, John also was instrumental in starting the Thousand Oaks Auto Mall. As an active member of the Thousand Oaks-Westlake Village Regional Chamber of Commerce, John led the fundraising drive for the Chamber's first building.

But John's civic mindedness did not end with business promotion. He believed in his community and worked tirelessly on its behalf. John was a key donor to the Community Conscience of Conejo Valley and supported a multitude of children's sports teams, civic groups and charitable organizations. Among his many accolades was being named the Chamber's Man of the Year.

My wife, Janice, and I were privileged to call him our friend.

Madam Speaker, John's wife of nearly sixty years died four years ago. Many were touched by their legacy of honesty and civility, but none more than their three children, Ginny, Nancy and John III; and their four grandchildren. I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to John's family and all who knew him and called him a friend.

Godspeed, John.

## HONORING ALLEN BUSHMAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allen Bushman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Bushman was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Allen Bushman was born in March 1930 in Fairview, Utah, and at age eighteen he enlisted in the newly formed United States Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He went on to serve in a variety of assignments, including an aircraft engineering mechanic for the B-29 and B-36 bombers and the KC-97 Stratotanker. These aircrafts were instrumental during the Korean War, completing missions from Japan and Okinawa to bomb targets in North Korea. After the war, Mr. Bushman completed Aircraft Maintenance Technician School and qualified as an Inflight Air Refueling Boom Operator. The Stratotanker was an aerial refueling tanker; it was vital to the Air Force as the B-47 became the primary bomber for world-wide strategic operations.

During the 1960s, Mr. Bushman completed courses at the USAF Advanced Flying School

and was selected for advanced training for the KC-135 and completed the Combat Crew Training Squadron Course. He also completed the Management Course for Air Force Supervisors and the Special Vehicle Repairman Course. Mr. Bushman was assigned as the boom operator on the KC-135 where he flew on missions from Okinawa and Guam, refueling the B-52 and other aircraft flying to and returning from missions over North Vietnam. During his twenty-two years of service he served with a number of wings and squadrons including 22nd Bomb Wing, 98th Bomb Wing, 111th Bomb Wing, 95th Bomb Wing, 90th Air Refueling Squadron, 99th Air Refueling Squadron and 924th Air Refueling Training Squadron.

Master Sergeant Bushman retired from the Air Force at Castle Air Force Base on February 28, 1970. He was awarded with the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal and the Air Force Longevity Service Award for his service during the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cold War. Upon his retirement, he completed a two year business management course at Merced College and became a fence contractor. He is a life member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896, and a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints. He and his wife, Carla Gene, continue to live in Chowchilla, California; they have nine children, twenty-seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Allen Bushman upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Bushman many years of continued success.

## SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD CAMPAIGN

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual disabilities.

Created by young people with and without intellectual disabilities, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the "R-word" and recognize March 31, 2009 as a national awareness day for The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

In 1966, speaking at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, my uncle, Robert Kennedy said, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a

tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." It is with great honor that I am able to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope each and every day; not just in their own communities but across the country, to those who suffer from intellectual disabilities and their families.

Too often the power of our words is underestimated and misunderstood. Today marks the culmination of a month long campaign to educate all of us about the positive and negative effects that our words can have. It is with great joy today, that I am able to use my words to support their courage and activism.

Thank you to all who pledge today to think of others before they speak and thank you to all who strive each day to promote universal human dignity.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO FBI SUPERVISORY SENIOR AGENT NORMAN A. TOWNSEND

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norman A. Townsend for his service to the people of the State of Texas and the nation as a whole. As he prepares to move forward with his career of public service with the FBI, we proudly honor him for his five years of service to the Laredo Resident Agency where he has served as a senior supervisory agent.

Mr. Townsend earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's in Criminology from Central Oklahoma University in Edmond before he began his career with the FBI on July 5, 1977. He worked as a fingerprint examiner and an accounting technician in Oklahoma City before attending the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 1984. Later that year he was assigned as a special agent to the Houston Division in Beaumont, Texas where he performed a number of investigations and continued his dedicated service to the bureau.

On August 4, 2003, Mr. Townsend transferred to the San Antonio Division in Laredo, Texas where he worked as a Supervisory Senior Agent. For the past five years, he has served the community, the state, and our country under the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Laredo. He has supervised agents, task force officers, and support personnel as they conducted investigations on public corruption, white collar crime, and joint task force terrorist investigations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Norman Townsend for his five years of dedicated service to the FBI Laredo Resident Agency and his 31 years of service to the FBI as he prepares to move forward with his career in the bureau.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, March 30, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "Present" on rollcall vote No. 163 (on motion to table H. Res. 295), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 164 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 20), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 165 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 479).

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of Arkansas's finest educational institutions, Arkansas State University. The University will commemorate its 100th anniversary this month. This achievement is a significant milestone for this school and all who helped shape its history.

On April 1st, 2009, the Jonesboro Community will gather at Arkansas State University to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of Act 100, which established the first four agricultural schools in Arkansas. Over the past several decades, ASU has been the beneficiary of a foundation of excellence, built by the hard work and dedication from faculty, alumni, administrators and the community. Many individuals have invested in ensuring the success of the school, and thanks to their efforts we are also here today to thank them for their service.

To build a great school, time and patience are needed to attract and sustain a great faculty, develop a strong academic program, and foster an alumni network. The process is long and arduous, but Arkansas State University is resilient and continues to produce distinguished alumni and groundbreaking achievements year after year.

Arkansas State University with its first-rate, innovative style of education provides an unparalleled learning experience for their students. The growing strength of the school is demonstrated by the success of its students after they graduate and its world renowned reputation. Most importantly, the ideas and achievements from ASU's alumni will continue to transform and benefit our nation for generations.

I stand here today to ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Arkansas State University on this significant milestone. Arkansas State University has been powering the minds of its students for 100 years. The University has come a long way, has much to celebrate, and more successes to anticipate in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J. MANGINI'S E-911 INSTITUTE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL AWARD

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, a week ago today, I had the privilege of attending the E-911 Institute's 6th Annual Honors Gala Dinner Program to present my constituent, Michael J. Mangini, with the organization's prestigious industry professional award. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to personally recognize the extraordinary contributions Michael has made to public safety during the course of his remarkable career. I respectfully request that my remarks from that evening be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a lasting and enduring tribute to this very special man. Thank you.

Good evening. I'm pleased to be here tonight with my colleagues for this occasion. I am proud to be a member of the E-911 Caucus and am very grateful for the important work that the E-911 Institute does on behalf emergency preparedness all across the country. I am especially honored to have been invited to present your association's prestigious industry professional award this year to one of the true unsung heroes of your profession and a constituent of mine from Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Michael Mangini.

To those of you not from Massachusetts, Hopkinton is best known as the starting place for the Boston Marathon. I can't drive 26 miles never mind run it but I wanted to share that fun fact with all of you nonetheless. Michael is joined here tonight by his wife, Susan; their daughter Christina; and his very proud parents, Mr. & Mrs. Mangini. I also want to point out Michael's friend and colleague at Plant CML, Paul Fahey, who nominated Mike for this award. Paul's parents are also constituents of mine from Worcester, Massachusetts so this is like an episode of "All in the Family" for me tonight.

In all seriousness, Michael Mangini is truly deserving of the honor you bestow on him tonight. He has devoted his entire professional career to improving emergency communications in both the public and private sectors. First, as Director of Technical Services for the City of Boston's Emergency Services Department, Michael earned the respect and admiration of the entire public safety community. His conscientious commitment to his job, his extraordinary expertise in the field and his unflinching professionalism garnered the attention of no less than the Governor of Massachusetts who asked him to serve as a founding member of the first state-wide emergency telecommunications board in 1991. As Chair of the Board's Standards Committee, Michael was principally responsible for the development and implementation of one of the largest and most successful E-911 programs in the nation. He served on the state's emergency telecommunications board for fully eleven years, and his contributions in that role have undeniably made the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a safer place to live for all of its citizens.

In addition to his service to the state, Michael has been an active member of the Association of Public Communications Officials (APCO) International since 1986 and is a past recipient of its highest honor, the Presidential Award. Michael has also been a member of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) since 1987 and served as

President of the Massachusetts Chapter. Today, Michael serves as Director of Solutions Engineering at Plant CML where he is responsible for leading the company's largest and most complex projects.

Other than the love of family, I don't think there is any greater honor in life than to receive the recognition of your peers in your chosen profession. Michael Mangini is not only a worthy recipient of this industry professional award, he is also owed a debt of gratitude for his service to his community, his Commonwealth and his country. I am very proud to be able to present him with this award.

#### TRIBUTE TO CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood up for justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

During his life, César E. Chávez was committed to providing fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing, and quality education for all. Mr. Chávez also served the United States proudly in the Navy during World War II. His spirit and his vision are still alive today and I am determined to celebrate what he stood for and his great accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to rename the post office located at 2777 Logan Avenue in the Barrio Logan section of San Diego as the "César E. Chávez Post Office." This is the least we can do to honor such a great but humble man dedicated to justice. Please join me in giving Mr. Chávez his rightful place in American history.

#### HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA CHILDREN'S WISH FUND

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indiana Children's Wish Fund on its 25th anniversary and for its mission of fulfilling the dreams of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Children forced to battle terminal diseases rarely get to experience a normal childhood and are forced to grow up quickly. By granting their wishes, this organization seeks to bring a smile to these children's faces by bringing laughter, joy and normalcy to their lives.

Since 1984, this organization has granted 2,000 wishes to Indiana children between the ages of 3–18. Each year, it assists approximately 140 children, many of whom are referred to the Wish Fund by hospitals, social workers and families from across the state. With the average cost of a wish being \$5500, the Wish Fund would not have been able to provide these services without the generous support of its community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Indiana Children's Wish Fund as it celebrates 25 years of service and for its com-

mitment to helping children realize their dreams.

#### BEST-IN-CLASS APPLIANCE BILL

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and I have co-authored H.R. 1786, a bill that will help Americans transition from older, energy-wasting washing machines, refrigerators, and other household appliances to newer, super-efficient versions.

According to the Department of Energy, appliances currently account for about 20 percent of energy bills in a typical household. Many of these "clunkers" are the products of another era—manufactured years (sometimes decades) ago, when technology was antiquated and efficiency a low priority. Removing old, inefficient appliances from circulation will go a long way toward cutting energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our bill will task the DOE with creating a "Best-in-Class" appliance program to provide financial "bonuses" to retailers for every Best-in-Class product sold (defined as the top 10 percent of models in the product class, in terms of efficiency), and to manufacturers that mass produce Best-in-Class appliances.

Retailers who participate in the program must provide a government-funded "bounty" (a reduction in price for a new, more efficient appliance) to consumers who surrender old appliances. Experience shows that many consumers hoard old appliances—perhaps moving them from the kitchen to the basement—eliminating the potential energy savings resulting from the purchase of a newer appliance. This trade-in feature will help take these clunkers completely out of circulation, substantially accelerating our transition to an energy-efficient economy.

This bill is a consensus product, and is endorsed by the NRDC and leading industry groups. We urge its swift passage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, H.R. 20, and H.R. 479 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, Raising a question of the privileges of the House, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 165, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 479, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE TO ALVIN SYKES

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on April 24th, the Olathe, Kansas, Human Rights Commission will pay tribute to Alvin Sykes, a tireless crusader for civil rights within the Kansas City metropolitan region, who recently persuaded the U.S. Congress to approve, and President Bush to sign, legislation establishing a permanent "cold case" unit in the U.S. Department of Justice to review approximately 100 unsolved murders, including the notorious killing of 14 year old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955. Both as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign and as a leader of numerous other struggles for human rights and racial justice in the Kansas City area, Alvin Sykes has received much-deserved national attention for his efforts, as is detailed in two articles from USA Today and wolffmanproductions.com, which I am including with this tribute. I join with the Olathe Human Rights Commission in paying tribute to this important leader within the Kansas City community and I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in celebrating this tireless activist for social justice.

[From USA Today]

#### PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

(By Laura Parker)

WASHINGTON.—Alvin Sykes holds none of the standard credentials to wield influence in the power corridors of this political city. He is a 51-year-old high school dropout with no steady job.

Yet senators listen to him. Prosecutors return his calls. As a self-made civil rights activist, Sykes persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till, and he deserves a fair share of the credit for the department's recent decision to review as many as 100 old murders in 14 states.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced the investigation as Congress prepares to vote on a bill that would set up a permanent cold case unit in the Justice Department to probe those old crimes.

Last year, Sykes, as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, persuaded his then-home-state senator, Jim Talent, R-Mo., to introduce the bill. Since then, Sykes and other civil rights leaders have helped sell it. Although Talent lost his seat in last fall's election, the bill—which authorizes \$11.5 million to fund the unit—has new sponsors and has gained momentum in both houses and parties.

"He reflects the spirit of the civil rights movement, where ordinary people found a way to make a difference," says Brenda Jones, spokeswoman for Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., whose beating during a protest march through Selma, Ala., in 1965 helped propel the Voting Rights Act through Congress. Lewis is sponsoring the House version of the Till bill.

Sykes is described by those who know him as tenacious and informed. "He's a very pragmatic man," says Donald Burger, a retired Justice Department mediator who met Sykes in the 1970s during battles to desegregate Kansas City, Mo., schools.

U.S. Attorney Jim Greenlee of Mississippi's northern district in Oxford had never heard of Sykes when Sykes asked him in 2004 to reopen the Till case.

The case was legendary. Most of the principals were dead or old and in poor health. The statute of limitations on applicable federal laws had expired. Only state charges related to murder or manslaughter remained possible.

Sykes arrived in Oxford armed with a legal argument that laid out why the FBI had jurisdiction to proceed with a new federal probe. "He was extremely informed and very logically presented why it should be looked into," Greenlee says.

Sykes grew up poor and sickly in Kansas City, the product of a 14-year-old mother and a father he never knew. "When I first met him, he was in his casket," Sykes says of his father. "I was 27."

Prone to schoolyard fights, Sykes dropped out of school in the ninth grade. Although he once dreamed of becoming a lawyer, he got most of his education from the public library. To support himself, Sykes found a job managing a local R&B band, Threatening Weather.

After campaigning to desegregate Kansas City schools, he helped persuade Missouri legislators to lower the age of jurors from 21 to 18, thus widening the pool of potential jurors.

He also persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the mysterious death of a black teenager in Kansas City in 1985.

Although the report was inconclusive, the federal involvement helped calm local residents, who had been skeptical of the local police investigation, Burger says.

He adds: "That would never have happened if it hadn't been for Alvin."

Sykes' major achievement involved the 1980 murder of a local jazz musician named Steve Harvey, who was beaten to death with a baseball bat. The man charged with the murder had been acquitted.

Sykes thumbed through library law books and found an obscure federal statute that essentially said a person couldn't be deprived of his use of a public facility because of race. Using contacts he had made at the Justice Department during the school desegregation struggle, Sykes contacted Richard Roberts, the attorney in the civil rights division who was looking into the Harvey case.

"He said, 'Send me everything you've got,'" Sykes says. In 1983, Roberts won the conviction of Raymond Bledsoe on federal civil rights violation charges. He is now serving a life sentence.

"He didn't just call once," says Roberts, now a federal district judge in Washington, D.C. "Ordinarily, people who want to know about a case will go to their local U.S. attorney. I was struck by the fact that Sykes did not rest with that. He pressed forward with more research on his own. His questions to me were pointed and showed someone who had done his homework."

The murder of young Emmett Till, who was killed in Mississippi after whistling at a white woman in a store, galvanized the civil rights movement.

Although Till's killers were known—Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam were acquitted a month after Till's death and later confessed in an interview with *Look* magazine—subsequent investigations centered on whether the men acted alone. Trial testimony suggested that Bryant's then-wife might have been with her husband and brother-in-law when Till was abducted.

Sykes pored over library law books and consulted with his Justice Department contacts. They steered him to a 1976 opinion by Antonin Scalia, then an assistant attorney general and now a Supreme Court justice, that gave the federal government jurisdiction to conduct further investigation into President Kennedy's assassination. The same opinion was used to investigate Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder.

"Even if the statute of limitations had run out, it meant that there could be an investigation for Till," Sykes says.

A Mississippi grand jury last month declined to indict Bryant's ex-wife, Carolyn Bryant Donham.

To Sykes, that doesn't mean the end of the Till case. He says he made that promise to Till's mother, Mamie Till Mobley, before she died in 2003.

The FBI has compiled 8,000 pages of notes and interviews. Now Sykes wants the Justice Department to publish a report of the investigation.

"I made that pledge to Mrs. Mobley before she died that we would get the truth out," he says.

[From wolfmanproductions.com]

ALVIN SYKES: SELF-MADE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Alvin Sykes holds none of the standard credentials to wield influence in the power corridors of Washington, D.C. He is not a lobbyist or an attorney, nor did he graduate from a prestigious college. In fact, he is a high school dropout.

Yet senators listen to him. Prosecutors return his calls. As a self-made civil rights activist, Sykes persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till, and he deserves a fair share of the credit for the department's recent decision to review as many as 100 old murders in 14 states.

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INTRODUCTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the primary responsibilities of each Member of Congress is to protect our nation and our citizens. Representing New Jersey, a "9-11 State," it is an important duty, whether the issue concerns funding for programs designed to protect areas which are prime terrorist targets, or ensuring that our military forces and intelligence agencies are fully supported, or securing our borders and reforming our broken immigration system.

In addition to restoring our economy with an effective stimulus that is targeted, timely and temporary, these are among the most important issues facing the nation today.

But on occasion, serious events develop in a Member's Congressional District that must be brought to the attention of this House and the nation. My District in northern New Jersey is witnessing developments that cry out for correction.

In April 2008, a 20-year old foreign national was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of a child and aggravated sexual assault following an alleged attack on a 12-year-old girl. He was remanded to the Morris County, New Jersey jail where he remained until August when he was able to secure his release from Morris County custody by posting \$50,000 bail. Aware that the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had a "detainer" on the suspect, the Morris County Sheriffs Department transferred custody of the suspect to ICE.

In September of 2008, the suspect was transferred to an ICE detention center in Louisiana where he appeared before an immigration judge and was ordered deported. Appropriate officials in New Jersey were never informed that this potentially dangerous suspect was about to be or was subsequently deported.

Of course, the suspect failed to appear for his preliminary hearing in November 2008 in New Jersey, prompting a warrant to be issued for his arrest. He has subsequently been indicted on charges related to aggravated sexual assault on a minor.

Of course, the deportation of this suspect will delay, if not prevent, the suspect from ever answering these serious charges in an appropriate U.S. court. As a result, a young New Jersey victim and her family have been denied justice.

Clearly, the interaction between the state criminal code and federal immigration law is multi-layered and complex. In this incident, and another similar case where another foreign national charged with assaulting a nine-year-old girl is facing deportation,

Madam Speaker, today I introduce two measures designed to bring the glare of public attention onto these outrageous situations.

I am introducing legislation that provides an important new tool to states and local judicial officials as they work to bring to trial illegal immigrants charged with a serious crime. Our legislation would allow a state's chief execu-

tive or chief law enforcement officer, or that of a political subdivision, to request that the Department of Homeland Security stay the removal of an alien charged with an aggravated felony.

This solution is by no means perfect but it attempts to strike a balance between our national desire to deport as many illegal aliens as possible as quickly as possible and the ability of victims of serious crimes to have their rights protected. Simply put, the federal government needs to think twice before handling the alien suspect in an aggravated felony a "get out of jail free" card. These matters are too important to be put on auto-pilot!

I am also introducing a Sense of Congress resolution which directs DHS and ICE to develop an effective and efficient system of communication that allows state and local law enforcement and prosecutors to know, in a timely manner, when suspects charged in their jurisdictions with aggravated felonies are in the final stages of the deportation process.

My colleagues, these measures are not parochial in their nature. These are not issues confined to one county in one state. I suspect that if Morris County, New Jersey is grappling with the dueling conflict between state criminal law and federal immigration process, then so are counties in your Congressional District. I urge you to check with your law enforcement and prosecutors back home and then co-sponsor these two measures.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
THOMAS J. WELSH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas J. Welsh, the founding bishop of the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington, Virginia. He passed away on February 19 at the age of 87, from pulmonary fibrosis.

Bishop Welsh served as Arlington's bishop from 1974 to 1983. He established six additional area parishes: St. Stephen the Martyr in Middleburg; St. Catherine of Siena in Great Falls; St. John Neumann in Reston; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ridge; Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison; and Holy Martyrs of Vietnam in Arlington County. Bishop Welsh dedicated 11 new churches during his years with the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington.

Other notable achievements in his career as Arlington's bishop include helping to establish Christendom College in Front Royal and Catholic Distance University in Hamilton, both of which are in Virginia's 10th District. He also approved the purchase of the building for Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. Bishop Welsh believed in the importance of Catholic education, both at school and at home. He founded the Arlington Catholic Herald newspaper in 1975 and established the Family Life Bureau in 1977. The Family Life Bureau worked to organize various pro-life activities within the Arlington diocese.

After leaving Arlington in 1983, Bishop Welsh became the second bishop of the diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania. He retired from Allentown in 1997.

His dedication and ministry will be missed by all who knew and worked with him. In the

homily given at his funeral Mass, Msgr. Anthony D. Muntone, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, quoted one of Bishop Welsh's favorite saints, St. Thomas More, who said: "Pray for me and I will pray for thee that one day we will meet merrily in heaven." I believe Bishop Welsh, as a dedicated believer and servant to the Catholic Church, will indeed be met merrily in heaven. His memory will live on through all the lives he touched and the legacy he left in both Arlington and Allentown.

HONORING RESURRECTION  
CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Resurrection Catholic Middle School in Lakeland, Florida, on winning the Polk County Middle School E-Team Academic Tournament. In addition to winning the overall award, Resurrection Catholic School won the eighth-grade competition. This victory is the first for Resurrection, after taking second place in the previous two years.

Teams of sixth, seventh and eighth graders represented their schools and tested their knowledge of economic terms, language arts, mathematics and social studies. Thirty one schools participated in the competition this year with only six schools advancing on to the final round.

Coleman Cavanah, Alanna Wehle, Andrew Noonan, Tanner Donahoo, Matthew Murphy, Keegan Rand, Zoe Holmquist, Matthew Patterson, Emily Collins, Courtney Krakowski, Justin Lucas, Gabe Tone, Gabby Dilullo, Jarrad Pazda, Andrew Goding, Jacob Murphy, Riley Perrow, and Andreana Paz were all a part of the Resurrection E-Team. These students spent countless hours after school, studying an array of subjects and taking many practice tests over a course of nine weeks. Their dedication truly exemplifies academic excellence.

I would like to recognize Principal Nancy Genzel and Coaches Maryellen Krakowski, Cindy Stanford, and Lisha Fletcher for the positive example they set and for the leadership they provide. Their diligent work properly prepared these students for the competition and led them to this amazing success.

I commend Resurrection Catholic School for leading the way in excellence and for their commitment to empowering young minds. Congratulations on your success!

HONORING THE WHITE FAMILY

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas B. White Sr. and his family, who have selflessly served our country by enforcing the law in Southeastern Pennsylvania for over 100 years.

Thomas B. White Sr. started his career with the Philadelphia Police Department on March

16th, 1909, and retired in April 1941. He was born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1896, where he worked primarily on the Philadelphia Police Department's foot traffic unit.

James "Bud" White, Tom's son, became employed with the Pennsylvania State Police in 1937 and was there until 1942, when he was transferred to the Philadelphia Police Department. There, Bud served on the patrol, accident investigation, crime scene, and stake out units. He worked in this capacity until 1962, when he joined the Philadelphia School District Police. Bud remained until retirement in 1972.

Joseph P. White, Bud's son, began his career with the Philadelphia Police Department in 1966. He worked on the uniform patrol and juvenile aide/gang control units until 1970, when he joined the detective division. After serving in the major crimes/dignitary protection unit, Joe retired in 1988.

Ann Thomson Wisniewski, Joe's cousin, became employed with the Philadelphia Police Department in 1970, where she served as one of the first female police officers. Ann worked in the juvenile aide division, dignitary protection unit, and stakeout unit, before retiring in 1980 as a sergeant.

Kevin J. O'Rourke, Ann's cousin, started his career in the Philadelphia Police Department in 1973, and worked on the patrol and vice units. He also served in the District Attorney's Office until 1990, where he was promoted to Detective Sergeant in the special investigations and homicide unit. Kevin then went on to serve with the Pennsylvania Office of Inspector General, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, and Pennsylvania Gaming Commission before retiring in 2008.

Stephen J. White, Kevin's cousin, became employed with the U.S. Capitol Police in 1972, where he served until 1974. The same year, he started working as a patrol officer with the Doylestown Township Police, before being promoted to Sergeant in 1975, Lieutenant in 1978, and then finally Chief of Police in 1988. He continues to serve in this capacity today.

Through multiple generations, the White family has contributed enormously to our communities in Southeastern Pennsylvania. I have the utmost gratitude for their 100 years of dedication and service. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the White family for their extraordinary accomplishments, and am extremely honored to serve as their Congressman.

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AVERY HART HADDOCK MAKES  
HER MARK ON THE WORLD

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Justin and Sally Haddock on the birth of their daughter, Avery Hart Haddock. Avery was born on Thursday, March 19, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. My wife Faye joins me in wishing Justin and Sally, and Avery's grandparents Tommy and Donna Haddock, great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Justin and Sally feel at this special

time. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I know the Haddocks look forward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch Avery grow.

I welcome young Avery into the world and wish Justin and Sally all the best.

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HONORING DON GWARTNEY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Don Gwartney upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Gwartney was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Don Gwartney was born in Clinton, Oklahoma during the Great Depression. As a young man his family moved to Chowchilla, California where he attended Chowchilla High School. He graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1956 at the age of seventeen. Upon graduation he wanted to join the United States Navy to "see the world," but at seventeen he had to convince his mother to sign the enlistment form. She agreed, and Mr. Gwartney completed Navy Boot Camp at San Diego and was sent to fire fighting school. He was ordered to Washington and aboard the USS Princeton, an aircraft carrier with a crew of 3,448 officers and men. The ship had completed a conversion to conduct anti-submarine operations in the eastern Pacific and was sent to its home port in Long Beach, California. In July 1957 the USS Princeton completed a seven month mission, making port in Hawaii, Yokosuka, Sasebo, Okinawa, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. In January 1958, they stopped briefly in Singapore and were sent to Ceylon on a humanitarian mission to assist flood victims. The ship returned from a successful mission in February 1958.

With increasing tension between Communist China and the Nationalist Chinese, the United States government began positioning more ships in the region and in July 1959 the USS Princeton sailed to join the fleet of four other battle groups off of the coast of Taiwan. The ship was responsible for launching planes to search for Chinese submarines in the area and crew members were working a stressful six hours on, six hours off schedule throughout the crisis. After several weeks, Communist China suddenly stopped all military operations and the USS Princeton traveled to Subic Bay in the Philippines. From there they sailed to the Bering Sea in pursuit of a Soviet nuclear submarine, which they obtained intelligence on.

In March 1959, the Princeton underwent a new configuration and was designed to serve as an amphibious assault ship for Marines. In September 1959, Mr. Gwartney was released from active duty, but was called back just fifteen months later and was assigned to Naval Air Station Alameda. He was released in October of the same year. Mr. Gwartney has been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, National De-

fense Service Medal, he received 823 Badge of Honor Medals, a commendation from the Republic of China and a letter of appreciation from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

Upon retiring from the Navy, Mr. Gwartney attended college classes; he worked at Yosemite National Park and at Valley Feed and Fuel in Chowchilla. He was employed in the maintenance department at Chowchilla Union High School in March 1970, and was soon after promoted to Supervisor of Custodians, a position he held until retiring in December 2000. He served as a volunteer fire fighter for five years. He is a member of the Cathedral of Faith, where he was a Royal Ranger Leader for five years and a Sunday school teacher for ten years. He is a life member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. He is married to Betty Edwards and they have made their home in Chowchilla for forty-three years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Don Gwartney upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Gwartney many years of continued success.

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THE EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE  
AMERICA ACT

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which will renew our nation's commitment to promoting service and volunteerism.

Public service is something my family knows a little bit about. Nearly five decades ago, my uncle, President John F. Kennedy, challenged the nation's youth to serve their country. When he said that famous line, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" he sent a message on the necessity for everyone to take an active role in our society.

It is my hope that with the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, Congress and President Obama will create a new era of public service that goes beyond any one generation. The bill we are considering today expands opportunities for volunteerism to include disadvantaged youth, seniors and people with disabilities. It is my belief that if we are going to regain a sense of community and shared responsibility in this country, we must encourage national service among all people.

There's an old saying that reads, "The most sacred thing one person can give another, outside of their love, is their labor." That goes to the core of why supporting programs that promote volunteerism and community service is so important. Specifically, today's bill will renew our focus on inclusion by investing \$20 million in programs that encourage participation of people with disabilities.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will create new programs like the Clean Energy Corps, to focus on environmental conservation. This new program will work in conjunction with our economy as we forge a new direction in energy. This legislation creates a

separate Veteran's Corps designed to help veterans meet the needs of their fellow servicemen and women; such as providing programs that help provide education, mentoring, and job training to fellow veterans.

More than 4,400 seniors in Rhode Island contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs which will be expanded within the Serve America Act. Foster Grandparents in Rhode Island serve more than 3,200 young people who have special needs. I am pleased that this bill authorizes \$115 million to encourage these efforts not only in my state of Rhode Island, but nationwide. In addition, The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will allow seniors to earn a \$1,000 education award for 350 hours of service, that may be passed on to their children, foster child or grandchildren.

I am pleased that this bill provides new incentives for middle and high school students to volunteer in their communities, and will allow them to earn up to \$1,000 in education awards to be used for college. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will also establish Youth Engagement Zones, a service-learning program to engage low-income high school students and out-of-school youth in volunteer efforts.

In my home state of Rhode Island, programs like YouthBuild Providence will benefit from this important legislation through funding for the recruitment, training and professional development of coordinators for the program. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will also increase the number of AmeriCorps volunteers and increase the education reward to \$5,350 for 2010, to match the maximum Pell Grant scholarship award.

Currently, more than 14,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through 53 national service projects across Rhode Island. This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than \$7,300,000 to support Rhode Island communities through national service initiatives.

The benefits that this legislation would bring to our struggling communities, across this country, and in my home state of Rhode Island, are endless.

Like its namesake, this bill dedicates itself toward the promotion of solidarity, selflessness and courage. I will be proud to vote in favor of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS OF CHEYNE VALENTINE AND PAMELA FAWNS WITH THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

**HON. DENNY REHBERG**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor two young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Cheyne Valentine of Bigfork, Montana and Pamela Fawns of Corvallis, Montana, have been named as Montana's top youth volunteers by The 2009 Pru-

dential Spirit of Community Awards program. This is an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Valentine was nominated by the American Red Cross of Montana in Great Falls, and Pamela was nominated by the Ravalli County 4-H in Hamilton. As State Honorees, each will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expenses-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., where they will join honorees from each of the other states and District of Columbia for several days of national recognition events. Ten of them will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2009 at that time.

As a member of the American Red Cross of Montana and a senior at Bigfork High School, Cheyne helped spearhead a community campaign that collected \$4,400 to purchase two heart defibrillators for his school and provide CPR training for coaches, after his best friend suffered a heart attack during football practice and later died. When his friend, Jeff, collapsed on the field, Cheyne discovered that school personnel had neither the training nor equipment to deal with such an emergency. "I am certain that if the coach had been trained in CPR and there had been a defibrillator on the field, the outcome for my friend would have been different," he said. Cheyne began seeking donations to pay for two automatic external defibrillators and training for his school's coaches. He and his mother posted 500 fliers, spoke to hundreds of community members and wrote columns and letters to editors of local newspapers. The defibrillators purchased with the donations from the fundraising drive were presented to Bigfork High School in December, 2008. Meanwhile, Cheyne also has begun working to persuade state legislators to pass a law requiring AEDs at all school athletic events and training for all coaches in Montana. "I have started the ball rolling in this community," said Cheyne, "and it will continue until all schools in Montana make these safety changes."

Ms. Fawns, a member of the Ravalli County 4-H and a seventh grader at Valley Oak Academy High School in Corvallis, creates floral arrangements to promote and raise funds for 4-H and other school projects. "I have always had a joy in creating art with flowers because flower arrangements lighten up your mood and can make people feel happy when they are ill or sad," said Pamela, who comes from a long line of horticulturists. To gain more experience in floral design, Pamela persuaded a local florist to let her work as a volunteer intern. After learning first-hand about selecting, processing and arranging flowers, she started to think about ways she could use her skills to raise money for community projects. Through flower sales, Pamela was able to generate funds for a community meal project and new sports equipment for her school. She also realized how effective flowers are in motivating volunteers, so she began making arrangements for adult volunteers in her community. "I recognized that flowers, unlike other gifts, could really have a brightening effect on people's lives," she said.

In light of numerous statistics indicating Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young citizens have made. People of all ages need to think

more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our own communities. Young volunteers like Cheyne and Pamela are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young volunteers to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 14 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service and has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Mr. Valentine and Ms. Fawns should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud both of them for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities.

HONORING JEANNETTE VARELA

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannette Varela, a successful entrepreneur with a commitment to her community.

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, Jeannette was the second of eight children. At the age of eighteen, Jeannette left her home country with just thirty dollars and a limited grasp of English. She came to the United States seeking a new life in the "land of opportunity." Jeannette found work in various jobs to make ends meet, eventually working in the heavy equipment industry in Miami, Florida.

She has a heart for helping others, has been recognized for her philanthropic endeavors and is a respected community leader.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring Jeannette Varela.

HOMELESS VETERANS RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1171, "Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009." I want to thank my colleague Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas for introducing this legislation.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both

meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to providing a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life.

H.R. 1171, "Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009," reauthorizes, through FY2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs homeless veterans reintegration programs such as job training, counseling, and placement services to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. Furthermore, this bill directs the Secretary of Labor to make grants to programs and facilities that provide dedicated services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children, and requires grant funds to be used to provide job training, counseling, placement services, and child care services to expedite the reintegration of such veterans into the labor force.

Veterans are some of America's most valued members of society. These are people who served our Nation in a time of need, people who risked their lives to protect our own. Yet, many of these same veterans who fought so bravely and risked so much in lands far abroad have come back to their Nation and are now homeless. The problem of homeless veterans is far more prevalent than we would like to believe. About one-third of the entire adult homeless population has served their country in the Armed Services. On any given day, as many as 250,000 veterans, both male and female, are living on the streets or in shelters, and perhaps twice as many experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year. There are approximately 16,000 homeless veterans spread across the state of Texas.

Many other veterans are considered near homeless or at risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions in cheap hotels or in overcrowded or substandard housing.

This legislation is necessary not only because this problem is so devastating and prevalent, but also because homeless veterans have special needs that are unique from those faced by the rest of the homeless population. Almost all homeless veterans are male, with three percent being female, the vast majority are single, and most come from poor, disadvantaged backgrounds. Homeless veterans tend to be older and more educated than homeless non-veterans. But similar to the general population of homeless adult males, about 45% of homeless veterans suffer from mental illness and slightly more than 70% suffer from alcohol or other drug abuse problems. Roughly 56% are African American or Hispanic.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1171 helps to address the homeless veteran population by increasing and extending through FY 2014 the authorization of appropriations for homeless assistance to veterans furnished through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 gives authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs through FY 2014 to make grants to furnish assistance to homeless veterans through: outreach; rehabilitative services; vocational counseling and training; and transitional housing. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As Winston Church-

ill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

I urge my colleagues to support the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 because this comprehensive program is needed if we are to fight this scourge that is a blight upon our Nation. Our Nation's veterans did not risk their lives abroad so that they could come home and feel a cold shoulder. We must all have outrage that so many of our Nation's veterans live this way, only then can we find a way to correct this injustice.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF PEDRO ZAMORA,  
WORLD RENOWNED HIV/AIDS ED-  
UCATOR AND ACTIVIST

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that pays tribute to Pedro Zamora, a world renowned educator and activist who moved millions to confront their fears and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community.

Pedro Pablo Zamora y Díaz was born on February 29, 1972, in the outskirts of Havana, Cuba, the eighth and youngest child of a tight-knit family. Like countless others, the Zamora family left Cuba's shores for a better life. And on May 30, 1980, Pedro, his brother, sister, and parents boarded a crowded boat and began the 25-hour treacherous voyage to Hialeah, Florida, a suburb of Miami. Pedro was eight years old.

Five years later, tragedy struck the Zamora family when Pedro lost his beloved mother to skin cancer. The precocious teenager responded by immersing himself in academics and extracurricular activities, becoming an honor student, president of the science club and captain of the cross-country team, and was voted "most intellectual" and "most all around" by his peers.

However, it was Pedro's actions outside of school which changed the course of his life. Struggling with being gay and seeking to fill the void that was created by his mother's death, the 14-year-old honor student began having unprotected sex with multiple men.

Unbeknownst to Pedro, the first Surgeon General's report on HIV/AIDS was issued around the same time. At the height of the Reagan era and the "War on Drugs" another war was being waged against a new disease that was killing an alarming number of people in the gay community and beyond.

Ironically, the Surgeon General's report stated that comprehensive sex education was the most powerful weapon against HIV/AIDS and should begin at the lowest grade possible. The report also mentioned the importance of teaching children about healthy heterosexual and homosexual relationships, and acknowledged that HIV/AIDS had a disproportionate effect among Latinos and blacks.

And yet, this lifesaving message failed to trickle down into many classrooms across the country. The sex education that Pedro Zamora received within his Miami school stigmatized

HIV/AIDS, portrayed homosexuality as shameful, and failed to provide him and other students with a relevant, factual and thorough understanding of HIV/AIDS.

On November 9, 1989, Pedro Zamora received confirmation that he had contracted the HIV virus. He was 17 years old.

Refusing to let the devastating news dampen his spirit, Zamora joined a Miami-based HIV/AIDS resource center called Body Positive, where he met others who were living with HIV/AIDS. A new desire to educate others about AIDS was ignited, and Pedro decided to devote his talents as a thinker and communicator to a career in AIDS education.

Pedro began raising awareness about HIV/AIDS within the Latino community in South Florida. He lectured at schools from the primary to collegial level, churches, community centers, and other venues around the country. He spoke about the need for evidence-based education for preventing and managing HIV/AIDS, forming healthy relationships, de-stigmatizing HIV/AIDS and combating homophobia.

In mid-1993, Pedro Zamora sent his audition tape to the producers of MTV's television reality series *The Real World*. Out of more than 25,000 applicants, he was chosen to live in front of the camera along with six other cast-mates in San Francisco for over four months.

In the following year, Zamora made history on *The Real World* as one of the first openly gay men living with HIV/AIDS featured on a television series in the United States. Pedro's activism, charisma, struggles with HIV/AIDS and relationships were captured on film—including a blossoming romance with Sean Sasser, another man of color living with HIV/AIDS. In another historical first, the two pledged their love to each other in a commitment ceremony on the show.

Soon, Pedro's story and efforts received national attention from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Geraldo*, and *Oprah Winfrey*. But, Pedro had his sights set on Washington, D.C. In 1993, Zamora spoke about living with AIDS as a gay man of color at a Capitol Hill reception, and in 1994, he testified during a Congressional hearing on HIV/AIDS prevention. In the following months, President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala personally recognized and thanked Pedro Zamora for his leadership and work on the AIDS Action Council Board and for humanizing and personalizing those living with HIV/AIDS.

However, this gifted and courageous young man, like many others, was uninsured. And his lack of insurance proved to be as deadly as the virus that was plaguing his body. In August 1994, Pedro Zamora checked into St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City and was diagnosed with a rare and fatal viral inflammation of the brain resulting from a severely suppressed immune system. At the age of 22, Pedro was told that he had three to four months to live.

On November 11, 1994, Pedro Zamora died in the company of his family, partner Sean, and friends. He was buried two days later in Miami Lakes, Florida. Numerous memorial funds and fellowships have been established in Pedro's memory, and in 2008, a film that dramatized his life and legacy was completed.

Madam Speaker, 15 years after Pedro's death, HIV/AIDS has become one of the most

serious global health concerns in modern history and has spread to every continent, infecting and affecting people across the lines of race, class, religion, and sexual orientation. Sadly, a quarter of HIV/AIDS infected persons are unaware of their status and less than 30% of HIV-infected persons receive anti-retroviral treatment. Latinos and blacks are still disproportionately contracting and dying from AIDS. My home state of Florida has consistently ranked third in the nation in the number of cases of HIV/AIDS. And, the majority of infected persons reside in South Florida, which also has the highest concentration of uninsured people in the state.

In the absence of a cure, prevention, education, and antiretroviral drugs still remain our best weapons against HIV/AIDS. Culturally competent and age appropriate education about sex, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and treatment and prevention options must be available in our nation's schools, prisons and communities. And, the de-stigmatization of HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, and sexuality remain no less important today than it was a decade and a half ago.

During his testimony before Congress, 22-year-old Pedro Zamora said, "What we need is the collective will to care about young people and about people with different backgrounds and make sure that one day people grow up in a world without AIDS." His words are timeless, and challenge us to be diligent in our efforts to stop HIV/AIDS, and the disease of intolerance in this country. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution commemorating the life, sacrifices, and grace of a remarkable man and teacher who has left an enduring memory and legacy that will inspire generations to come.

WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today, as Women's History Month comes to a close it is a good time to reflect on the many accomplishments women have been part of and to address what needs to be done further to fully carry out equality for all and get our economy back on track.

As we experience the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression we will need the leadership of all Americans including strong leaders like Speaker NANCY PELOSI who was the first woman chosen as Speaker by her colleagues and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who ran an historic campaign for the presidency. Both who have broken and shattered the glass ceiling have demonstrated remarkable accomplishment the nation can be confident in during these tough times.

This nation has faced multiple challenges that we have faced with the help of strong women. And today many women face challenges of succeeding in the workplace, caring for their family including their aging parents. I am proud of the work this Congress has done in a short amount of time for American working women.

It is telling that President Barack Obama's first bill signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter

Fair Pay Act that reverses a Supreme Court ruling that made it more difficult for Americans to pursue pay discrimination claims. At a time when too many workers are seeing their jobs and wages slashed, we've got to make sure that all Americans are paid fairly for their hard work.

Congress has also passed significant tax cuts for working women and major investments in health care. To help get us out of this economic mess we also created thousands of jobs where women have new opportunities including contracting opportunities and the availability of small business loans.

Speaker PELOSI said it best: "Women want what men want: an equal opportunity to succeed, a safe and prosperous America, good paying jobs, better access to affordable health care, and the best possible education for our children."

President Obama and this Congress have made progress with all those issues in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will continue to build upon those accomplishments with the passage of the President's budget blueprint, which makes investments in health care, energy and education—all intended to create jobs.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that my Substitute Amendment to H.R. 1256 does not contain any earmarks.

BEST BUDDIES EMPOWERMENT  
FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL  
DISABILITIES ACT OF 2009

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill supporting Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to the social integration of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies is the first social and recreational program of its kind in the United States; it has already reached hundreds of thousands of Americans, both with and without disabilities, a total that is set to reach half a million by 2010. Best Buddies fosters and supports friendships and mentorships between participants from kindergarteners to adult professionals, sponsoring more than one thousand volunteer-led chapters at schools and workplaces. Not only do volunteers gain valuable leadership training—they learn first-hand about the important contributions made by their fellow-citizens with intellectual disabilities. And participants with disabilities learn that they are valuable members of our communities, capable of forming a wide range of real and lasting friendships.

This legislation authorizes a total of \$10 million for grants, contracts, or cooperative

agreements to be distributed to Best Buddies by the Department of Education in Fiscal Year 2010, along with such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years. These funds will enable this important organization to reach hundreds of thousands more potential volunteers and participants, promoting the crucial values of shared participation in community and social equality. I want to thank Congressman BLUNT for co-sponsoring this bill, and I urge my colleagues to pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING CELIA CRUZ

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Celia Cruz, an icon of Latin culture and Cuban music. Despite her passing in 2003, Celia's contributions continue to shape music and inspire others. She lives on as one of the most successful Cuban performers of the 20th century.

Known around the world as the Queen of Salsa, Celia Cruz dedicated her life to music and the arts. Her 50 year career included 70 albums, countless gold and platinum records, hundreds of awards from prestigious institutions worldwide and three Grammy Awards and four Latin Grammy Awards.

Born in Havana, Cuba, she enrolled in the National Music Conservatory at a young age and studied musical theory, voice and piano. In the 1950s she joined the legendary group La Sonora Matancera and wrote many songs that have come to define Afro-Cuban music. In 1960 she left Cuba in search of freedom and in 1961 came to the U.S. By then she was recognized worldwide and the Salsa phenomenon soon spread across the U.S. and Europe.

In 1987, Celia Cruz was given a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and years later Miami's famed "Calle Ocho" was named "Celia Cruz Way." Among other honors, including Lifetime Achievement Awards, Celia was invited to the White House in 1994 by President Bill Clinton and awarded the National Medal of the Arts, the highest honor our country bestows upon an artist. Most recently, her life and work were featured in ¡Azucar! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz, an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in D.C.

Celia Cruz is remembered for many things, including her distinct voice and unique style, but her trademark remains the popular word she often chanted: Azucar, Spanish for sugar. Celia added sugar, spice and Latin flare to everything she did in life and never failed to surprise her audience. Despite her many professional accomplishments, many consider her marriage to lifelong partner and husband, Pedro Knight, her biggest success.

Celia Cruz's death on July 16, 2003 brought to an end a life filled with a love for art, culture and music, but her legacy lives on each time her music is played. She has undoubtedly left a footprint on Latin music and her influence will forever be felt through the work of artists around the world. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring the life, work and music of Celia Cruz,

our Queen of Salsa, so that her legacy may live on for generations to come.

**BUD SHUSTER PROMOTES  
WELLNESS**

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, our former colleague, Bud Shuster has taken on a new challenge to promote wellness through his central Pennsylvania region. As a trustee at Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA, he's spearheading the creation of Community Wellness Fairs through the exciting new DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness located at the university.

The extraordinary story of Bud's survival and recovery from a broken neck and other injuries suffered in a car crash several years ago recently appeared in the Altoona Mirror, and I'm pleased to insert it into the RECORD:

**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE**

(By Congressman Bud Shuster, M.C. (Ret.))

Twenty-seven years ago on my way to a Rotary speech in Altoona a speeding car swerved around the bend on a rain-slicked road and smashed head-on into our car where I was a front seat passenger. The crash broke my neck and six ribs. The neurosurgeon who put me back together said I was less than a millimeter away from being a paraplegic. If I had not been wearing my seatbelt I would have been killed.

He also said if I had not been in shape through my daily running and weightlifting regimen, I might not have survived the multiple, lengthy, and delicate surgeries required.

But within a year I was back running and working out, and now in my seventies, I'm still feeling great, running and working out every day.

So it's probably no surprise that I'm thrilled to participate in a wonderful new opportunity that is being created to promote our health and well-being right here in our region.

The DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness will be formally dedicated next month at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pa. as part of the university's Health Sciences Program thanks to the generosity of Joseph and Marguerite DiSepio, with whom I have the privilege of serving on the Board of Trustees.

The multi-million dollar institute, designed by the architectural firm of Celli-Flynn Brennan, and being built by Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., is dedicated to improving medical technology and wellness opportunities, not only on campus, but also throughout the region and across America. It includes a world-class fitness center for training, teaching and research, as well as human performance, cardiovascular-metabolic, and kinesiology/biomechanical labs. A Faculty-Student Practice in health and behavioral sciences, along with a conference center and spiritual wellness center also are included. In short, it will be a premier facility of its kind in America.

The challenge now is to capitalize on this wonderful endeavor by carrying its message to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout the communities of our region.

So, the university in cooperation with private funding is creating "The Bud Shuster Run For Your Life Program" to which I have happily agreed to lend my name and effort.

The purpose will be to take the program into our communities, our schools, service clubs, senior centers, health facilities and other organizations to promote wellness through gatherings and events including running, jogging, walking and other fitness challenges, coupled with health screenings such as blood pressure, asthma, body fat, posture, etc.

But a fitness program is only half the wellness story. Dr. Kenneth Cooper, considered the father of aerobics, writes that no amount of exercising can make up for bad nutrition or obesity. A cholesterol reading of 240 triples your odds of having a heart attack compared to a reading below 200, and a systolic blood pressure of 160 quadruples the chance of a heart attack compared with one below 120. At his Cooper Clinic in Dallas, Texas, he focuses on a lifetime "Positive Eating Plan" or PEP. There's nothing fancy about it, and the Saint Francis Wellness Program pretty much follows it: limiting animal fats, sugar, alcohol, and paying attention to calories. It's taken me half a lifetime to find, through trial and error, a PEP plan that works for me, and hopefully the Saint Francis Wellness Program can work for you.

We're delighted that the Hollidaysburg Area YMCA, under the leadership of Tom Kopriva, has agreed to team-up with us for the inaugural Community Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 25th at the Hollidaysburg Y.

Starting with the race at 8 AM, it will be a fun-filled day to promote healthy kids and families. Professionals from the university's DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness will be providing health screenings and sessions including healthy eating, sports injury prevention and physical activity recommendations. A healthy Kids Day will include sports activities led by the university's football, basketball and soccer teams.

I'm thrilled to provide a friendly challenge to young and old alike—to join me on Saturday, April 25th, in running or walking and participating in this exciting Community Wellness Fair. There will be prizes for everyone. But the best prize will be a long and healthy life.

**HONORING REMEDIOS DIAZ-  
OLIVER**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true professional, entrepreneur and a woman who has broken barriers in the business world as the only female Floridian to sit on the Board of Directors of three Fortune 500 companies simultaneously, Remedios Diaz-Oliver.

After leaving Cuba in 1961 seeking freedom, Remedios started a new life in the U.S. working during the day and attending school at night. She dedicated her career to learning the business of importing, exporting and trade and later went on to open her own business. In 1991, she founded All American Containers, Inc., a company she built from the ground up. Today she is President and CEO, oversees 167 employees and sales of up to \$105 million, and takes on full administrative and financial responsibilities. Her lifelong partner and husband Fausto Diaz-Oliver stands by her side and serves as COO. Her son, daughter and granddaughter also work in the business.

Remedios has made All American Containers, Inc., a leading supplier of glass, plas-

tic and metal containers with operations in Miami, Tampa, Atlanta, Dallas, Puerto Rico and Mexico and a network spanning across the globe to Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Her clients include companies such as McCormick, Schering, Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola and Seven-Up.

She is a pioneer in the packaging industry and has served on the Board of Directors for Avon Products, Inc. and Barnett Bank (Bank of America). Prior to starting her own business, she was President of the Association of Exporters, Freight Forwarders and Manufacturers of Greater Miami and of Emmer Importing & Exporting, Inc. She has also been a member of the National Advisory Council of the Small Business Administration and the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. In 1988 she was appointed as a member of the Advisory Board for Trade Policy, Negotiations and International Policy for the President of the United States and again in 1992.

Remedios keeps strong ties to the community she serves and her civic involvements include the Round Table, the Cuban Liberty Council, the United Way and the Public Health Trust.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask that you to join me in congratulating Remedios Diaz-Oliver, an exceptional business woman, wife, mother and friend who is proof that in America anything is possible. Many say it's a man's world, but in the words of Remedios herself "it was a man's world."

**NATIONAL PAIN CARE POLICY ACT  
OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 756, the "National Pain Care Policy Act of 2009." I would like to thank Congresswoman LOIS CAPPs from California for this important health care legislation.

BACKGROUND

This legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to seek an agreement with the Institute of Medicine to convene a Conference on Pain that:

(1) Increases the recognition of pain as a significant public health problem in the United States;

(2) Evaluates the adequacy of assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain;

(3) Identifies barriers to appropriate pain care; and

(4) Establishes an agenda to reduce such barriers and significantly improve the state of pain care research, education, and clinical care in the United States by allowing the Secretary to enter into an agreement with another appropriate entity if the Institute of Medicine declines.

This legislation will also amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue and expand, through the Pain Consortium, an aggressive program of basic and clinical research on the causes of and potential treatments for pain.

The Secretary will be required to establish the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee to:

(1) Develop a summary of advances in federal pain care research relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of pain and diseases and disorders associated with pain; and

(2) Identify critical gaps in basic and clinical research on the symptoms and causes of pain.

Most importantly, it allows the Secretary to provide for education and training to health care professionals in pain care including the requirement to establish and implement a national pain care education outreach and awareness campaign to educate consumers, patients, their families, and other caregivers.

GENERAL

The American Pain Foundation provides its members and the public with several tips to dealing with pain relief, they advise pain sufferers to be active in their pain management.

Sufferers should not be afraid to speak up. Only you know the extent of your pain and how it affects your quality of life.

Knowledge is power. There are a variety of drug and non-drug therapies (e.g., physical therapy, yoga, meditation) available to effectively control pain; these are typically used in combination. People need to ask their healthcare providers about ways to relax and cope with pain.

Tell your provider what over-the-counter medications, vitamins and supplements you take, at what dose and how often. Also let him or her know about other personal health habits (e.g., smoking tobacco, alcohol use), which can interfere with some pain treatments and increase pain levels.

Write down questions you have before each appointment, and tell your provider(s) if there is something you don't understand and bring a relative or friend to the appointments for support.

It is often the little things that make all the difference in pain management. I urge my colleagues to remember that everyday persistent pain can interfere with people's enjoyment of life. It can make it hard to sleep, work, socialize with friends and family and accomplish everyday tasks. When your ability to function is limited, you may become less productive. People find themselves avoiding hobbies and other activities that normally bring them happiness in order to prevent further injury or pain. Ongoing pain can cause you to lose your appetite, feel weak and depressed. This legislation provides more resources to manage their pain and reclaim their life.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of our veterans and in support of H.R. 1513, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act by my colleague from Arizona, Representative ANN KIRKPATRICK, and the Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Congress annually reviews veterans' service-related disability compensation, and other compensation programs for surviving spouses and dependent children to ensure that such benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation. This year, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that it will provide disability compensation to just over three million veterans with service-related disabilities.

Importantly, H.R. 1513 would increase the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and other compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment payable to Social Security recipients. The increase would take effect on December 1, 2009.

We, as Members of Congress, must stand together to support our veterans and their families. Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of our country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow to them and to their supportive families.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops of yesteryear and of today, as well as their families, by providing for this cost-of-living increase.

EXPANDING VETERAN ELIGIBILITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT IN NON-VA FACILITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of our veterans and in support of H.R. 1377, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished in a non-department facility and for other purposes by my colleague from California, Representative BOB FILNER and the Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

H.R. 1377 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for emergency care that certain veterans receive at non-VA medical facilities or to reimburse veterans if they have paid for that care. Specifically, veterans with non-service-connected conditions whose third-party insurer does not cover the full cost of care would be reimbursed.

The bill also permits the VA to reimburse veterans for emergency treatment that was provided prior to the date of enactment. Under current federal law, the Department of Veterans Affairs has the authority to reimburse certain veterans or pay for emergency treat-

ment of a non-service connected condition if the VA is the payer of last resort. However, the VA currently does not pay for emergency treatment for non-service connected conditions in facilities outside the VA system if a veteran has third-party insurance that pays for any portion of the medical cost. H.R. 1377 would make these veterans eligible for reimbursements from the VA.

I have been a strong advocate of supporting our veterans. We are providing for our veterans with legislation such as:

H. Res. 234—which would designate a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

H. Res. 1054—Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans (Rep. DAVIS (CA)—Armed Services).

H.R. 2790—To establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health as amended (Rep. HARE—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 3889—To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a longitudinal study of the vocational rehabilitation programs administered by the Secretary (Rep. BOOZMAN—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 5554—Veterans Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008 (Rep. MICHAUD—Veterans' Affairs)—Passed.

H.R. 5664—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update at least once every six years the plans and specifications for specially adapted housing furnished to veterans by the Secretary (Rep. RODRIGUEZ—Veterans' Affairs).

Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas. According to the Texas Veterans Commission, there are 197,030 veterans in Harris County. In the 2007 fiscal year health care costs in the 18th district of Texas were over \$80,000.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in expanding Title 38 for reimbursement of emergency care in non-department facilities for veterans.

SUPPORTING COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 60, supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Representative KAY GRANGER.

This important legislation recognizes the devastating effects of colorectal cancer, which kills 49,960 Americans each year, and raises awareness regarding the realities and severities of this disease.

Colorectal cancer includes both colon and rectal cancer and is the second most common cause of cancer deaths for both men and women within the United States. This form of cancer does not discriminate between men and women, race and ethnicity, while the rates of diagnoses are slightly higher among the African America community.

The survival rate of those who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in its early stages while that rate dramatically drops to only 10 percent when colorectal cancer is detected after it has spread to distant organs. However, colorectal cancer is very preventable. If Americans age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the rate of those affected by the cancer will be cut tremendously.

It is not surprising to note that uninsured Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage colon cancer. Only 18.8 percent of Americans without health coverage in the United States have currently been properly screened for colorectal cancer.

Regular colorectal cancer screening makes economic sense because it has been ranked

as one of the most cost effective screening interventions available, with the potential to save more than 30,000 lives a year. Treatment costs for colorectal cancer are extremely high and are estimated at \$8,400,000,000 for 2004. Although the treatment costs for colorectal cancer is high the risks associated with non-treatment are even higher.

Colorectal cancer awareness is important year round, but should definitely be emphasized during the month of March. The potential deadly effects of colorectal cancer should encourage Americans from all walks of life to be tested and treated by their doctors. Colorectal cancer is the third most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the Western world. Colorectal

cancer causes 655,000 deaths worldwide per year. This month should also raise public awareness for the need of colorectal cancer testing for those Americans who are unable to afford such testing. It is imperative that Congress find a way to ensure every American at risk is tested and treated in the early stages to prevent an even higher death rate. March is an important month and should be recognized by all Americans to focus on the special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.

Today, I support the observance of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 60 and urge all members to do the same.