

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KATIE GUAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katie Guay who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katie Guay is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katie Guay is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Katie Guay for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

NICHOLAS JOSEPH BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Brown of Liberty, Missouri. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 320, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACHTREE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a chapter of an organi-

zation that has helped millions of Americans around the country. The Peachtree Chapter of The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is now celebrating its 15th year of accomplishing great things in Co-op City.

The Peachtree Chapter has continued to provide assistance to retired persons and carrying out the work of the national AARP, which is in its 51st year of operation. In 1993, Bernard Aronowitz founded the Peachtree chapter. Meetings were initially held in St. Michael's Church, where members established an Executive Board. However, as membership increased, the chapter moved to the Dreiser Auditorium. It was here that the chapter, which was previously known as the Co-op City chapter, adopted the name Peachtree, after a typo by Washington. The four presidents that have led the chapter, Bernard Aronowitz, Joseph Mattice, Caroline Smith and now Josephine Collins; have furthered the efforts of the chapter to bring help to the elderly population of Co-op City.

The chapter has provided the citizens of Co-op City with support in the challenging times over the past 15 years. The chapter has touched many lives with its commitment to public service.

As a Representative from the Bronx, I know what great change and improvement the Peachtree Chapter has provided and continues to provide for all the citizens of the area.

I send my best wishes to this great chapter, and the organization it represents and I know it will continue to provide service to the community for years to come. Congratulations to the Peachtree Chapter of AARP in Co-op City on 15 great years of service.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (S. 896), companion legislation to similar legislation we approved in the House in March to combat the foreclosure crisis. I commend Senator DODD and the Members of the Senate Committee on Financial Services for their leadership in crafting and fine-tuning this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

According to a leading foreclosure research organization, mortgage foreclosure activity increased by 24 percent during the first quarter of 2009, compared to the first quarter 2008. One in every 159 housing units in the United States received a foreclosure notice during the first quarter of this year. In addition, foreclosures in March increased by 17 percent from February, and by 46 percent compared to March 2008. We must act now, and we

must act decisively and comprehensively, to stem this crisis. The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act attacks the foreclosure crisis aggressively and approaches the problem from several angles at the same time, but is measured in its application.

The bill amends the HOPE for Homeowners Program, to provide greater incentives for mortgage servicers to modify mortgages under the Program, to reduce administrative burdens to loan underwriters, and to permit payments to loan servicers and underwriters for each successful refinancing. It would also re-instate the authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to conduct an auction to refinance loans on a wholesale or bulk basis. These modifications use funding already authorized under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act enacted in October 2008.

The bill also contains provisions to ensure better that predatory lenders are not allowed to participate in the FHA home mortgage insurance program. At the same time, it protects helpful mortgage lenders and servicers, who might otherwise be subject to litigation for changing the terms of a mortgage after closing. The bill provides a safe harbor from liability to mortgage servicers issuers, trustees, loan sellers, depositors, and others who participate in loan modifications, to the extent they were required to assist and the modification complied with the Hope for Homeowners program or was otherwise consistent with the Administration's foreclosure mitigation programs.

Importantly, the bill will also extend through 2013 the temporary increase to \$250,000 in deposit insurance coverage for both the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured deposits and National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)-insured deposits, which is currently scheduled to expire in December 2009. It also permanently increases the FDIC's borrowing authority to \$100 billion (with an increase until the end of 2010 to \$300 billion), and increases the NCUA's borrowing authority to \$6 billion (with a temporary increase to \$30 billion).

And the bill includes the first major reauthorization of funding under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I was pleased to support \$100 million for McKinney-Vento under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enacted into law earlier this year. This important collaborative program between the public and private sectors has disbursed more than \$2 billion in funding to provide shelter, food and support services for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide in just over 20 years of existence, and this bill will authorize that amount for Fiscal Year 2010 alone. I will work with my colleagues to make sure we fully fund this authorized level of funding, to assisting America's neediest and most vulnerable citizens.

This bill takes many important and decisive steps to help mitigate the foreclosure crisis and ease the suffering of our Nation's homeless and hungry, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

● 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, I missed rollcall No. 295–300. If present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 295, 297, 298, 299 and 300 and “nay” on rollcall vote 296.

NIKI GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Niki Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Niki Garcia is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Niki Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Niki Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE SHANGHAI 2010 EXPO

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution to encourage full United States participation in the Shanghai 2010 Expo. The upcoming 2010 Shanghai Expo—the World’s Fair—includes more than 170 countries, tens of millions of visitors, and thousands of displays of new and emerging technologies and products to spur economic growth and trade. But the United States is in danger of being a no-show. While we have made verbal commitments to participate, the necessary diplomatic and fundraising efforts have lagged, throwing into doubt an important opportunity to demonstrate our global leadership, improve relations with China, and convey to millions of visitors our country’s many technological and cultural achievements.

Madam Speaker, the World’s Fair is a lasting and venerable international institution dating back to the mid-19th century. It is older than the modern-day Olympics, and remains behind only the Olympics and the World Cup in global economic and cultural impact. The United States has a long history of involve-

ment in the World’s Fair, hosting over 20 fairs. Few people realize that these fairs, in addition to showcasing important American technological and cultural achievements, have also left behind lasting reminders of their importance, such as the Seattle Space Needle, the San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts, and the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Unfortunately, in the last decade the United States has declined to participate in many World’s Fairs and other international expositions, depriving the international community of experiencing unique features of American economic and cultural life.

Madam Speaker, the upcoming Shanghai Expo presents a unique and important opportunity for the United States to apply our “soft power” in relations with the international community, especially China. The Chinese government has generously allocated over 60,000 square feet for the American pavilion to anchor one side of the central promenade, sharing that honor only with China. This prominence will afford 170 other nations and millions of citizens the occasion to appreciate the United States’ technological innovations, cultural traditions, our participation in peaceful and beneficial global events, and our national respect for other nations and cultures. As a global leader, the United States has a responsibility to fully participate in this international affair.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “CREDIT CARD FAIR FEE ACT OF 2009”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the “Credit Card Fair Fee Act of 2009,” legislation that would help level the playing field for merchants and retailers negotiating with banks for the cost of certain fees, and ultimately reduce the costs of everyday goods for consumers. I am joined by Representative BILL SHUSTER.

Every time a consumer uses a payment card—at the mall, at the grocery store, at a gas station, or on the Internet—the merchant is charged a fee. This fee gets divided up three ways—between the merchant’s bank, the consumer’s bank, and the credit card company. It covers processing fees, fraud protection, billing statements, and other expenses such as system innovations.

As much as 90 percent of this fee comprises a so-called “interchange fee,” which is the payment made by the merchant’s bank to the consumer’s bank. The percentage is set by the credit card companies, generally Visa or MasterCard, and averages 1.75 percent of the total purchase. In 2008, interchange fees from these two companies totaled approximately \$48 billion, an increase of 189 percent since 2001. These fees are ultimately passed on to all consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services, whether the consumers purchase these items by credit card, check or cash. The average U.S. family paid an estimated \$427 in interchange fees in 2008, nearly triple the amount in 2001.

These interchange fees are set by the credit card companies. The two largest, Visa and

MasterCard, control over 73 percent of the volume of transactions on general purpose cards in the United States and approximately 90 percent of the cards issued. Banks that are members of the Visa association are often also members of the MasterCard association.

Merchants are forced to deal within this system because it is simply not an option to refuse to accept Visa or MasterCard from their customers. They are presented with take-it-or-leave-it options and are not part of the process by which the fees are set.

The bill creates a limited antitrust immunity for negotiating voluntary agreements. This legislation is intended to give merchants a seat at the table in the determination of these fees. It is not an attempt at regulating the industry and does not mandate any particular outcome. This legislation simply enhances competition by allowing merchants to negotiate with the dominant banks for the terms and rates of the fees.

It is time to level the playing field for merchants and consumers. I am hopeful that Congress can move to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

CARLOS GONZALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Gonzales who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Gonzales is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Gonzales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Carlos Gonzales for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF THE FIRE MARSHAL JOHN J. HENRY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Marshal John J. “Jody” Henry for his tireless and persistent efforts to solve the arson case of the old Cooke County Courthouse. His determination over past three years resulted in the conviction of Timothy York.

In his 30 years of service as a firefighter, this incident was one of the most important to Fire Marshal Henry. When the Cooke County Courthouse was attacked on February 21, 2006, Henry began combining efforts with

members of different governmental agencies to find the person responsible for the attack on the district judge and courthouse. He spent endless hours pouring over the details of the case in order to put it to rest.

Fire Marshall Henry shares the credit of success of this case with the individuals with whom he worked closely. His confidence and his teamwork earned him the respect of his peers. He served as the first vice president of the Texas Fire Marshal's Association and received the Jack Sneed Memorial Commendation Award. The Gainesville Fire Chief considers Henry one of the most dedicated public servants the city has known. He is known in the community for working passionately for the safety of firefighters and citizens alike.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the diligent efforts of Fire Marshall John J. Henry in solving the Cooke County Courthouse case. He has been an invaluable firefighter and his continuing efforts in saving lives in the Cook County Community are greatly appreciated. It is an honor to represent Fire Marshal John J. Henry in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE YMCA OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS MINORITY ACHIEVERS, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of Fred Alexis, Brandon Wood, Robert Hill, Devon Moore, Tiera Givins, Josh Alexander, Sheena Agyemang, Ricardo Myers, Zakee Jenkins, Anesia Wright, Rohan Amarsingh, Latricia Harris, Amenze Enoma, Angelique Berry, Kofi Owusu, Malcom Evans, and Roshorn Morales. These students are high school seniors who are graduating from the Minority Achievers Program of the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

Madam Speaker, through academic support, the YMCA of Central Massachusetts Minority Achievers Program creates a diverse, inclusive, and challenging environment for middle and high school students. This program helps primarily minority students advance and reach their academic goals and prepares them for the transition to college. It creates and inspires a diverse pool of future leaders by providing an environment in which students can realize their potential.

These students worked together and empowered each other while perfecting their own knowledge and learning to become well-rounded individuals. However, these achievements would not have been possible without the help and guidance of dedicated adult mentors. I also recognize Marie Boone, Mark Bilotta, James Bonds, Marion Wilson, and Annie Cox for their passionate commitment and unyielding belief in their students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring these graduates of the Minority Achievers Program for their hard work along with the mentors who guided and supported them. They represent the tremendous promises of education and deserve our recognition.

RECOGNIZING FATHER JOHN A. FARRY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Father John A. Farry. On June 30, 2009, Father Farry will retire from his position as Pastor at Saint Andrew Parish, the most recent parish in his 44 years of dedicated service.

Born in Bronx, New York, Father Farry graduated from Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago and continued on to St. Mary of the Lake Seminary—Mundelein in Mundelein, Illinois, where he was ordained a priest in 1965.

Throughout his career, Father Farry has served many areas of the Chicago community, including Saint Bernard Parish in Englewood, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Hyde Park, and Saint Andrew Parish in Northcenter.

Father Farry also served in positions other than pastor when the community needed it, such as Catholic Community of Englewood Coordinator, leader of the Team Ministry at Saint Bernard Parish, and religion teacher at various schools in the area. He reached out to all members of the diverse community and is known for his selflessness and his compassion.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Father Farry on his lengthy and influential career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 109, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in our nation's capital. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure has not only raised substantial funds for breast cancer research, but serves as a day to pay tribute to the loved ones we've lost, empower those who have survived, and support those who continue to battle this disease. Like many other Americans, my family has been touched by breast cancer. But due to advances in treatment, greater awareness, and increases in early detection, we can now fight this disease head on and bring new hope to the mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and friends that are diagnosed each year.

Susan G. Komen unfortunately lost her battle with breast cancer, but her story and her sister's perseverance to put an end to breast cancer once and for all has helped advance research, educate women on the importance of early detection, and bring men and women from all walks of life together to share their stories and struggles with this disease. I was proud to cosponsor this resolution, and partici-

pate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in my own community in Florida.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Congressman DONNELLY, for introducing this important legislation and urge adoption of the resolution.

HONORING MICHAEL KRASOWSKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Krasowski a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING LOTTE SCHILLER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today in honor of my friend Lotte Schiller who passed away on May 4, 2009, just before her 89th birthday. Lotte was well-known in Marin County, California, where she actively promoted the causes she believed in—from art and the public school system to progressive politics and voter education.

Born in Germany in 1920, Lotte was forced to flee to Palestine 14 years later with her Jewish family. She attended the Hebrew Teachers College for Women and then taught school and owned a nursery school in Jerusalem. She married architect Hans Schiller in 1940 and moved to Mill Valley in 1947 when Hans' practice with famed architect Erich Mendelsohn relocated to San Francisco.

With her strong background in education, it is no surprise that Lotte served four terms as a trustee for the Tamalpais Union High School District, including 12 years as President, as well as playing a part on education boards and commissions at the local, state, and national levels. Other affiliations included Family Service Agency of Marin, KQED Community Advisory Committee, National Women's Political Caucus, and the New Voter Education Research Foundation (of which she was a founding member).

Lotte and Hans were both active in the Democratic party, where we shared a commitment to achieving progressive goals. Hans was an architectural activist, who believed in public access to parks and open spaces.

Hans predeceased Lotte in 1998, and she is survived by her children Peter and Anita as well as three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I will miss Lotte Schiller's activism and commitment. Her example inspire many of us and I will carry on, as she would have wished, to promote the causes we shared.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 21st, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 288, 289, 290, and 291 because of the graduation of one of my daughters from high school. The pending matter was H.R. 915, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act. My constituents in Colorado's seventh congressional district deserve safe airways, convenient and affordable passenger aircraft service, and adequately maintained airports. H.R. 915 accomplishes these goals and many others. I am pleased to see it passed the House. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: on rollcall vote 288 (Burgess of Texas amendment) I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 289 (McCaul of Texas amendment) I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 290 (Motion to recommit) I would have voted "no"; and rollcall vote 291 (Final passage) I would have voted "yes."

HONORING 14 CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Fourteen students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, contribute to a larger cause, all while making time for study and friendships as well. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognitions for their efforts.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor these fourteen students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures:

Mr. Chris Neumann of Winsted, Holy Trinity School; Mr. Joshua Putnam of Woodbury, New Life Academy; Mr. Kevin Capp of Andover, Andover High School; Ms. Jacqueline Lee of Becker, Becker High School; Ms. Mysee Chang of Corcoran, Buffalo High School; Mr. Michael Roth of Delano, Delano High School; Mr. Tyler Rausch of Elk River, Elk River Senior High School; Mr. Thomas Linn of Watkins, Kimball Area High School and ALC; Ms. Kayla Ruff of Monticello, Monticello High School; Mr.

Russell O'Fallon of Paynesville, Paynesville Area Secondary School; Ms. Tracy Skluzacek of Cold Spring, Rocori High School; Mr. Jacob Horn of St. Michael, St. Michael-Albertville High School; Ms. Courtney Ledo of Stillwater, Stillwater High School; and Ms. Rebecca Lauer of Albany, Immaculate Conception Academy.

It was best said by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." These students are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota and in our nation. We are looking forward to the successes they will have and the dreams they will follow and, the places they will go.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to illness. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 3, 2009: rollcall vote 298, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Con. Res. 109, Honoring the 20th anniversary of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in the Nation's Capital and its transition to the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure on June 6, 2009, and for other purposes—I would have voted, "aye"; rollcall vote 299, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 471, Expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the combat stress clinic at Camp Liberty, Iraq, on May 11, 2009—I would have voted, "aye".

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION COMMENDING EFFORTS TO TEACH THE HISTORY OF BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO STUDENTS IN ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK IN ORDER TO FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT, AND TOLERANCE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, at a time when there is intense division between Israelis and Palestinians, it is vital that the historical perspectives of both people be taught to both sides. While forces and events pull people in the Middle East away from each other, dedicated teachers in Israel and the West Bank are helping their students to confront their apprehensions and prejudices through better understanding of the "other."

By teaching Palestinians about the Holocaust and Israeli-Jews about the Palestinian perspective of the 1948 war, the children in the region will hopefully grow to understand better, and fear less, those with whom they share the Holy Land. It is those kinds of initiatives that exemplify the small steps needed to be taken on the long road to peace. Let us

recognize them and encourage others to do the same. Thank you.

CO-SPONSORS OF LEGISLATION

The Honorable Brian Baird, The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, The Honorable Steve Cohen, The Honorable Keith Ellison, The Honorable Sam Farr, The Honorable Bob Filner, The Honorable Maurice Hinchey, The Honorable Michael Honda, The Honorable Dennis Kucinich, The Honorable Barbara Lee, The Honorable Jim McGovern, The Honorable John Olver, The Honorable Nick Rahall, and The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark.

HONORING NATHAN WHITLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Whitlock a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA
FAIRNESS RESTORATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the IDEA Fairness Restoration Act to clarify Congressional intent and help parents of students with disabilities ensure that their children have access to the free and appropriate education guaranteed by this Congress in 1975. I thank Mr. SESSIONS, who joins me in offering this bill, for his work on this important issue.

It is vitally important that parents and schools cooperate and collaborate to educate our nation's children. When Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it recognized the value of this partnership in special education. For the most part, this relationship has worked very well. But occasionally, the school system cannot or does not provide an appropriate education. In those rare cases, the Congress recognized that parents should have the ability to challenge the school's decision and advocate for a new Individual Education Plan.

As both school systems and parent build their cases, they bring expert witnesses to assess the student and testify about the quality of the education plan. In 1986, when Congress amended IDEA, it explained in the Conference Report that when parents win their case, a judge could award attorney's fees, including, and I quote, "reasonable expenses

and fees of expert witnesses and the reasonable costs of any test or evaluation which is found to be necessary for the preparation of the parent or guardian's case." For years, prevailing parents were awarded expert witness fees, as Congress intended. But unfortunately, while Congress was very clear in its explanation of the bill, it did not include this provision in the legislative language. In 2006, the provision was challenged and the Supreme Court ruled that because Congress did not make its intention explicit in statute, courts could no longer award these fees.

IDEA guarantees students with disabilities a free and appropriate education. But, as a result of this decision, parents can be faced with many thousands of dollars of expert witness fees in order to ensure their child gets the education plan he needs. A single expert witness can charge anywhere from \$100–\$300 per hour. Confronted with these costs, parents are discouraged or outright barred from bringing meritorious cases to secure the rights of their children. Low-and middle-income families are particularly hard hit.

Today, I introduce a bill to clarify Congress's intent and restore the expert witness fee provisions. It will allow parents to recover the high cost of expert witnesses if, and only if, they win their dispute with the school district. I want to be very clear—this bill does not impose any additional costs on school districts that comply with IDEA. The provisions apply only when a school system has been found, after an impartial hearing, to have wrongfully denied a child an appropriate education as defined in IDEA.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that we keep the promise of IDEA and provide every child with a free and appropriate education. This bill will level the playing field and help parents be effective advocates for their children's best interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall 293, H.J. Res. 40, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for this measure.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECALOGUE SOCIETY ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker I rise today to thank and congratulate the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, which this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1934 to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance, the Decalogue Society has a proud record of achievement. It is the oldest Jewish Bar Association in the United States, representing the values and concerns of the Jewish community

while working to protect the rights and privileges of all Americans.

All of us are proud to be a nation of laws, and we strive to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not just a motto but a reality. The Decalogue Society recognizes that lawyers play an essential role in maintaining a free society committed to equal justice. It works to ensure that we as a nation understand and value the role of the legal profession in reaching that goal, even as its lawyers participate in social action and cooperate in diverse movements for the public welfare.

Access to competent legal representation is an essential ingredient for making sure that the laws of the land are just and fairly enforced. The Decalogue Society extends critical educational and financial support to those lawyers who work to end discrimination and represent the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The Decalogue Foundation was created in the 1960s to provide scholarships for deserving law students. It has established nine endowment funds at the Hebrew University Law School and six Chicago-area law schools. It also provides free continuing legal education to assist members and non-members alike in becoming better informed lawyers.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Decalogue Society for its commitment to the ideals of religious freedom and racial tolerance and for its efforts to encourage and assist those women and men who want to pursue future legal careers in public service. Chicago, Illinois and the United States all benefit from its activities and from its commitment to the principles of law and equality.

MARISSA GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marissa Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marissa Garcia is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marissa Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marissa Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF F. P. SIEDENTOPF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this oppor-

tunity to recognize the life and service of Frederick Paul Siedentopf. A 31-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Siedentopf passed away on May 25th, Memorial Day. He served with honor and distinction as an avionics technician throughout the later part of the 20th Century including active roles during the Vietnam War and the Cold War. His service and commitment to this Nation earned him broad respect by his fellow Marines as well as the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Following his retirement as a Master Gunnery Sergeant in 1990, Siedentopf was determined to continue to give back to his country. He remained active in numerous community organizations as well as being an avid contributor to local newspapers with his frequent letters to the editor. The people of Beaufort, South Carolina were honored to have had an individual of Siedentopf's character as part of their community for several years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Judy, their two daughters, Cindy and Debra, two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. As we paused to recognize the service and sacrifice of so many brave Americans on Memorial Day, it is fitting that we remember the lifetime of service by Frederick Paul Siedentopf. Our Nation is blessed to have men and women of such commitment and love for their country.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE REGIONAL WINNERS OF THE AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION'S 2009 NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the regional winners of the American Advertising Federation's 2009 National Student Advertising Competition.

Of the 142 schools that participated in this year's contest, 18 regional winners are gathering during the first week of June in our nation's capital for the final competition. The teams proudly represent the following distinguished colleges and universities: the University of California, Berkeley; Johnson & Wales University; The George Washington University; Syracuse University; University of Virginia; Florida State University; Ohio University; Columbia College Chicago; Northwood University; The University of Alabama; University of Minnesota; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Texas Tech University; Portland State University; Art Center Design College-Tucson; Hawai'i Pacific University; Chapman University; and Texas Christian University.

This highly respected contest is the nation's leading competitive program to showcase emerging student talent in the advertising field. Each year, student advertising clubs at colleges and universities across the nation compete to create a winning integrated advertising campaign for the competition's sponsor.

The 2009 competition challenge is particularly innovative. For the first time in the 36 year history of the competition, the students

are being asked to tackle a social issue via public service advertising. This year's contest is focused on preventing binge drinking—a dangerous activity commonplace on many college and university campuses that all too often leads to grave and tragic consequences.

To understand how serious of a problem this is, you need only look at recent statistics. According to the Monitoring The Future Study, 40 percent of college students reported binge drinking in the past year. Tragically, this alarming statistic has remained relatively unchanged since 1993. In addition, numerous studies confirm excessive drinking by college students can lead to difficulty concentrating, memory lapses, mood changes as well as other problems that impact a person's daily life. Binge drinking also carries more serious risks such as alcohol poisoning, and physical and mental health issues such as lower brain function, personality changes, depression and even alcoholism.

I commend the competition sponsor and organizers for tackling this importance issue that jeopardizes the health and safety of so many of our young people. This year's competition was made possible due to the collaborative efforts of the Century Council, the competition's sponsor, the Ad Council and the American Council on Education.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the competition's national finals in the Washington, D.C. area June 4–5, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing these remarkable students for their contribution to attacking the critical issue of binge drinking and for their talents, creativity and hard work. Each team spent many months developing their concepts, testing their messages on campus and creating evaluation criteria. Their winning concepts will not only provide fresh and innovative ideas for a communications campaign, but will also help us to better understand how to fight this serious problem. It is also my hope that long after this year's competition ends the participants and their universities will continue their work on this topic by sharing their messages with fellow students. Together, we can save lives by reducing binge drinking on college campuses.

IN HONOR OF VENTURA COUNTY
UNDERSHERIFF CRAIG HUSBAND

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Craig Husband, Undersheriff for the Ventura County, California, Sheriff's Department, who retires Friday after more than 32 years with the department and 10 years as Undersheriff.

During his tenure, Undersheriff Husband made his mark on literally every aspect of the Sheriff's Department. His assignments have included custody, patrol, personnel, narcotics and crime prevention. He has commanded the Sheriff's Training Academy and the Major Crimes and Narcotics Bureaus.

In 1997, Husband became Chief of Police for the City of Camarillo, which contracts with the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. Chief Husband developed, implemented or expanded National Night Out,

Neighborhood Watch, Stranger Danger, Mobile Police Storefronts, Kidprint, Citizen Patrol, foot patrol, bike patrol, horse patrol, the Citizen Academy and tactical crime analysis, among other programs.

In June of 1999, he was appointed Undersheriff. In that post, second only to the Sheriff, Husband oversees a \$200 million budget and a 1,200-person department with 750 sworn peace officers. Undersheriff Husband's responsibilities also include the coordination of the Sheriff's Department's four divisions—Detention Services, Patrol Services, Special Services and Support Services. These four divisions include the jails, court security, five patrol contract cities, disaster preparedness, the Air Unit and Search and Rescue.

Undersheriff Husband's commitment and professionalism has not gone unnoticed. Sheriff Bob Brooks was recently quoted as calling Undersheriff Husband a "loyal and helpful partner and friend" whom he would trust with his life.

Undersheriff Husband serves as a volunteer on numerous boards, including the Camarillo Healthcare District, Camarillo Breakfast Rotary and the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club. He was selected as the 1999 Public Servant of the Year by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

He was named the Tri-Counties Narcotics Officer of the Year and the State of California (region 6) Narcotics Officer of the Year. He also was awarded the Medal of Merit for bravery and is a lifetime member of the Professional Baseball Players Association. Undersheriff Husband holds a sixth-degree black belt and is considered one of the foremost authorities of that discipline in the world.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Undersheriff Craig Husband for his decades of dedication, professionalism and service to the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and the people it serves, and in wishing Craig and his wife, Cecilia, a long and productive retirement.

AUSTIN GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Austin Gallegos who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Austin Gallegos is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Austin Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Austin Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

WESLEY WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wesley Wilson of Weston, Missouri. Wesley is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING MAYOR ANDY
WAMBSGANSS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great friend and tremendous public servant, former Mayor Andy Wambsganss, for his years of service to the City of Southlake and the North Texas region.

Since assuming the mayor's office in 2003, Mayor Wambsganss guided Southlake with an immense degree of dedication, passion and competence. He served as mayor for nine years, from 2003 to 2009, and prior to his mayoral tenure he served on the Southlake City Council, as Mayor Pro Tem, and as a judge in the community. Andy has always strived to better his community, and his broad experience served his constituents well.

Under Andy's principled leadership and sound management, the City of Southlake experienced tremendous economic growth while at the same time maintained the city's unique small town charm. He managed the city with great efficiency and responsible fiscal discipline. Andy selflessly served the City of Southlake for many years, and his positive impact on the city will long endure in the future.

Throughout the years, Andy Wambsganss contributed his expertise to many local and regional organizations. He was President of Southlake Crime Control and Prevention; on the Southlake Teen Court Board of Directors; Director of the Airport YMCA; Director of Metroport Cities Fellowship; member of the Tarrant County Mayor's Forum; member of the Northeast Leadership Forum; and much more.

Andy Wambsganss is a longtime resident of Southlake, a kind and apt public servant, and a family man. His wife, Leigh, and their two boys, are involved in many community and philanthropic endeavors.

It is a distinct privilege to call Andy a friend of mine. He has been an outstanding public servant to the City of Southlake and his honest leadership will be sorely missed. On behalf

of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my sincere appreciation to Andy Wambsganss and wish him the very best of luck in the future.

THE PASSING OF MS. KOKO TAYLOR, THE "QUEEN OF THE BLUES" JUNE 4, 2009

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of one of my most prestigious constituents, from Country Club Hills, Ms. Koko Taylor the "Queen of the Blues". Ms. Taylor passed away yesterday afternoon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

For more than 40 years, Koko Taylor's powerhouse vocals have thrilled audiences, from little bars in Chicago's South Side to giant international festivals. Ms. Taylor has been described by Rolling Stone as "the great female blues singer of her generation."

She's been in movies, on television, on radio and in print all over the world and has received just about every award the blues world has to offer, including 29 Blues Music Awards, and a Grammy Award in 1984. I personally had the privilege of presenting the National Endowment of the Arts National Fellowship Award to Ms. Taylor in 2004.

Undoubtedly, Ms. Taylor's contributions to the music world have been innumerable. I am deeply saddened by her passing and I rise today to honor her many achievements and offer my condolences to her family, friends, and fans across the country.

ALEXANDRIA HAFKEY-HAIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandria Hafkey-Haight who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexandria Hafkey-Haight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LORRAINE BERGMAN ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE TEMPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lorraine Bergman, who was recently named Business Woman of the Year by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Bergman is currently the President and CEO of Caliente Construction, a company originally started by her late husband Thomas Bergman. After his passing in 2005, Lorraine stepped up and rebuilt the company herself. Under her leadership, Caliente Construction has more than doubled in its percentage of growth and in number of employees. The success of this local business was previously recognized by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce when Lorraine received the Business Excellence Award in 2008.

In addition to the success of her own company, Lorraine has made many contributions to the surrounding business community. She is a founding member of Advancing Women in Construction, as well as the East Valley Branch of Fresh Start, a program that assists women whose lives have been impacted by traumatic events. Lorraine is a graduate of both the Gilbert and Tempe Leadership programs whose experience, dedication and body of work truly deserve to be honored.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Lorraine Bergman's many contributions to our community.

THE DEDICATION OF THE SAN BENITO MEMORIAL PARK AND MEMORIAL FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park on Saturday, June 6 where a memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender stands.

Born Baldemar Garza Huerta on June 4, 1937, in San Benito, Texas, Freddy Fender was the son of Serapio and Margarita Garza Huerta, a laborer and migrant farm worker. He was the eldest of nine children.

The love of music came early to young Balde, as everyone called him then. He was only five years old when he acquired an old three-string backless guitar which he quickly learned to play. He may have come from a very poor upbringing, but his optimism was undeniable, using music as a means to make life happier. "Music always made it better," as he would say.

The family would follow the seasonal crops for harvesting. They traveled north to work beets in Michigan, bale hay and pick tomatoes in Indiana, harvest cucumbers in Michigan and onions in New Mexico. Then, it was back home to San Benito for the winter where he spent time entering and winning talent contests.

Baldemar Huerta's professional career was ignited in November 6, 1956, as El Bebop Kid, when he originally recorded Spanish-language versions of Don't Be Cruel and Holy One, hits in Texas, Mexico and South America, that reflected his unique fusion of love songs and rock 'n roll. For a short time he also recorded under the names of Scotty Wayne and Eddie Medina.

He signed with Imperial Records in 1959 after taking the name Fender from the neck of his Fender guitar and Freddy because it sounded good. He first recorded his mega-hit, Wasted Days and Wasted Nights in 1959.

Fender is credited with being the first American Hispanic Rock & Roll recording artist in Anglo Latino music history. He was also the first Mexican-American artist to cross over into mainstream pop and country music, and with introducing Tex-Mex music into the American and world music scene.

Freddy Fender was more than just an artist; he was my dear friend who I had the honor of knowing and working with for many years. Through this dedication, we pay tribute to a man who traveled around the world singing songs that brought smiles and joy to the lives of many, including myself. Freddy never forgot where he was from—his roots and upbringings remained intact throughout his professional career as a singer.

Today, we remember him through his songs, his spirit and his love for the Rio Grande Valley, especially San Benito.

On October 14, 2006, we all lost a dear friend, companion, singer, and San Benito native, when Freddy went to be with the Lord. Before his passing, he asked his beloved wife, Vangie, that he wanted to return to San Benito to be buried. His wish was carried out and that is why we stand here today in honor of a man that encompasses the true meaning of success through hard work, dedication and determination.

Most recently, the San Benito Economic Development Corporation funded this project, budgeting about \$250,000 for the construction of the monument in honor of Freddy. The San Benito Memorial Park will be home to 300 resting souls, including Freddy, who was the first one to be buried there.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park and the memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF SID CAUSEY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Hanover County Sheriff Sid Causey. As Sheriff Causey prepares to retire on July 1, 2009, I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and honorable career of service.

Sheriff Causey began his career in 1970 with the Carolina Beach Police Department, and then moved to the sheriff's office in 1973. In 1978, he moved to the county Alcoholic Beverage Control board, then returned to the sheriff's office in 1986. For seventeen years, he effectively commanded the office's vice

narcotics unit and since being elected as the New Hanover County Sheriff in 2002, drug control has been his priority, and he has made major strides in reducing this underlying cause of crime within the community. I am inspired by his courage in the fight against drugs, and I salute him for his many contributions and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Sid Causey has served in New Hanover County law enforcement for over 39 years and done so with distinction. As he prepares to close the final chapter of his career, I wish Sheriff Causey and his family God's richest blessings. I ask that you join me today in recognition of his impressive career of enduring public service.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE
451ST CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion out of Pasadena, Texas, and welcome them home from their most recent deployment in Afghanistan. While they returned last fall, this Saturday, June 6, will be their Welcome Home Ceremony, and I look forward to attending to thank them personally for their service to our country.

As a civil affairs unit, the 451st was broken up into smaller groups across Afghanistan. Over the July 4, 2008 break I led a "Texas" Congressional Delegation visit to Afghanistan with Congressmen MICHAEL MCCAUL, HENRY CUELLAR, and myself. We visited several of the forward operating bases, or FOBs, where members of the 451st were stationed with other units. Because they were so spread out across the country, we were only able to visit a few members of the 451st, but being at the FOBs gave us the opportunity to see how primitive areas of Afghanistan can be, and what an impact the work of the 451st made.

When deployed, whether in Afghanistan during their most recent deployment or in their previous deployment to Iraq, the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion serves as a liaison between the military and the host community to better serve their needs and direct aid, supplies, and expertise. While stationed in Afghanistan, the 451st worked with the Afghan government and international humanitarian organizations to rebuild infrastructure and restore stability in areas devastated by war or natural disasters. The teams also worked with representatives from U.S. government agencies such as the State and Agriculture departments and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

As President Obama refocuses our efforts on Afghanistan, the 451st helped lay the groundwork for bringing security and stability to that country by building trust and relationships among the Afghan population, and I am proud we can say the unit is from Pasadena in Texas's 29th Congressional District. After dedicated service to their country, the members of the battalion have returned home. I have the honor of joining with their friends, family, and community in welcoming them this Saturday, June 6.

BRITTANY GENTRY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Gentry who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Gentry is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Gentry is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Gentry for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING DAVID J. APPLEBURY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David J. Applebury a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

H.R. 2703 AND H.R. 2704

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, some of the most powerful military and intelligence satellites in the world are designed and produced in my Congressional District. They are remarkably formidable tools that daily assist our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and are indispensable in learning and thwarting the plans of those who would do us harm.

But imagine, for a moment, what it would be like if one of these satellites were directed on your neighborhood or home, a school or place of worship—and without an adequate legal framework or operating procedures in place

for regulating their use. I daresay the reaction might be that Big Brother has finally arrived and the black helicopters can't be far behind.

Yet this is precisely what the Department of Homeland Security proposes to do in standing up the benign-sounding National Applications Office, or NAO.

Despite objections by the civil liberties community, a series of letters sent by Members of Congress, an established record of opposition by the House Homeland Security Committee and the prior fencing of funds, the DHS has requested funding in the classified annex to its FY2010 budget for the NAO.

The Appropriations Committee has repeatedly expressed skepticism about the need for the NAO, and fenced funding for the office last year. I understand that the Committee intends to send a strong message again this year. I introduce two bills today to stop the Department of Homeland Security from moving ahead with the misguided National Applications Office.

The first bill, introduced with Representative NORM DICKS, prohibits DHS from expending any funds on this office. The second bill de-authorizes the NAO, requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to close the office immediately.

As proposed, the NAO, housed in the DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis, the NAO would manage the tasking of military intelligence satellites over the United States—despite the absence of a clear legal framework, legitimate Posse Comitatus concerns, and even though the Interior Department already has existing circumscribed authority to deploy satellites over large-scale public events or natural disasters.

In its current form, the NAO would enable a group of undefined law enforcement and homeland security "users" greater access to imagery collection capabilities of the intelligence community—purportedly to supplement data already available during disasters or to aid in "investigations." It would serve as a clearinghouse for requests by law enforcement, border security, and other domestic homeland security agencies to access real-time, high-quality feeds from spy satellites. Except law enforcement officials haven't asked for the additional capability and major law enforcement organizations do not believe it is necessary.

The new DHS leadership has assured me in my role as the Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Terrorism Risk Assessment that the issue is under review. Although Congress last year withheld most funding for the NAO, the Department has again budgeted for the office (the exact amount is classified) without prior notification of the relevant congressional committees.

Well, not if we can help it.

Today, we introduce legislation to shut down the NAO—period.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT
JUSTIN DUFFY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Army Sergeant Justin Duffy, a proud son of Nebraska who lost his life earlier this week. Sgt.

Duffy was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle in eastern Baghdad.

Sergeant Duffy was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He had served in Iraq since November, where he provided escort security for a general, a colonel and other high-ranking Army officers.

Sergeant Duffy graduated from Cozad High School and then the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a criminal justice degree. He rose to supervisor at a Kearney manufacturing plant before joining the Army in May 2008.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Sgt. Duffy's family and friends. He was known as "The Shepherd" because of his concern for others. This trait drove him to protect even those he didn't know.

We all owe Sgt. Duffy a debt of gratitude we can never repay. His courage, love of family, and strength should set the bench mark for us all.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST P. KLINE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest "Ernie" P. Kline, the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and a tireless public servant.

Since his days as Class President of Rostraver High School, Ernie always took charge to organize and lead in the groups of which he was a member.

Ernie was indefatigable in his work for the people of Pennsylvania. Beginning his political career as a councilman in the City of Beaver Falls, PA, Ernie was elected to the State Senate in 1965 and then as Lieutenant Governor in 1970.

As Lieutenant Governor, Ernie chaired commissions on education and energy, showing his devotion toward creating a better world for future Pennsylvanians.

Beyond public life, Ernie and his beloved wife Josephine were always involved in the community, be it establishing the Ronald McDonald House of Hershey Medical Center or umpiring softball games. Ernie was also president of Kline Associates Ltd., a government consulting firm, which allowed him to continue to serve the State of Pennsylvania after leaving elected office.

Devoted to his Catholic faith, the Democratic Party, and his country, Ernest P. Kline was committed to serving the Commonwealth. Madam Speaker, please join me, Congressman HOLDEN, and all Pennsylvanians, in honoring this great man, whose public service legacy will be fondly remembered by many.

SAVANNAH GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savannah Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Savannah Garcia is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savannah Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Savannah Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 248TH MEDICAL
COMPANY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 248th Medical Company, which is scheduled for deployment to Balad, Iraq on Friday, June 5, 2009, after a month of training at Fort Lewis in Washington State. The 248th is stationed at the Marietta National Guard Armory in my hometown, Marietta, Georgia. As a physician, this group of citizen soldiers holds a special place in my heart as their primary mission while in Iraq will be to treat any medical problems or issues that their fellow troops may experience. The unit includes doctors, nurses and physician assistants who will trade their white lab coats for Army green fatigues to help care for those on the frontlines in the Global War on Terror.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the courage and bravery of each member of the 248th and thanking them for their service to this country. Know that you and your families will be in our thoughts and prayers, and please do not hesitate to contact my office if there is any way that we can assist you over the next twelve months. God Bless you and your families and God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARKS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bill to authorize the seven National Environmental Research Parks (NERPs) at Department of Energy (DOE) sites, including the Los Alamos Environmental Research Park in my district. These parks are unique outdoor laboratories that offer secure settings for long-term research on a broad range of subjects including, wildlife biology, ecology, climate change effects, environmental remediation, and maintenance of freshwater ecosystems. The parks also provide rich environments for training future researchers and

introducing the public to environmental sciences. They are located within six major ecological regions of the United States which cover more than half of the nation.

In the mid-1970s, DOE developed a policy for current and future research parks. The mission of the parks is to: conduct research and education activities to assess and document environmental effects associated with energy and weapons use; explore methods for eliminating or minimizing adverse effects of energy development and nuclear materials on the environment; train people in ecological and environmental sciences; and educate the public. The Parks maintain several long-term data sets that are available nowhere else in the U.S. or in the world on amphibian populations, bird populations, and soil moisture and plant water stress. These data are uniquely valuable for understanding wildlife biology, ecology, and for the detection of long-term shifts in climate.

The federal government's interest in and need for ecological research evolved after World War II as we sought security and safety by producing nuclear weapons in isolated regions surrounded by large buffer zones of undeveloped land. DOE's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, AEC, recognized a need to track both radioactive fallout from the testing of nuclear weapons and inadvertent radioactive releases from nuclear weapons production facilities into the environment. Out of the radionuclide research grew new technologies for quantifying the movement of natural materials such as nutrients and fluids and of introduced pollutants through the ecosystem. The maintenance of the Parks by DOE conforms with statutory obligations to promote sound environmental stewardship of federal lands and to safeguard sites containing cultural and archeological resources.

In 1972 AEC established the first NERP at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The plan for a research park emerged during a formal review of the environmental research activities at Savannah River. The review team consisted of scientists, representatives from other Federal agencies, and members of the newly formed President's Council on Environmental Quality.

The Los Alamos NERP was designated in 1973. Its 40 square miles include the entire site of Los Alamos National Laboratory and a landscape of canyons, mesas, mountains, and the Rio Grande providing a diverse range of ecosystems to explore. The Park's ongoing environmental studies include: interaction between its local ecosystems and the hydrologic cycle; contaminant transport; elk, deer, and raptor population dynamics; landfill cap performance; woodland productivity; and long-term data sets developed to monitor climate change effects, soil moisture, and fire ecology providing valuable baseline reference information. Over 125 publications related to the ecology and interaction between lab operations and the environment have been written about Los Alamos and the Pajarito Plateau it rests on.

The National Environmental Research Parks have been conducting critical activities for our nation and the world's environmental research portfolio for decades. They are one of our nation's most valuable environmental research assets, and it is time for them to be recognized in law and explicitly provided the resources they need to continue their valuable work. This legislation offers guidance for the

Parks' research and monitoring programs as well as their education and outreach activities, and it authorizes a small amount of core funding needed to support their important work. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both parties and both Chambers of Congress to bring this bill to the President's desk as soon as possible.

HONORING ANNUAL SUSAN G.
KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 109, honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in the Nation's Capital and its transition to the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure on June 6, 2009. I'd like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and the gentleman from Virginia, Representative CONNOLLY, for bringing this resolution to the Floor today. It is my strong hope that twenty years from today we will be celebrating the cure and marveling at all the lives that have been saved.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women worldwide, with more than 1.3 million diagnosed each year. It is also the leading cause of death among women, 465,000 die each year worldwide. Breast cancer is a disease that knows no boundaries based on age, ethnicity, geographic location or socio-economic status. Fortunately, the United States has 2.5 million breast cancer survivors and we need to work together to educate our community and encourage participation in screenings and mammograms.

Madam Speaker, Nancy Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything possible to eradicate breast cancer. By launching Susan G. Komen for the Cure in 1982, a movement began and more than \$1.3 billion in breast cancer research, education, and community health services has been invested by this organization. Today, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the largest grassroots network fighting breast cancer and is led by thousands of survivors. Local activists are present in 125 communities and have mobilized one million friends for events such as the Komen Race for the Cure. Komen is a unique organization where 75 percent of the net proceeds stay in the communities where they were raised. The remaining 25 percent of the funds are given to Komen's National Grant Program, an innovative leader in breast cancer research. Because of publicly and privately funded research, the five-year survival rate for women with localized breast cancer has increased. In the 1950s, the survival rate was 80 percent and last year the survival rate grew to 98 percent. Last year, the Komen Race for the Cure raised an unprecedented \$3.7 million in the National Capital area. As the National Race for the Cure becomes the Global Race for the Cure, we will work with our partners around the world to eradicate breast cancer, a disease that affects everyone in some way.

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Race for the Cure in the Nation's Capital, we

will not rest until a cure is found. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 109 and honor the women and men who have lost their lives to breast cancer, and celebrate the survivors and friends who are participating in the Global Race for the Cure. I yield the remainder of my time.

SAMANTHA GREEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samantha Green who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Samantha Green is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samantha Green is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Samantha Green for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT 197 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Minnesota Independent School District 197 (ISD197) on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. For nearly as long as Minnesota has been a state, the school district has provided high quality public education to generations of students in what are now the communities of West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Eagan and Inver Grove Heights.

In 1852, pioneers began to settle in the area now known as the city of West St. Paul. In 1856, the township of West St. Paul and the village of Mendota Heights were formed. As families grew, the need for schools to provide public education for their children became clear. Early on, twelve students were taught by Miss Margaret Brown in the first single-room schoolhouse built in 1859 near what is now the border of West St. Paul and Mendota Heights. The school was relocated in 1863 to the current site of Somerset Elementary School on land donated by Minnesota's first Governor, Henry Sibley. By 1957, schools had grown so large in West St. Paul, Mendota Heights and Eagan, that they were consolidated into Independent School District 197.

For 150 years, the public schools serving West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale,

Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Eagan, and Inver Grove Heights have given our children the ability to learn, grow, and follow the American dream. Today, the school district operates five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school, serving approximately 4,500 students in the surrounding communities. In keeping with the spirit of the early pioneers who traveled the world to settle in this part of Minnesota, students in the district come from all over the world, speaking more than a dozen languages. Faculty, staff, and the community are all working hard to prepare students to compete globally in the 21st Century.

This past April, I had the opportunity to tour several schools in the district with Superintendent Jay Haugen. I visited classes with teachers and students ready and eager to learn and also saw inventive programs such as a lunchroom reuse and recycling project at Heritage Middle School that won a national Energy Star Award.

Public education in our schools is an integral part of our community and our nation, providing a world class opportunity for young people to become engaged citizens who will support a strong democracy and compete in an international economy.

Today in honor of the students, parents, families, community members, teachers and staff in ISD197 public schools, I submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I would like to personally congratulate the school district for 150 years of providing high quality public education in our community, and look forward to celebrating milestones in public education in the years to come.

FILM AND TELEVISION
EXPENSING LEGISLATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague from California, Congressman DAVID DREIER, to introduce legislation to amend Federal tax law to allow for the immediate tax write-off of the first \$15 million (or \$20 million in those select cases where the production is made in a distressed community) of production expenditures for qualifying domestic film and television productions.

This provision, Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code, was first enacted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 and extended in 2008. It was added to protect the U.S. television and film industry that is increasingly filming in foreign locations, such as Canada.

In so doing, Congress recognized the important contribution our television and film production industries make to sustaining jobs in communities across the country. These productions provide good jobs not just for actors, writers and directors, but also for the local carpenters and electricians, the drivers and equipment operators, the caterers and hotel keepers who provide services to these productions.

Adoption of Section 181 also represented Congressional recognition of the fact that this vital sector faces increasing competition from foreign production companies whose governments subsidize television and film production.

In 2001, the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration reported that made-for-television production of "movies of the week" in the U.S. had declined by 33 percent since 1995 and that production at foreign locations increased by 55 percent.

The Directors Guild of America noted at the time that "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time.

The incentive accelerates the timing of deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers and other production staff personnel. The deduction applies to the first \$15 million (\$20 million for productions in low income communities or distressed area or isolated area of distress) of a qualified film or television production. The cost of the production above the dollar limitation is capitalized and recovered under the taxpayer's method of accounting.

I believe that this was an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. In the last decades, New York City and in particular my home borough of Queens has seen a resurgent television and film production sector bring new jobs and revenue into the community. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The Center for Entertainment Industry Data and Research's Year 2005 Production Report concluded that Section 181 "is having a positive effect on television production in the U.S." Since 2004, it reported that made-for-television movie production in the U.S. increased by 42 percent, while it fell in Canada by 15 percent.

Along with my Republican sponsor, Congressman DAVID DREIER of California and myself who hails from Queens, New York, the television and film industries are both major employers and major tax providers to our local, state and national economies. This legislation works to protect these industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations.

Section 181 will expire in 2009. It ought to be made a permanent provision of our tax code in order to keep television and film production jobs in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE BUDDY CAMP
OF ALEXANDRIA, LA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Buddy Camp of Alexandria, La., for enhancing the quality of life for many of this community's youth. I am privileged to have such a dedicated and compassionate group of individuals in my district.

Buddy Camp was founded by Stacey Debevic for her own son, Kyle Debevic, who is bound to a wheelchair. Working as a pediatric occupational therapist and as the mother of a physically limited child, Stacey noticed there was little to no opportunity for children with disabilities to enjoy the experience of attending summer camp.

After many years of planning, Buddy Camp was officially launched in the summer of 1999. Today, Buddy Camp is a community-wide project that allows children ages 5–12, both with and without developmental challenges, to participate in a week-long summer day camp. Held at the United Methodist Church of Alexandria, the camp places participants into buddy pairs to foster and develop friendships, as well as build confidence.

As Buddy Camp looks forward to celebrating its 10th anniversary, the number of young people that have truly benefitted from the unique opportunities this program provides continues to grow.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the Buddy Camp.

HONORING ARON MICHAEL WALLIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aron Michael Wallis a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HOPE
FRANKLIN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, Dr. John Hope Franklin. As we grieve his loss, we also celebrate his life and commitment to bettering his world as a distinguished scholar, historian, author, professor, and man of rare and outstanding character.

Madam Speaker, during his 94 remarkable years, John Hope Franklin worked for equality and understanding, and his immeasurable contributions to the world in these capacities shall never fade. We will not forget the goodness, humility, and passionate giving that defined the life of John Hope Franklin. As we

mourn his loss, may God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CA-
THEDRAL IN BROWNSVILLE,
TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral with a celebration scheduled on June 8 in Brownsville, Texas.

The Immaculate Conception Cathedral, the Diocese of Brownsville's most historical church, traces its roots to a small wooden church that served as the first church in Brownsville.

In 1850, Father Adrien Pierre Telmon, one of the first Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to come to Brownsville, built a small wooden church between Adams and Jefferson streets that accommodated about 300 people. The first mass was celebrated on June 29, 1850, and three years later Father Jean Marie Casimir Verdet started the design and construction of a larger church to replace the temporary wooden structure.

The cornerstone to the cathedral was laid on July 6, 1856, and over 250,000 clay bricks were made for the church in the village of Santa Rosalia, about three miles east of the old town site of Brownsville.

The church was completed in 1859 and blessed by Father Augustin Gaudet on June 12, 1859; 10 years after the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate first arrived in the Valley. The church was credited with being the largest in Texas at the time. The rectory behind the church was the site of the first Texas Oblate seminary and served as a haven for priests fleeing revolutions in Mexico.

The historical church was elevated to a cathedral in 1874 when the large Texas diocese was divided and the Vicariate Apostolic of Brownsville was established. It remained as such until 1912 when the Vicariate Apostolic of Brownsville was converted into the Dioceses of Corpus Christi.

The Immaculate Conception church was designated a Cathedral again in 1965 by Bishop Adolph Marx upon the creation of the Diocese of Brownsville. The church, built in a Gothic Revival style, became a reality through the generous contributions of its parishioners throughout the years. The utmost care and detail went into the construction of the church. The ceiling is of specially prepared canvas painted blue, and at one time it was covered with gold stars. The pulpit was built in native Mesquite by a local cabinetmaker and a concealed spiral stair provided access to the pulpit.

In 1970, the original altar, rail and two chan-deliers were removed from the cathedral in an effort to modernize the church when the present altar was built. Time has taken its toll on this historic church. However, just as early Catholics came to its aid in its early days, they are doing the same in the twenty-first century.

Today this historic Cathedral continues to beckon Catholics through its doors. Thousands of Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals have been celebrated there.

And for many years, generations of generations of residents of Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley have called the Immaculate Conception Cathedral home. I am honored that this beautiful cathedral is located in the 27th Congressional District of Texas, which I so humbly represent.

I join the Diocese of Brownsville, the residents of the city and the Rio Grande Valley in celebrating the cathedral's anniversary.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, Texas, on the tip of South Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border.

HONORING THE CARTERSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE
2009 GHSA STATE BASEBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a very talented group of young men from Cartersville in Georgia's 11th District. This past weekend, the Cartersville High School Purple Hurricanes claimed the Class AAA Georgia High School Association State Baseball Championship. Success on the baseball diamond is nothing new for Cartersville High School, which has won back to back state titles and claimed five championships since 2001. However, this year's title win was extra sweet, as the Canes rallied back from a 7-5 deficit to win Game 3 of the championship series—defeating the Columbus Blue Devils, who were the 3rd ranked team in the nation, by a final score of 10-7.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Coach Stuart Chester and the Cartersville High School Baseball Team for their successful season as well as the hard work that got them there. And with a team that has made winning a tradition and brought home two straight state championships, the next question is can Cartersville make it a three-peat?

HONORING JOHN GILBERT STRONG

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to honor Mr. John Gilbert Strong of Petaluma, who passed away on April 25, 2009, at the age of 67. John spent much of his life dedicating his time and resources to addressing humanitarian issues at home and around the world.

As a member of the Petaluma Valley Rotary, John presided as Club President and District Governor. His altruistic endeavors included a number of Rotary projects, which included supporting the Cool Kids Camp for

Abused Children, providing furniture to schools in Guatemala and facilitating Rotary Youth Leadership Activities.

His passion for helping others took him on adventures around the world. He promoted economic self-sufficiency in Thailand and Vietnam and built a library in a Central American village.

He had limitless compassion and supported projects benefitting people in his local community. He provided emergency food relief to firefighters during the Oakland Hills fire, supported the Petaluma Library, and volunteered for the Committee on the Shelterless and the STRIVE program for at-risk youth.

John's generous spirit and engaging leadership led to an impressive list of accolades, including the Rotary Club's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce.

John Strong, who battled Parkinson's later in life, was also a champion for continued research to find a cure for the disease.

In addition to being a role model of civic responsibility, John was a skilled coppersmith. A native of England, he acquired coppersmith skills from working in the shipyards and attending the Liverpool College of Technology. After immigrating to the United States in 1963, he purchased Acme Sheet Metal and later started Copperworks, where he exhibited his talented craftsmanship by creating range hoods and other custom items.

John is survived by his wife, Mamie Strong, his son, Karl Strong, his step-sons Curtis and Bradley Boomhower, as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his step-daughter, Lolita Lynn Boomhower Courts.

Madam Speaker, Mr. John Strong's passion for helping others will live on through those people around the world that he has positively influenced. His legacy will continue to serve as a shining example of the power one person holds to make a positive difference in our world.

MAYRA GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mayra Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mayra Garcia is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mayra Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Mayra Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR VIC
BURGESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of service to the City of Corinth and the North Texas Region.

After a public service career that spans nearly three decades, Vic Burgess retired this year after three terms as Mayor of Corinth, Texas. Prior to being elected Mayor, Mr. Burgess served as the Denton County Judge, as well as City Councilman in Lewisville, Texas.

During his tenure, Mayor Burgess was known for his enthusiasm, dedication and mediation skills. Under his leadership, the City Council worked to stabilize the city's budget and financial reporting. With an eye towards the future, Corinth's development codes became more efficient.

Vic Burgess' service to the community goes beyond elected office. As a concerned citizen, he served on the Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission. His first volunteer duties were as a Reserve Officer for the Lewisville Police Department. He performed duties as a Reserve Officer for the Denton County Sheriff's Department as well. Mayor Burgess is also a man dedicated to family.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Corinth and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington. His service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will endure.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
USAF LT. COL. MARK STRATTON
OF FOLEY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of southwest Alabama's own who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton, a long-time resident of Foley was deployed to Afghanistan in November, where he served as commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. The team worked on civil affairs initiatives with the Afghan population and was building a road to provide access to an isolated mountain region northeast of Kabul. It was here where Mark was killed on Memorial Day, when an improvised explosive device detonated as his convoy was passing.

Mark set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. A graduate of Foley High School in Foley, Mark went on to study at Texas A&M University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1991. He received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps one year after

graduation. Before deploying to Afghanistan, Mark was stationed in Washington, D.C. He served as an executive assistant for the deputy director for Asian politico-military affairs at the Pentagon. In conversations with his friends and family, it was mentioned time and again that Mark was someone who loved God, loved his family, and loved the Air Force. Beyond that, Mark loved the country he served until the very end. His commendations for his service include a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Madam Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County and his comrades in the United States Air Force, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember the many accomplishments of his service to the nation and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

We should also remember his wife, Jennifer; their three young children, Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother, Jan York and her husband Buddy; his brothers, Michael Stratton and Frankie Little; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Charles Province who said, "It is the Soldier, not the minister, who has given us the freedom of religion. It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest. It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the Soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Make no mistake, Mark Stratton was not only a dedicated member of the Air Force who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF
THE 62ND ANNUAL ANNANDALE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AWARDS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce is a thriving volunteer organization with over 200 active members. The members represent businesses, industries and professionals who work together to maintain a favorable business climate while improving the quality of life for all residents.

Each year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce honors a select few who have dis-

tinguished themselves as exemplars of the community. It is my honor to recognize these fine individuals and the contributions that they have made to the community. This year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce has expanded the categories with the addition of an Award of Valor which honors the services of two Public Safety professionals. The following are the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Award Recipients in the Student Category are:

William Law, Northern Virginia Community College

Luis Inarra, Annandale High School

Michell Addington, Falls Church High School
The recipient of the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award is Shel Youtz. Shel has been a cornerstone of the Annandale community. In addition to his reliable presence each year at the Fall Festival, Shel chairs or sponsors events and fundraisers in support of the Student Education Foundation and in support of our military veterans.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded to Lt. Jeff Allen. Lt. Allen is a 22 year veteran of the Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. Throughout his tenure, Lt. Allen has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing leadership and courage during emergencies and other hazardous incidents.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Police Department has been awarded to PFC Kathleen O'Leary. Although PFC O'Leary has been with the force for only 3 years, she has already distinguished herself as an exceptional public servant, placing the needs of the community ahead of her own personal safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Honorees of the 2009 Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and to thank them for their service. Each honoree is a role model for his or her peers and an invaluable member of the community as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THE HANCOCK
COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hancock County Conservation Board on their 50th anniversary. The Hancock County Conservation Board serves over 12,100 citizens in Hancock County in North Central Iowa.

The first board was appointed by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCCB) in 1959. One of HCCB's priorities is to provide park areas and protect the natural areas for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. In the past 50 years they have acquired 4 parks, 15 wildlife areas, 2 wildlife refuges for a total of 21 areas, and 1,211 acres of valuable wildlife habitat.

I applaud HCCB's long history of impressing the importance of conservation from one generation to the next. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in con-

gratulating the Hancock County Conservation Board, Director Tom Haan, and Naturalist Jason Lackore for their fifty years of success, and I wish them an equally storied future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 2nd. Due to inclement weather that caused my connecting flight from Charlotte, North Carolina to Washington on Tuesday, June 2 to be delayed, I missed a series of votes that were held. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 421—recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary (Roll no. 292)—Aye
H.J. Res. 40—to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes (Roll no. 293)—Aye

H. Res. 489—recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on June 3 and 4, 1989 and expressing sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned in connection with the democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and other parts of China on June 3 and 4, 1989 and thereafter (Roll no. 294)—Aye

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TIANANMEN
SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one of the primary reasons that I ran for public office was to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at home and abroad—particularly in China. There is perhaps no greater singular event that compels me to do so than the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 3 and 4, 1989.

On this, the twentieth anniversary of the violent suppression of protesters in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, I express my deepest condolences to the families of those killed and imprisoned in connection with the demonstrations. I urge the Chinese government to immediately review the cases of those still imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests and to release those individuals who were imprisoned solely for exercising their internationally recognized rights to free expression and peaceful assembly.

In many ways the China of 1989 and the China of 2009 are worlds apart. Twenty years ago, no one would have imagined that China would become the world's largest Internet user a mere twenty years later. And yet, even with the power of the Internet to fuel greater transparency, the people of China still face the

same censorship and restrictions of expression.

The U.S. and China must continue to work together to appeal to the better angels of our collective nature and strive not just for prosperity but for freedom.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S SIXTH DISTRICT 2009 CENTURY FARM FAMILIES

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sixth District farms that have been recognized as 2009 Century Farms by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. Being a Century Farm is no easy task. Farms must be at least 50 acres and stay in a continuous family ownership for 10 years. Since the program began in 1976, more than 8,700 Minnesota farms and families have been named a "century farm." As the family farming tradition that made America strong is encroached upon by development and urbanization, this designation becomes an even more significant accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize these farms before this Congress today.

America was founded as an agricultural nation full of hope and promise for bountiful harvests year after year. The families that tilled the first soil on Minnesota's golden plains instilled a work ethic that today's farmers still follow. Two hundred years ago it was not uncommon to have three or even four generations involved with a single farm at any given time. Between sowing and harvest, feeding livestock and maintaining equipment and buildings, farm life was a full time job for entire families. But as the times have changed, to see one family still taking care of the land and homes their parents worked on and lived in is a great a joy. In fact, I can recall the time that I spent living and working on my in-laws' dairy farm in Wisconsin—a farm that my mother-in-law and brothers-in-law still call home.

I rise, Madam Speaker, to honor these families and the past generations that have made this accomplishment possible:

Corrigan family of Foley, since 1909.

Magnuson family of Foley, since 1909.

Burggraff family of Royalton, since 1898.

Bernard J. and Natalie Niewind of Eden Valley, since 1909.

Leilani Rolles of Freeport, since 1883.

Brothers Andrew and Richard Holdvogt of Melrose, since 1907.

Kenneth Schaefer family of Melrose, since 1897.

Harvey and Marilyn Lieser of Paynesville, since 1892.

James A. Moores of Monticello, since 1903.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE MARGUERITE LYLE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danielle Mar-

guerite Lyle for her leadership and commitment to the community that she has displayed in Prince William County.

Since the age of 5, Danielle has been involved in community activities. She has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with local organizations and other community activities. Since then, she has volunteered with numerous organizations such as the Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter, the Arc of Prince William County, senior homes, her local church and other programs. When asked, she says that she loves helping people and the community.

Danielle also knows how to take initiative and lead. She participated in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (Jr. NYLC) in April 2009, and served as President of the Future Leaders Children's Book Club. Danielle has also been recognized for her leadership and intellectual abilities through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program, George Mason University Young Writers summer and weekend workshop, and the University of Virginia Summer Enrichment Program. Along with Danielle's volunteer and leadership accomplishments, she has also received many accolades. These include many semesters on her school's honor roll and winning the Martin Luther King Jr. writing contest for the 5th grade.

With all of this, she still finds time to play the violin and piano, be a member of the Creative and Performing Arts Center and participate in track and field, basketball and gymnastics.

Danielle's accomplishments would be noteworthy for any person. When her current age of 11 is factored in, these accomplishments are nothing short of remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this bright young student and applauding her commitment to volunteerism and leadership. Our communities benefit greatly from the action and dedication of citizens like Danielle.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREY DANILSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Andrey Danilson, a 13-year-old seventh-grade student from Sacred Heart School in Boone, Iowa.

Andrey recently won the Boone Lions Club "Peace Poster Contest." Each day, Sacred Heart students take time to pray, and Andrey has taken it upon himself to focus on peace. Using his passion for art to further the cause for world peace, Andrey's art advanced to the state level of competition after it won the district level.

Adopted from Russia less than four years ago and unable to speak English at the time, Andrey's success in art and dedication to important causes serve as a wonderful example of the promise of today's youth as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Andrey Danilson, his family, teachers and classmates in the United States Congress, and I know that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Andrey on his success and commending him for his devotion to peace and making a positive difference.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT JACQUELINE ARNOLD ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Sergeant Jacqueline F. Arnold on the occasion of her retirement from the Prichard Police Department.

Jacqueline has served the city of Prichard for four decades. She began her career in public service as a crossing guard for Ella Grant Elementary School and later served as an emergency radio dispatcher for the city. In 1977, she made history by becoming Prichard's first female police officer.

Throughout her career, Jacqueline has worked in almost every division, including a patrol officer, detective, and the supervisor of the records division.

In 1996, Jacqueline was assigned as a juvenile officer. She was both a role model to juvenile offenders and an encouraging mother figure to many young people who would otherwise not have had a positive influence in their lives. She was also an inspiration to a number of other female officers, seven of whom followed her example and joined the Prichard Police Department.

In recognition of her many remarkable accomplishments, Jacqueline has been awarded numerous departmental commendations throughout her distinguished career. Last month, Mayor Ron Davis, Prichard City Council members, and Police Chief Lawrence Battiste named Sergeant Jacqueline Davis Officer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Sergeant Jacqueline F. Arnold is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to law enforcement. On behalf of all those who have benefited from her good heart and dedicated service, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts in making Prichard and south Alabama a better place.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of Hamilton Southeastern High School for receiving Honorable Mention at the annual "We the People" Contest recently held here in Washington, D.C. The "We the People" contest is a grueling 3-day-long event where teams of students from every State of the Union and several U.S. Territories compete in a series of simulated congressional hearings to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to

contemporary situations. The event culminates with the Top Ten teams conducting their mock hearings right here on Capitol Hill in either a Senate or House hearing room.

I am proud to say that Indiana teams have made the Top Ten almost every year the competition has been held; and this year will mark Hamilton Southeastern High School's second trip to the Top Ten. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding Hoosiers of Hamilton Southeastern High School, students and staff, for their hard work and dedication to academic excellence. And I ask my colleagues to join with me to congratulate the Hamilton Southeastern High School Team—Teacher Jill Baisinger, and students, Kellie Devore-Gogola; Adam Gauthier; Alex Gillham; Caitlin Graovac; John Holt; Alana Kane; Matthew Knafel; Jaclyn Lauer; Matthew Lymbropoulos; Mark Mace; Samuel Morgan; Eric Ogle; Jonathan Sorg; Julia Strzeskowski; and Mitchell West—for their outstanding performance at the 2009 "We the People" contest. I look forward to next year's competition when I'm sure that Hamilton Southeastern High School will not only be back in the Top Ten but win it all.

HONORING NANCY OLMSTEAD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nancy Olmstead for her dedication to her family and community. Mrs. Olmstead passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at her home in Madera, California after a long battle with cancer.

Nancy Olmstead was born in Des Moines, Iowa to Cecil and Ethel Olson. She worked for Sears for a number of years. In 1970 she went into the insurance business. During her twenty-five-year career in the insurance business, she was a member and past president of the Fresno Life Underwriters Association. Mrs. Olmstead was also an active member of the Madera Republican Party and the California Republican Party.

Mrs. Olmstead is preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Richard and Jerry Olson. She is survived by her husband, John Olmstead; her daughter, Diana Nole of Fresno; her son, Rodney Ede of Springfield, Oregon; and granddaughter, Jennifer Nole of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Nancy Olmstead. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT. DOUGLAS A. RUSTAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize MSG Douglas A. Rustan of Ayrshire, Iowa, as a recipient of a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Free-

dom. The Bronze Star is the fourth highest award that the Department of Defense gives for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Master Sergeant. Rustan earned the Bronze Star while serving at an overseas forward operating base. Master Sergeant. Rustan, a 1982 graduate of Ayrshire High School, is a senior intelligence analyst with 20 years of military service and is assigned to the 70th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, Fort Meade, Laurel, Maryland.

I commend MSG Douglas A. Rustan's courageousness and service to our great nation. His sacrifices go above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this nation. I am honored to represent Master Sergeant. Rustan in the United States Congress and I know that all of the members of this body join me in thanking him for his service to this great nation and wishing him the best in his future service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. ROBERT ERASTUS HANKS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Robert Hanks, known to his many friends as Coach Hanks or Colonel Hanks, was a Jones Mill native and became a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He was in command of the landing craft aboard the USS *Adair* and took part in the invasions Okinawa, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. He earned Bronze Stars for his service.

Following the war, Mr. Hanks returned to Alabama and began a 32 year teaching, coaching, and administration career at Mobile's University Military School (UMS). He earned Master's Degrees in Physical Education and School Administration from the University of Alabama, and while at UMS, he served as a history teacher, football and basketball coach, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

As headmaster, Mr. Hanks supervised the transition from UMS to UMS Preparatory School. He was also a devoted member of Dauphin Way Baptist Church for 60 years where he served as Sunday School director and chairman of the deacons. His influence of integrity, honor, and self discipline shaped the lives of hundreds of individuals.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Mr. Robert Hanks will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 66 years, Katherlin Hanks; his sister, Robbie McEachern; his daughter, Kathy Gault; his son, Dr. Robert Hanks; his grandchildren, Jennifer Dodge, Amy Coggin, Brian Hanks, and Dr. Meredith Gault; his great-grandchildren, Logan, Kate and Abby Dodge, and John Mark, Audrey and Julianne Coggin—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN TRIBUTE TO DABNEY MONTGOMERY, AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dabney Montgomery, a member of the ground crew of the Tuskegee Airmen, who later served as a bodyguard for Martin Luther King during the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Montgomery is being honored by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 237, at an event in my district on Friday, June 5, 2009. Mr. Montgomery is a retired New York City Housing Authority housing assistant.

Mr. Montgomery was born in Selma, Alabama in 1923. He was inducted into the armed forces in 1943 and underwent basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi, followed by a course in the mechanics of army supplies at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was one of three men in his course who were selected for the Army Air Corps in Oscoda, Michigan. By the time he arrived in Michigan, the unit was already packing to ship out. He was assigned to the 1051st Company of the 96th Air Service group, in charge of making sure that the units were supplied with food and clothing.

Tuskegee Institute was awarded the U.S. Army Air Corps contract to help train America's first Black military aviators because it had already invested in the development of an airfield, had a proven civilian pilot training program and its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams. The project was considered an experiment because it was designed to refute a racist 1920s theory that suggested that blacks could not tolerate the sharp curves and dives that were needed to fly a fighter plane. Eleanor Roosevelt was much impressed by the pilots she met at the Tuskegee Institute in 1941, and persuaded her husband to use these talented men in combat missions. With nearly 1,000 pilots and as many as 19,000 support personnel ranging from mechanics to nurses, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with shooting down more than 100 enemy aircraft. Their success paved the way for today's integrated armed forces.

Some members of the Tuskegee Airmen went home and lived quiet lives. Mr. Montgomery went on to become actively involved in the civil rights movement. Mr. Montgomery first met Martin Luther King, Jr. as a student in Boston where Mr. Montgomery studied. They shared the same godmother.

In 1965, Mr. Montgomery was living in New York City, working as a social service investigator for the Welfare Department. One night he saw a news broadcast of blacks being beaten and gassed in Alabama for wanting to vote. Outraged that this could happen in America, he decided to return to Selma to take part in the protests. He took a leave of absence from his job, and arrived in Selma on the bus. He didn't tell his parents or his friends that he was in town, but went directly to the Brown Chapel AME Church, the march headquarters.

Mr. Montgomery had experienced Alabama's discriminatory registration practices himself, and remembers the anger and frustration he felt at being denied the right to vote.

In 1946 when he returned to Selma after the war, he went to the courthouse to register. He was given three forms that had to be signed by three white men testifying that he was “a good boy.” He persuaded three men who knew his father to sign the forms, but that was not sufficient. He also had to show that he owned \$3,000 worth of land—not cash, which he had, but real property. So he gave up. As he walked down the courthouse steps, he met a white veteran going to register to vote. The white man just signed up—no forms, no attestations, no real property. Having experienced the discrimination himself, Mr. Montgomery wanted to change the system. He was moved by having the opportunity to join with the other protesters, where they prayed on the steps of the very courthouse where his registration had been rejected. A sheriff with a large gun came by and advised them to go pray in church. Mr. Montgomery says he told him, “We feel sorry for you. All you have on your side is your gun. We have truth on our side, we have God on our side, and the truth and God will last forever; your gun will disintegrate.”

Mr. Montgomery volunteered to be a bodyguard for Mr. King during the march from Selma to Montgomery. The first time the marchers tried to cross the bridge, they were turned back. A federal court gave permission and more than 3,000 people marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. White people drove by and called them names. Undeterred, they made the 54 mile march that helped bring about the Voting Rights Act saying that all Americans should have the right to vote. In recent years, Mr. Montgomery’s service is earning him honors. In 2007, he and the other surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. On the morning of his inauguration, President Barack Obama had breakfast with the Tuskegee Airman, and Mr. Montgomery was there. He also took part in the reading of the U.S. Constitution at the Newseum. Fittingly, he was given Amendment 24, sections 1 and 2, barring a poll tax. Local 237 President Greg Floyd will present him with a Trailblazer Award at the Retiree Division’s Founders Day celebration tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Dabney Montgomery, an outstanding veteran, hero, civil rights activist and civil servant.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
SAMUEL L. GRAVELY, JR. ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of the Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr. Elementary School in Haymarket, Virginia. The school is named in honor of Vice Admiral Gravelly, a Virginia native, who forged the way for a more diverse United States Navy. I cannot think of a more appropriate person to inspire our children to break barriers and achieve their highest potential.

On December 14, 1944, Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr. became the first African American to be

commissioned as a United States Naval Officer through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Course. He went on to become the Navy’s first African American vice admiral.

During his distinguished 38-year career in the Navy, Vice Admiral Gravelly became the first African American to command a warship, the USS Theodore E. Chandler; the first African American to command a major warship, the USS Jouett; the first African American to achieve flag rank and eventually vice admiral; and the first African American to command a numbered fleet.

However, his service was not just one of firsts. Admiral Gravelly was highly decorated with the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal. He moved to Haymarket, Virginia upon his retirement in 1980, and passed away on October 22, 2004.

Just two weeks ago, the U.S. Navy commissioned a new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in honor of Vice Admiral Gravelly during a ceremony at the shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. His widow, Alma Gravelly broke a bottle of champagne across the bow to christen the vessel.

Vice Admiral Gravelly’s life accomplishments and service to his country represent the values that we would like to instill into our future generations. The Prince William County Public Schools’ vision statement identifies a commitment to a diverse, multicultural education that produces students who enjoy a life-long pursuit of learning. Vice Admiral Gravelly lived up to these ideals by setting a precedent of diversity in our nation’s military and continuing his education throughout his life. Whether it was at Virginia Union University, Columbia University or the Naval War College; his thirst for knowledge never ceased. Vice Admiral Gravelly’s life embodied the vision that the Prince William County School System has for its students.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me honoring this American hero and endorsing the example he set for our nation’s younger generation. I applaud Prince William County Public Schools for their decision to dedicate this school to Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr.

ADDRESS TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL’S CLASS OF 2009
AS READ BY TRAY SMITH,
CLASS SALUTATORIAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last month I had the privilege of giving the commencement address to Escambia County High School’s Class of 2009. My friend, Tray Smith of Atmore, the class salutatorian, also had the opportunity to address his fellow classmates. In just 18 years, Tray has already compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. In 2008, he served as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., and earlier this year, he was named Atmore’s 2008 “Citizen of the Year.”

I rise today to ask that his address be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for I believe it to be one of the finest and most in-

spiring addresses given by a high school student that I have ever heard:

LEAVING OUR CHILDREN A BETTER COUNTRY
THAN WE INHERIT
(By Tray Smith)

Thirty-five years ago, my father graduated from ECHS. Then, the country was shaken by the scandal of Watergate and the Vietnam War. Every year since, a different group of faces has arrived here during its own unique period in our history. Over time, America and the world have greatly changed. So now, we, the Class of 2009, come to graduate under different circumstances than those that faced our parents. Yet, the challenges that face us are just as great as those that faced them. And just as our moms and dads responded to the problems facing our nation by spreading freedom to every continent and the Internet to almost every home, we will meet our own challenges. For we know as our parents knew, that our greatest responsibility as Americans is to leave our children a better country than the one we are about to inherit.

Graduation means we are ready to meet this task—not because we know everything we will ever need to learn, but because we know how to learn anything we will ever need to find out.

I have the honor of commemorating this moment as the salutatorian of a class that has many talented students. And it is a special honor to stand before Joy Marshall, our valedictorian and my good friend. Joy, I am so proud for you, I will miss you, and I know this school will miss you, as well.

Congressman Bonner, Mr. Means, parents, teachers, friends, guests, and members of the community; thank you all for being here to join with us in this great moment in our lives. And on behalf of the entire Class of 2009, I extend a sincere thanks to you all, especially our parents and grandparents, for the contributions you have made to make this moment possible.

I want to specifically thank Congressman Bonner for making this event a priority. Congressman, the fact you are here signifies your strong commitment to our young people, and our future. While in Congress, you have done many great things for this district. On a personal basis, though, I am most appreciative for the life changing doors you have opened for me, a young kid from Atmore. I can’t imagine my high school years without the experiences I had working in Washington as your page. And the reason my class wanted you to come speak tonight is because, as we look forward to the future, there is no better person for us to emulate. Again, thank you.

Even though we graduate tonight, we will still depend on many of you in this room. I am sure I will not be the only member of the Class of 2009 to call Mom every time I have to do laundry in college. I still have no clue how to work the machines. Okay, I might be alone on that one. But I want our parents and mentors to know we will always be open to your advice and appreciate your insight.

Mom and Dad, Nee Nee and Paw Paw, Aunts and Uncles, Mrs. Bonnie and Mrs. West, other family members and friends, I love you all and I am so thankful for the role you have played in my life. And I know for all of my 132 fellow graduates, there are an equal number of people who share in the credit for this day, and who will share in the credit for the successes that come in the future.

When Mom asked me to describe my first day at ECHS years ago, I said it was like walking through the mall. But now, after having spent several years with classmates in school, at events, and serving our extra-curricular responsibilities, the faces that

were once like strangers in the mall to me are now the familiar faces of friends I pass daily in the hallway.

They are the faces of Nakeidra Brown and Brittney Martin arguing with Gordon Nichols and me in Algebra. They are the many happy faces of Lashae Powers defending me in SGA meetings. They are the ever-frustrated faces of Katie Coon, adamantly insisting that she and I are not related. And they are the almost indistinguishable, but always smiling, faces of the Forney twins.

And these faces will remain familiar long after this commencement exercise is over. Because the bonds that exist between us are not only the bonds of classmates, they are the bonds of friends, and they will endure.

They will endure because they have been forged in a place where everyone looks out for their neighbors, in a town that respects traditional values, by people who cherish family and friendship. Growing up in Atmore, we may not have had easy access to Wal Mart or Starbucks, but we have had each other. That, my friends, has made all the difference.

From this moment, we will all go down different paths: some of us will go on to college, others will enter the workforce, and some will start families. Yet, as graduates, we are now all adults in the world's greatest and most democratic country. As such, we have both an opportunity to make a difference and a responsibility to make a contribution.

Regardless of where we end up, there will be fatherless children in need of mentors and hungry people in need of food. These needs belong not just to individuals, but to the entire nation. And as President John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said, by lending a helping hand to those people, we serve not only our fellow countrymen, but also our country.

Our record at ECHS gives me faith in our ability to live up to that standard of service. In our four years here, we have had three principles and five assistant principals. In these periods of transition, students have had to step forward and carry the mantle of leadership. I am confident that we leave behind a dedicated team with Mr. Means, Mrs. Shuford, and Mr. Lanier, but I am also proud to say future students at this school will benefit from what the Class of 2009 accomplished, from saving the newspaper to starting the scholars' bowl team to reinvigorating our athletic programs.

However, the difficult tasks that come with significant roles in society are much more consequential and much more trying. Thankfully, some of our classmates are already rising nobly to those challenges. Tonight, I want to ask Hierry Carter, Cortina James, Thomas Johnson, and Wade Johnson to stand.

As the rest of us enjoy our newfound freedom as graduates, these members of the Class of 2009 have chosen to serve as the guardians of that freedom in perhaps distant and dark corners of the world. They have chosen to join the United States Military. They deserve our respect, our admiration, and our applause. Thank you.

As we go forward, let us remember with gratitude these brave individuals. Let their willingness to sacrifice selflessly for a cause greater than themselves inspire us all. And let us all remember that God put us in this place in history, at this moment in time, because He trusted no other generation with the charges that are already confronting us. And it is in God's glory that we must heed the call of duty to defend our freedoms, preserve our values, and maintain our way of life. So that when we are all long gone and the history of this generation is written, it

can be said that the graduates of the ECHS Class of 2009 were men and women of integrity, who did not give into the false choices and pretexts that so often corrupt our way of thinking, bow to the forces of mediocrity that so often restrain our true potential, or enslave ourselves to the prejudices and stereotypes that have for years crippled our society.

Let it be said that we, the Class of 2009, never forgot the lessons learned growing up here, in Atmore. That we, the Class of 2009, never forgot the people—moms and dads, teachers and administrators, pastors and friends and grandparents—who raised us. That we never forgot the importance of service or the significance of being Americans. That we never forgot our purpose, and worked tirelessly to make sure our purpose was fulfilled. Thank you. May God bless you and may God bless this honorable class.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
SMALL BUSINESS WEEK: MAY 17–
MAY 23

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, over the last decade, small businesses have created 70 percent of our new jobs, and they are responsible for half of all the jobs in our nation's workforce. In fact, in my home State of Maryland, more than 500,000 small businesses provide our State with more jobs than any other source—except the federal government.

This job creating potential is even more important during economic downswings like the current one. It is interesting to note that, despite declines in corporate America, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. Every month, 400,000 new businesses start up across the country. For these reasons, providing small businesses with the tools they need to grow and thrive again will be critical to the nation's overall economic recovery. It is with this knowledge and appreciation that I proudly express my support for President Obama's declaration of May 17–May 23 as National Small Business Week.

As a former small business owner for nearly 20 years, I know first-hand that one of the most pressing challenges facing small businesses is access to affordable credit and capital. I know how hard it can be to meet one's payroll, day after day and week after week. I also know what it is like to be turned down for the business loan that you desperately need (and deserve)—even while other less qualified competitors somehow receive that essential capital support.

In my thirteen years in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have supported efforts that have uplifted the small business community—and 2009 has been another marquee year. During National Small Business Week, the House passed a number of bills aimed at providing business owners with the requisite tools. H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009 would provide critical resources to help businesses grow and adapt. Specifically, it creates a grant program designed to assist small firms in securing capital, supplementing the new small business

lending generated by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in February 2009.

These entrepreneurial development programs are a wise investment in our economy. It is estimated that for every \$1 spent on these programs, there is a \$2.87 return to the Treasury—and these programs have helped to create 73,000 jobs in 2008 alone.

As I close, I will also take this opportunity to align myself with the vision expressed by President Obama, who recently stated that “it is imperative that we do all we can to celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage the creation of new businesses.”

Americans are exploring new ways to conduct business, and small business owners are an invaluable resource in this national effort. They are the real heroes of American industry—and May 17–May 23 is deservedly theirs.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER H.
MOFFITT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Christopher H. Moffitt, an automobile dealer and resident of Boone, Iowa.

Christopher, president of Moffitt's Ford Lincoln Mercury, was recently nominated for the 2009 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award sponsored by TIME Magazine and Goodyear Tire. Christopher was nominated by Gary W. Thomas, President of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, and recently was honored at the National Automobile Dealers Association Convention & Exposition in New Orleans. The TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award is one of the auto industry's most prestigious awards, recognizing both success in auto sales and outstanding community service.

Christopher is a third generation family dealer who owns a dealership that was first opened by his grandfather over 81 years ago. He began washing cars at the dealership at age 13, and while attending college at Iowa State University, he began selling cars part-time before becoming a full time sales manager after graduating in 1987.

In addition to his dedicated service at the dealership, Christopher has spent considerable time giving back to the community. From 1993–2000, Christopher was chairman of Good Connections, an organization that employed mentally and physically challenged individuals. He also received a YMCA Leadership Award after playing a pivotal role in reopening the Boone County Family YMCA in 2005 while serving as board chairman. The location had closed in the 1990's but is now growing and serving all of Boone County.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Christopher Moffitt for his nomination for TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year, and thank him for his dedicated community service efforts. It is an honor to represent Christopher in Congress, and I wish him and his family happiness and success in the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MAYOR C.W. SKIDMORE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Saraland and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor C.W. Skidmore and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Skidmore, known to his many friends as "Bill," was a native of Russellville and long-time resident of Saraland. He served as a city councilman from 1957, when Saraland was incorporated, until 1960. In 1964, he was elected mayor and served two terms.

Bill set out to be the mayor of Saraland with the intention of changing the reputation the city had received after the murder of its first mayor. During his time serving as mayor, Bill also focused on commercial and residential growth, as well as the development of city services.

When Saraland celebrated its 50th anniversary, Mayor Skidmore was honored. The city also named a football park on Norton Avenue in his honor. In addition to a lifetime of public service, Mayor Skidmore owned and operated Skidmore Oil Company and Skidmore Construction. He also served on the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Mayor Skidmore will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Took; his children, Billy and his wife Sheila, Mary and her husband Bruce, and Tammie and her husband Rick; his 13 grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING JOHN BRENNEMAN

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Brennehan, an outstanding naturalist and public servant from the 12th Congressional District of Florida. John has worked tirelessly for the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Imperial Polk County for 30 years. His devotion to improving local water quality and educating lakefront homeowners is evident through his continuing commitment to serve the public with excellence and integrity.

John's academic achievements have shaped his career in water management. He earned both his B.S. in Agriculture and his Masters of Agricultural Management and Resource Development from the University of Florida. He is also a certified instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program Wetland, Coastal and Upland Modules. With this certification, he actively assists rural pond owners in becoming good stewards of their water property. He has taught them how to manage surface waters and fisheries to enhance the aesthetics of their pond, while maintaining sound water quality.

John has an obvious passion for educating the public and is responsible for developing a program to educate lakefront residents entitled, "Living at the Lake." This primer has been used extensively for Florida's lakefront homeowners and by others interested in central Florida's lake resources. John also coordinates the Polk County Extension Water School. This program is designed to provide local officials with valuable information to prepare them for addressing important water issues and policies.

John has also molded young minds and shaped lives through his work as a 4-H Agent. For many years, John chaperoned trips to 4-H Congress and 4-H Camps where he taught courses, led fishing expeditions and counseled young people on character and values. His own example is what provides the best lesson for a life of service, love, and faith. I say this as one who benefited from his mentoring.

John's experience and influence reaches beyond Polk County lines. For ten years, John worked to educate businesses and residents through the natural resource education program as a multi-county agent. Additionally, John has worked with volunteers associated with the University of Florida's LAKEWATCH program which was designed to monitor water quality in local lakes. As a result of John's efforts, data was collected from local lakes on a monthly basis and entered into an extensive database used for profiling the local waterscape.

John and his wife, Terri, have been married for almost 36 years. They have one daughter, Emily, and three sons Jacob, Adam, and Joseph. When not tending to his work or bragging about his grandkids, John is a Sunday school teacher and Deacon at the First Baptist Church at the Mall.

GLOBAL WARMING PETITION
SIGNED BY 31,478 SCIENTISTS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, before voting on the "cap-and-trade" legislation, my colleagues should consider the views expressed in the following petition that has been signed by 31,478 American scientists:

"We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth."

Circulated through the mail by a distinguished group of American physical scientists

and supported by a definitive review of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, this may be the strongest and most widely supported statement on this subject that has been made by the scientific community. A state-by-state listing of the signers, which include 9,029 men and women with PhD degrees, a listing of their academic specialties, and a peer-reviewed summary of the science on this subject are available at www.petitionproject.org.

The peer-reviewed summary, "Environmental Effects of Increased Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide" by A. B. Robinson, N. E. Robinson, and W. Soon includes 132 references to the scientific literature and was circulated with the petition.

Signers of this petition include 3,803 with specific training in atmospheric, earth, and environmental sciences. All 31,478 of the signers have the necessary training in physics, chemistry, and mathematics to understand and evaluate the scientific data relevant to the human-caused global warming hypothesis and to the effects of human activities upon environmental quality.

In a letter circulated with this petition, Frederick Seitz—past President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, President Emeritus of Rockefeller University, and recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from 32 universities throughout the world—wrote:

"The United States is very close to adopting an international agreement that would ration the use of energy and of technologies that depend upon coal, oil, and natural gas and some other organic compounds.

This treaty is, in our opinion, based upon flawed ideas. Research data on climate change do not show that human use of hydrocarbons is harmful. To the contrary, there is good evidence that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide is environmentally helpful.

The proposed agreement we have very negative effects upon the technology of nations throughout the world; especially those that are currently attempting to lift from poverty and provide opportunities to the over 4 billion people in technologically underdeveloped countries.

It is especially important for America to hear from its citizens who have the training necessary to evaluate the relevant data and offer sound advice."

We urge you to sign and return the enclosed petition card. If you would like more cards for use by your colleagues, these will be sent."

Madam Speaker, at a time when our nation is faced with a severe shortage of domestically produced energy and a serious economic contraction; we should be reducing the taxation and regulation that plagues our energy-producing industries.

Yet, we will soon be considering so-called "cap and trade" legislation that would increase the taxation and regulation of our energy industries. "Cap and-trade" will do at least as much, if not more, damage to the economy as the treaty referred by Professor Seitz! This legislation is being supported by the claims of "global warming" and "climate change" advocates—claims that, as demonstrated by the 31,477 signatures to Professor Seitz' petition, many American scientists believe is disproved by extensive experimental and observational work.

It is time that we look beyond those few who seek increased taxation and increased

regulation and control of the American people. Our energy policies must be based upon scientific truth—not fictional movies or self-interested international agendas. They should be based upon the accomplishments of technological free enterprise that have provided our modern civilization, including our energy industries. That free enterprise must not be hindered by bogus claims about imaginary disasters.

Above all, we must never forget our contract with the American people—the Constitution that provides the sole source of legitimacy of our government. That Constitution requires that we preserve the basic human rights of our people—including the right to freely manufacture, use, and sell energy produced by any means they devise—including nuclear, hydrocarbon, solar, wind, or even bicycle generators.

While it is evident that the human right to produce and use energy does not extend to activities that actually endanger the climate of the Earth upon which we all depend, bogus claims about climate dangers should not be used as a justification to further limit the American people's freedom.

In conclusion, I once again urge my colleagues to carefully consider the arguments made by the 31,478 American scientists who have signed this petition before voting on any legislation imposing new regulations or taxes on the American people in the name of halting climate change.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR
CHARLES MURPHY FOR BEING
ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MU-
NICIPALITIES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Robertsdale Mayor Charles Murphy for being elected vice president of the Alabama League of Municipalities. As the elected vice president, Mayor Murphy will become president of the League in 2010 and will also become the fourth Baldwin County mayor to preside over the Alabama League of Municipalities in the organization's 74 year history.

Born in Missouri, Mayor Murphy was raised on a cotton and cattle farm near Bossier City, Louisiana. After high school, he began his career with the U.S. Navy. After his discharge, he joined South Central Bell, now BellSouth, in 1973. In 1976, BellSouth transferred him to south Alabama to work in the company's construction department. He continues to work for BellSouth today and is currently the manager of the supply division for the Gulf Coast.

Mayor Murphy's public service career began in 1983 when he was appointed to Robertsdale's Zoning Board of Adjustments. In 1988, he was elected to the city council, and just four years later, he was elected mayor of Robertsdale. He serves on the board of directors for the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and is the chairman of the Baldwin County Mayor's Association.

As president of the Alabama League of Municipalities, Mayor Murphy will oversee an or-

ganization that serves as the voice of the cities and towns of Alabama. Since 1935, the organization has brought municipalities together to promote legislation, provide legal advice, and establish education programs for city and town officials.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the city of Robertsdale and Alabama's First Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. On behalf of all those who have benefited from his good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for his many efforts in making Robertsdale and all of Alabama a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM IMPROVE- MENT ACT OF 2009

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Savings Program Improvement Act of 2009 with my colleague Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT (D-TX). Senator BINGAMAN (D-NM) is introducing similar legislation in the Senate. This legislation makes long overdue improvements to the Medicare Savings Program by providing additional assistance to modest income seniors for their health care out-of-pocket expenses.

Numerous advocacy groups have endorsed the bill, including AARP, Families USA, Consumers Union, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the Medicare Rights Center, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the National Council on Aging, and the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

Currently, the Medicare Savings Program provides needed financial assistance for more than 6.2 million of the sickest and most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries. The program has three major categories of beneficiaries: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMBs) and Qualified Individuals (QI). These categories provide varying amounts of benefits to Medicare beneficiaries whose annual incomes are less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level (annual incomes of \$14,623 for an individual and \$19,670 for couples in 2009) and annual resources are no more than \$4,000 for individuals and \$6,000 for couples.

Unfortunately, the Medicare Savings Program does not reach many eligible beneficiaries because the benefit rules are very restrictive and confusing, and it is difficult to apply for the program. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that only 33 percent of eligible QMBs and 13 percent of eligible SLMBs actually are enrolled in the program. This enrollment rate is much lower than other federal benefit programs. For instance, 75 percent of eligible beneficiaries receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, 66 to 73 percent of eligible recipients enroll in the Supplemental Security Income program and 66 to 70 percent of eligible beneficiaries enroll in Medicaid.

The National Academy of Social Insurance found that many potential beneficiaries do not apply for these benefits because they incorrectly assume that they have too many re-

sources. And for many more modest-income Medicare beneficiaries, the extremely low asset test of the Medicare Savings Program disqualifies them from receiving these important benefits. A 2002 Commonwealth Fund study found that only 48 percent of those who met the income requirements for the Medicare Savings Program in effect that year also met the asset requirements.

This inability to access the Medicare Savings Program benefit has real consequences for these seniors and individuals with disabilities. MedPAC has cited a study finding that QMB qualifying nonenrollees were twice as likely to avoid visiting a physician because of cost than QMB enrollees. As a result, QMB qualifying nonenrollees are more likely to access hospital emergency rooms than QMB enrollees.

Both the National Academy of Social Insurance and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in separate studies cite similar reasons for the low enrollment in the Medicare Savings Program. They include: enrollment in Medicaid offices (welfare stigma), asset reporting, lack of awareness (79 percent of unenrolled eligible beneficiaries never heard of the program), hard-to-reach population (eligible individuals are older, poorer, sicker and often cannot read or speak English), and a burdensome application process (two-thirds of enrollees need help with the application).

Recognizing the shortcomings of the current program, Congress did make modest, but important modifications in the rules of the program last year. As part of "The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act" (P.L. 110-275), Congress allowed seniors to begin their application process in Social Security offices, modestly increased asset limits and eliminated a provision that allowed states to recover assets upon a beneficiary's death. These provisions did simplify the application process, make more individuals aware of the program and increase outreach to hard-to-reach individuals. However, much more needs to be done.

Even with these changes, the Medicare Savings Program's current design still makes it difficult for eligible seniors to enroll for the benefits and its eligibility requirements are significantly stricter than the Medicare low-income drug subsidy program. Recognizing these issues in 2008, MedPAC recommended that Congress raise the Medicare income and asset criteria to conform to the low-income drug subsidy and standardize program requirements so that the Social Security Administration could screen low-income drug subsidy applicants for federal Medicare Savings Program eligibility.

In response, the Medicare Savings Program Improvement Act of 2009 proposes to accomplish three goals. First, the bill aligns the Medicare Savings Program with the low-income drug subsidy program by reducing it to two beneficiary categories and standardizing the definition of income and assets for both programs.

Second, it would expand access by increasing the income eligibility limits for Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries up to 150 percent (an annual income level of \$16,245 for individuals and \$21,855 for families in 2009) and Specified Low-Income Beneficiaries up to 200 percent (an annual income of up to \$21,660 for individuals and up to \$29,140 in 2009) of the federal poverty level. And annual resource limits would be raised to \$27,000 for individuals

and \$55,000 for families. Representative DOGGETT has introduced legislation that changes resource and income limits for the Medicare low-income drug subsidy program to the same levels as this bill.

Finally, the bill continues to simplify the application process. For instance, the legislation makes it easier for non-native English speaking Medicare beneficiaries to access enrollment materials.

Improving the Medicare Savings Program will create increased access to health benefits for our sickest and poorest seniors and the disabled. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that low-income Medicare beneficiaries are able to fully access the important health benefits provided by Medicare.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
CLEAN UP ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Correction of Long-standing Errors in Agencies Unsustainable Procurements, CLEAN UP, Act. This legislation will reform the badly flawed competitive sourcing process—saving taxpayer dollars and reinvigorating our civil service.

This bill is about good government. Over the last decade, we have been much too quick to outsource many of government's most basic functions to the private sector. The desire to do so reflected a political ideology of shrinking government at all costs—even if it meant diminishing the quality of certain government services that are paid for and overwhelmingly supported by American taxpayers. This course of action negatively impacted everything from national defense and border security to the collection of taxes and the stewardship of our public lands. In many cases, work was outsourced with little or no competition—subverting the public interest and wasting billions in taxpayer dollars.

This bill is not about punishing the contractor community or criticizing the work that they do. The vast majority of these firms want to do the right thing and have performed many important functions on behalf of the government. However, there is some government work that is not appropriately awarded to the lowest bidder. Often this work is about providing a service as a matter of policy without regard to profit. The process by which we make decisions to hire government workers or to contract with the private sector for certain functions must reflect a mature understanding of the real differences between the mission of government and that of business.

More recently, the Congress has begun to reign in Administrative procurement policy by requiring more robust competition in contracting and ensuring that the core functions of government are performed by government employees. The CLEAN UP Act seeks to reverse the damage that has already been done by requiring agencies to develop plans to bring inherently governmental work back in-house and ensuring that future procurement decisions are

made based on the best interest of the government and the taxpayer. The CLEAN UP Act will make the contracting process fair to federal employees and accountable to taxpayers.

Congress has heard from federal workers and advocates in and out of government and their conclusions are the same—the current system is broken. We must develop a clear, government-wide standard for what work should or must be performed by government workers and put in place a fair process for competing all other work. That is why, with the support of 50 of my colleagues of both parties, I have introduced the bipartisan CLEAN UP Act.

The CLEAN UP Act will: Impose a uniform, government-wide standard for government work, distinguishing between the functions which can and must be done by our civil servants and those functions that may be done competently by the private sector; incrementally bring work that should be performed by federal employees back in-house; encourage agencies to consider assigning new work to federal employees if they would be more efficient rather than pursuing a policy of contracting-out, frequently through sole-source or limited competition contracts; require agencies to determine where there are or will be shortages of federal employees and develop plans to address these shortages; maintain the existing suspension of the use of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, Circular A-76 process until OMB determines that the reforms required by this legislation have been implemented; direct Agencies to implement an alternative to the A-76 process in order to continually improve and streamline services—developing a more efficient process without the costs and controversies of the A-76 process.

We have some of the best and brightest in our civil service; public servants with a deep and abiding love for this country. They have important missions—to make the next scientific breakthrough; to protect our nation from foreign threats; to keep our communities safe from crime or disaster; to maintain our critical infrastructure. By enacting the CLEAN UP Act, we have an opportunity to support our federal workforce, save taxpayer dollars, restore good government, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

HONORING SANDY REMPE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandy Rempe of the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Her direction of the department's Juvenile Justice Program and the dedication and compassion she has shown for today's youth is to be commended. Due to her exemplary leadership, she has earned the prestigious Tony Gobar Award, an honor that recognizes excellence in the field of juvenile justice.

Ms. Rempe has worked as the Department of Public Safety Juvenile Justice Program Manager for 12 years. Under her leadership, the program distributes federal grants that pro-

vide funding to 60 state and local agencies in Missouri to help support juvenile justice and delinquency prevention initiatives. Additionally, grant funds are utilized for training on juvenile justice, systems improvements, and intervention programs. Ms. Rempe also serves on many groups, committees and commissions including the Mental Health Transformation Leadership Work Group and the Drug Court Commission.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sandy Rempe for this prestigious accomplishment with the Missouri Department of Public Safety and for her tireless efforts in helping Missouri's youth.

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD F. "HAL"
EBERLE, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on May 27th, South Carolina lost a long time friend and leader with the passing of Hal Eberle. Hal spent a lifetime in service to his nation and his community. As a young man, he served as a pilot, navigator, bombardier, and radar observer during World War II. In Washington, he worked as an Administrative Assistant to the late Congressmen Robert J. Corbett of Pennsylvania and Victor V. Veysey of California from 1961 to 1972. From 1972 to 1973, he served as Congressional Relations Chief of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. From 1973 to 1974, he was Congressional Relations Chief of the Office of Management and Budget. From 1975 to 1977, he served President Ford as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

After retiring, Hal traveled the world visiting numerous nations including the former Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Australia, Africa, and South America. He was known for taking great enjoyment in sailing along the Atlantic Coast and down to the Bahamas. In 1988, he became Executive Vice President of the South Carolina Policy Council serving with President Ed McMullen.

The South Carolina Policy Council, founded by the legendary Tom Roe, has transformed the political landscape of South Carolina. Hal was the author and editor of the Policy Council Scorecards of the State Senate and State House votes. His rankings of conservative/liberal ratings were crucial to promote accountability in the State House. For the first time, recorded votes were required on all crucial issues promoting extraordinary reforms of state government. Hal was tireless in his monitoring of the State Senate from the gallery, and during votes, the question was respectfully asked "What is the Policy Council position?" Hal advanced the ideals of limited government and expanded freedom promoting the Reagan Revolution on the state level.

Hal was buried on June 2nd at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery in South Carolina. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family including his son Mark and sister Betty.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
REUNITING FAMILIES ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, aloha! I rise today in support of the Reuniting Families Act, a bill introduced by Congressman MICHAEL HONDA. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important bill.

There are currently 5.8 million people in the family immigration backlog waiting unconscionable periods of time to reunite with their family members. The Reunifying Families Act takes important steps toward fixing our broken family immigration system by reducing the waiting times for legal immigrants.

One important piece of Mr. HONDA's bill is the inclusion of the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act (H.R. 2412), a bill I have introduced for the past two congressional sessions. My bill would exempt the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from the cap on immigration numbers that have resulted in waiting periods for up to two decades for immigrant visas to the United States.

I have listened to many heartbreaking stories of our Filipino veterans, many of whom are in their 80s and 90s, waiting patiently with the hope that one day that their children will be able to come to the United States to care for them. I am glad that the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act is a part of the Reuniting Families Act.

The family bond is precious and it is the bedrock of society. Any policy that would keep family members apart for decades at a time, husband from wife, mother from child, is not morally defensible. The real solution is to reward immigrants for following the law, not punish them with unreasonably long separations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of all our families.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
WALTER WYATT SHORTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Camden and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Walter Wyatt Shorter.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Shorter dedicated his life to serving his country, church, family and career.

Born in New York City, Mr. Shorter survived polio as a young child. In 1949, he graduated from the Fishburne Military Academy in Waynesboro, Virginia. He then enrolled in the Virginia Military Institute where he attained the rank of company commander of C Company and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. He was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of captain where he admirably served his country on several military campaigns.

Mr. Shorter continued his education and received a Master of Science in Pulp and Paper

Science and Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine and was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and the Society of the Sigma Xi.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Shorter was devoted to serving the community in the paper industry. He was a frontrunner in the development of recycled paper use in corrugated containers. He spent 21 years working for Union Camp Corporation and held the positions of vice president and residential manager at the Prattville mill. He became president of MacMillan Bloedel, Inc. in 1978 and managed the successful expansion of MacMillan Bloedel in Pine Hill.

Mr. Shorter served as national president of the Paper Industry Management Association, president of the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Alabama Alliance of Business and Industry, director of the Four-drier Kraft Board Group and was a member of the Alabama Council on Economic Education.

He had a genuine love for the people of Camden, serving as a volunteer for his church, local school systems and the J. Paul Jones Hospital. He served as a trustee for Huntingdon College, a Lay leader in the Episcopal Church and a member of the "13" in Montgomery. He also served on the boards of the First Alabama Bankshares, Jenkins Brick Corporation, and The Nature Conservancy of Alabama.

Madam Speaker, Walter Wyatt Shorter dedicated his entire life to the service of others, all-the-while being a devoted husband, father to five children, and grandfather to 11 wonderful grandchildren.

He will be missed by his family—his wife of 51 years, Gayle Prince Shorter; their children, Walter Wyatt Shorter Jr., Margaret Shorter Robinson, Mathew Peasley Shorter, John David Shorter, and Charles Christopher Shorter; his grandchildren, Mary Margaret Wadsworth, Samantha Glenn Shorter, Margaret Ashley Shorter, Emily Wyatt Shorter, Katherine Gibbs Shorter, Jackson Sean Ours, Olivia Grace Shorter, Noelle Elizabeth Shorter, Calder Christopher Shorter, Davis Troy Shorter, Maggie-Alisabeth Gayle Shorter; and his nephews, Jeffery Douglas and Edward Morfel—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE
CONTINUES IN CHINA OFTEN
OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the brave and tenacious heroes of Tiananmen Square will never be forgotten nor will their huge sacrifice—for some torture and for others even death—be in vain.

Future generations of Chinese—and other advocates of democracy worldwide—will forever honor their courage, vision and dream of democracy. The Chinese people deserve no less. The Chinese are a great people—and deserve democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law that reflects that greatness.

Twenty years after Tiananmen, pro-democracy advocates remain in concentration camps

subjected to torture, myriad forms of humiliation and degrading treatment.

They must be freed, unconditionally.

The Tiananmen Square massacre was a turning point in China—and not for the better. The hard-liners in Beijing have since unleashed unprecedented cruelty on labor leaders, political prisoners, religious believers, and have committed massive crimes against women and children through forced abortion.

The ugly spirit of the Tiananmen Square massacre continues today unabated throughout China, with brutality and efficiency only the Nazis could love.

With some notable exceptions including last year's savage crackdown on Tibetans the Chinese leadership has taken their murder and torture behind closed doors, where the cries, screams, and tears of thousands of dissidents are heard by no one except the torturers themselves.

For its part, the international community has failed to seriously challenge China's massive human rights violations—and that includes the weak and feckless response of the United States of America. That includes the Bush Administration, that includes the Clinton Administration, that includes the Obama Administration and that includes Congress.

That must change.

When Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited China a few months ago to peddle U.S. treasury bonds to finance U.S. debt, she said human rights shouldn't be allowed to "interfere" with that and other issues.

Wittingly or not, that attitude enables the Chinese dictatorship to continue brutalizing its own people.

And while I respect President Obama's outreach to Muslims in Cairo today, that event surely could have been scheduled for any other day but the 20th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

This solemn remembrance of the victims of mass murder at Tiananmen Square and the crushing of their bodies and hopes by tanks and bayonets, should have been the White House's major event today.

Meanwhile, on this tragic 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, I am afraid that, American technology and know-how is actually enabling the Chinese Government to repress the truth about what happened on that day—about which it is absolutely vital that the Chinese people know the truth. After all, it is the truth about their history.

Similarly, while the internet has opened up commercial opportunities and provided access to vast amounts of information for people the world over, the internet has also become a malicious tool: a cyber sledgehammer of repression of the government of China. As soon as the promise of the Internet began to be fulfilled—when brave Chinese began to email each other and others about human rights issues and corruption by government leaders—the Party cracked down. To date, an estimated 49 cyber-dissidents and 32 journalists have been imprisoned by the PRC for merely posting information on the Internet critical of the regime. And that's likely to be only the tip of the iceberg. Of course, one of the points on which the Chinese Government is most eager to crack down is dissemination of the truth about Tiananmen.

Tragically, history shows us that American companies and their subsidiaries have provided the technology to crush human rights in

the past. Edwin Black's book *IBM and the Holocaust* reveals the dark story of IBM's strategic alliance with Nazi Germany. Thanks to IBM's enabling technologies, from programs for identification and cataloging to the use of IBM's punch card technology, Hitler and the Third Reich were able to automate the genocide of the Jews.

U.S. technology companies today are engaged in a similar sickening collaboration, decapitating the voice of the dissidents. In 2005, Yahoo's cooperation with Chinese secret police led to the imprisonment of the cyber-dissident Shi Tao. And this was not the first time. According to *Reporters Without Borders*, Yahoo also handed over data to Chinese authorities on another of its users, Li Zhi. Li Zhi was sentenced on December 10, 2003 to eight years in prison for "inciting subversion." His "crime" was to criticize in online discussion groups and articles the well-known corruption of local officials.

Women and men are going to the gulag and being tortured as a direct result of information handed over to Chinese officials. When Yahoo was asked to explain its actions, Yahoo said that it must adhere to local laws in all countries where it operates. But my response to that is: if the secret police a half century ago asked where Anne Frank was hiding, would the correct answer be to hand over the information in order to comply with local laws? These are not victimless crimes. We must stand with the oppressed, not the oppressors.

I believe that two of the most essential pillars that prop up totalitarian regimes are the secret police and propaganda. Yet for the sake of market share and profits, leading U.S. companies like Google, Yahoo, Cisco and Microsoft have compromised both the integrity of their product and their duties as responsible corporate citizens. They have aided and abetted the Chinese regime to prop up both of these pillars, propagating the message of the dictatorship unabated and supporting the secret police in a myriad of ways, including surveillance and invasion of privacy, in order to effectuate the massive crackdown on its citizens.

Through an approach that monitors, filters, and blocks content with the use of technology and human monitors, the Chinese people have little access to uncensored information about any political or human rights topic, unless of course, Big Brother wants them to see it. Google.cn, China's search engine, is guaranteed to take you to the virtual land of deceit, disinformation and the big lie. As such, the Chinese government utilizes the technology of U.S. IT companies combined with human censors—led by an estimated force of 30,000 cyber police—to control information in China. Websites that provide the Chinese people news about their country and the world, such as AP, UPI, Reuters, and AFP, as well as Voice of America and Radio Free Asia, are regularly blocked in China. In addition, when a user enters a forbidden word, such as "democracy," "China torture" or "Falun Gong," the search results are blocked, or you are redirected to a misleading site, and the user's computer can be frozen for unspecified periods of time.

Google censors what are euphemistically called "politically sensitive" terms, such as "Tiananmen," "democracy," "China human rights," "China torture" and the like on its Chinese search site, Google.cn. A search for

terms such as "Tiananmen Square" produces two very different results. The one from Google.cn shows a picture of a smiling couple, but the results from Google.com show scores of photos depicting the mayhem and brutality of the 1989 Tiananmen square massacre.

Google claims that some information is better than nothing. But in this case, the limited information displayed amounts to disinformation. A half truth is not the truth—it is a lie. And a lie is worse than nothing. It is hard not to draw the conclusion that Google has seriously compromised its "Don't Be Evil" policy. It has become evil's accomplice.

And that continues. Last summer Frank Wolf and I were in Beijing. We tried to look up "Tiananmen Square" on the tightly-controlled Chinese Internet. Of course, mere mention of the slaughter has been removed from the Chinese Internet. We walked across Tiananmen Square—officials searched us before we entered the square, and squads of police surrounded us while we were on it, terrified we might hold up a simple sign or banner.

Standing for human rights has never been easy or without price, and companies are extremely reluctant to pay that price. That's why our government also has a major role to play in this critical area, and that a more comprehensive framework is needed to protect and promote human rights.

This is why I have re-introduced The Global Online Freedom Act, H.R. 2271. I believe it can be an important lever to help disseminate the truth—about Tiananmen and so many more things in the history of China—to the Chinese people by means of the Internet.

I'd like to ask you to support this bill, which would prevent U.S. high-tech Internet companies from turning over to the Chinese police information that identifies individual Internet users who express political and religious ideas that the communists are trying to suppress. It would also require companies to disclose how the Chinese version of their search engines censors the Internet.

In the last Congress, the bill passed the Foreign Affairs Committee and was ready for a floor vote, but influential lobbies prevented a vote on the bill.

I also want to mention the exciting firewall-busting technology that a group of dedicated Chinese human rights activists are promoting. They have technology that enables users in China to bypass the Chinese government's so-called "Golden Shield" censorship effort and surf the Internet freely. With this technology, which has been demonstrated to me in my office, Chinese users can visit the same Internet you and I do, and there is nothing the Chinese government can do about it. I think we should all ask the State Department to financially support this technology—which could produce a human rights and rule of law revolution in China.

Today provides us an important reminder that the fight the Tiananmen protestors took on 20 years ago is still going on, in the streets, the internet café's and here today. To the brave men and women who continue to fight for the rights of the Chinese people—we say, we stand with you, we remember you, and we will not abandon the fight for your freedoms.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
SACRIFICE OF D-DAY WARRIORS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, sixty-five years ago, our nation's greatest military minds gathered with our European allies deep beneath London to set into motion a plan called Overlord. Unsure if the weather would clear long enough for the operation, planners reluctantly gave the order—advance to Normandy.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, forces approached from the sea in silence, under cover of darkness seeking single points on a map. Their names—Omaha and Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold—are forever stained by the fateful events of that day.

All told, the Allies mustered nearly 3 million Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. Nearly 160,000 troops came across the English Channel on D-Day with another 2 million in the months after.

Those brave many boarded landing craft and aircraft, bound for an uncertain fate against a war-tested opponent that had become the most feared army to cross Europe in two millennia.

Tossed by rough seas and unsettled by the distant echo of machine gun fire, young men from every corner of America stepped into the breach, wading through neck-deep water to open a beachfront in France and blaze a trail of liberation to Berlin.

American landing forces at Utah beach faced the lightest resistance of the invasion's 50 mile breadth. 197 brave souls lost their lives at Utah, but most of the 23,000—men like Raymond Jackson, a Tucsonan with the 15th Cavalry Recon Squadron—came ashore and linked up with the 101st Airborne in Normandy's first major success.

Omaha was less absolute. High bluffs were defended by mortars, machine gunners and pillboxes. The German forces atop the steep, sandy cliffs were highly trained and combat tested. They repelled Allied landing craft and destroyed American tanks as they hit the beach. Commanders considered abandoning Omaha. But our brave Soldiers persisted.

Led by signalmen like Norm Hartline from Tucson, more than 50,000 men in all came ashore at Omaha. More than 5,000 wouldn't advance past the surf line. Killed and wounded lay in the wake and behind parapets for hours or days. History tells us that it took until June 9th for American infantry units from Omaha to successfully establish a beach head at Omaha.

Today, we once again pull back the curtains of history to honor those American and Allied heroes who stood as the point of liberty's spear. Within boundless volumes on World War II are the eulogies of Bradley and Eisenhower, Patton and Montgomery—leaders of the Allied liberation of Europe.

But where we find D-Day's true heroes are not within the dust jackets of history books or news clippings from the day. They haven't lived lives of great fanfare. Our greatest generation arose from America's factories and farms, from our inner cities to our outlying territories. And to these places they returned.

On their backs we won a great victory for freedom and liberty, against oppression and

hatred. Then on those same backs we built the world's greatest democracy, serving as a beacon of light, a shining city atop a hill. Many of the true heroes of D-Day have forever gone unrecognized because they sought not the special recognition afforded their heroism. To these heroes, it was a patriotic duty—a level of selfless sacrifice that transcends medals and citations. And in small towns and big cities across America, the few remaining true heroes of D-Day continue to live quiet lives.

But as these standard bearers for virtue pass on and the torches that marked their trail to liberty are extinguished, we take a proud moment to offer our sincerest gratitude and our indebted praise to those brave warriors who stood between humanity and evil to save mankind from the brink.

And we remember in our hearts and prayers those who gave their last full measure of devotion—for freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FANNIE
W. FITZGERALD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DEDICATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of Fannie W. Fitzgerald Elementary School in Woodbridge, Virginia. Mrs. Fitzgerald was one of four African-American educators who took on the task of integrating Prince William County public schools in the 1960s. I consider myself fortunate to live in a time when we celebrate the accomplishments of a woman like Mrs. Fitzgerald and honor the sentiment of her life's work.

The unanimous Supreme Court Decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, was handed down in 1954, calling for the desegregation of America's public schools. Ten years later in 1964, it was Mrs. Fitzgerald's challenging task to integrate Fred Lynn Elementary and Middle School. "With all deliberate speed," Mrs. Fitzgerald desegregated the school by the following September. Her success will forever be remembered in the diversity of the Prince Wil-

liam County Public School System and its mission statement, which identifies a commitment to a diverse and multicultural learning environment.

Mrs. Fitzgerald's work in the Prince William education system continued for twenty-three years after desegregation. As an elementary school teacher and learning disabilities specialist she witnessed the realization of the changes she initiated in 1964. President Barack Obama, the United States' first African-American President, was just three years old at the time of Mrs. Fitzgerald's desegregation efforts. His landmark Presidency is a testament to the courage and hard work of Mrs. Fitzgerald and her vision for this country's children.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable educator and champion of civil rights. She has enriched the lives of Prince William students with an unqualified opportunity for education, and it is time we thank her for her contribution to our school system. I commend the Prince William County Public School System for this most appropriate dedication. I know Fannie W. Fitzgerald will inspire children to attempt the difficult and accomplish the unlikely for years to come.