

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GEORGE H. MCCOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary service of World War II veteran George H. McCoy.

On June 6, 1944 George, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and countless other veterans of the Normandy campaign, demonstrated their remarkable courage and devotion to the great cause of freedom.

In recognition of his selfless service, the President of the French Republic awarded George McCoy the "Chevalier" rank of the Legion of Honor, equivalent to knighthood, the highest decoration assigned by the Legion.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by person of "eminent merit" in military or civil life.

To this day George continues his camaraderie with America's bravest through his membership in the West Seneca American Legion Post #735, Amvets Post #8113, and the Harvey D. Morin VFW Post #2940.

Just as France has recognized Mr. McCoy's exceptional service, acknowledgement it is fitting and appropriate from this good and grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor George McCoy, a man who with courage and humility has contributed to the liberties we are so fortunate to enjoy. George's bravery is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his service on this, the 65th Anniversary of Normandy's invasion.

RECOGNITION OF LA CHATELAINES VETERAN'S DAY SALUTE ON D-DAY

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stan and Gigi Wielezynski on the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Stan, a native of Normandy, France, and his wife Gigi have never forgotten the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who liberated France from Nazi occupation during World War II. They are the owners of several Columbus area restaurants named La Chatelaine. For fifteen years, in order to express their gratitude and to recognize the U.S. Allied Forces involved in the invasion on the shores of Normandy, Stan and Gigi Wielezynski have opened their doors to World War II veterans and offered them a complimentary French meal.

The Wielezynskis take great pride in this event by having their employees come to work dressed in military apparel, carrying authentic World War II helmets, and celebrating with flag-shaped cakes and music of the 1940s. Additionally, they decorate the restaurant with jeeps, parachutes, and other World War II memorabilia.

Recently, the couple received a letter from Marion Gray, an 83-year-old veteran from the 29th Infantry, stating that his one dream was to say a final goodbye to the friends he lost in Normandy. Marion had been working as a bagger at the local store to save money for his trip. However, upon receipt of the letter, the Wielezynskis generously donated an entire weeklong all-expense paid trip to Normandy for Marion and his wife Ruth.

Madam Speaker, on this 65th anniversary of D-Day, I would like to commend Stan and Gigi Wielezynski for their enormous generosity to the Grays as well as the hundreds of other World War II veterans and for their love of their adopted country.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROGRAM AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of an issue which affects the educational well-being of each of us, and in particular, our children — funding for federal library programs, particularly the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

As you may know, research has shown that students in schools with well-stocked libraries and highly qualified, state-certified school librarians have higher levels of academic achievement than students who do not have the same benefits. Furthermore, many school libraries have become sophisticated 21st century learning environments, offering a full range of print and electronic resources, but today only 60 percent of school libraries have full-time, state-certified school library media specialists on staff. Unfortunately, due to the constraints that school administrators must confront when faced with limited resources, library resource budgets are often utilized to make up for shortfalls in other areas.

To remedy this situation, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) authorized funding for libraries through the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program. While the purpose of the program was primarily to encourage reading and improve literacy, it also allocated funding for acquiring up-to-date school library media resources, acquiring and using advanced technology, facilitating Internet

links and other resource sharing networks among schools and libraries, providing professional development for school library media specialists, and providing students with access to school libraries during nonschool hours. In recognizing the tremendous benefits of library and research technology, the inclusion of this important provision in NCLB represented a significant step towards the creation of a truly 21st century education system. Unfortunately, like many provisions of NCLB, this initiative has been underfunded.

As you may also be aware, state libraries rely greatly on the funds provided through LSTA, which is the only federal program devoted exclusively to libraries, to support statewide initiatives and provide funds to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries through subgrants. The requirement of a state match also helps stimulate additional investment in the program, as approximately three to four state and local dollars are invested for every one federal dollar.

I have long been a strong supporter of funding for library programs, particularly the LSTA state program and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, because of the educational opportunities that these programs help provide and the important role that they play in expanding access to information resources and services for learning in all types of libraries for individuals of all ages. I would respectfully encourage my colleagues in the House to work together in a bipartisan manner to see that, as the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process moves forward, federal library programs receive the support they need to continue helping state and local library programs maintain a high level of quality and service.

RECOGNIZING OF THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK OF THE USS "LIBERTY"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty* was patrolling the waters of the Mediterranean when Israeli planes and torpedo boats attacked the ship. I rise today to pay a special tribute to those who lost their lives and the survivors of this attack on the 42nd Anniversary.

Shortly before the Six-Day War began, the USS *Liberty* was ordered to proceed to the eastern Mediterranean to perform an electronic intelligence collection mission. On June 8th, air and naval forces of Israel attacked the ship without warning.

Of a crew of 294 officers and men the ship suffered 34 killed in action and 173 wounded in action. The ship itself, a \$40 million state-of-the-art signals intelligence platform, was so badly damaged that it never sailed on an operational mission again and was sold in

• 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.

1970 as scrap for a mere \$100,000. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident.

After 34 years, the voices of *Liberty's* dead and wounded seamen must finally be heard. Despite the continuing efforts to uncover the real truths about the attack, Martin Luther King Jr., said it best—"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Although no amount of time can ever erase the memories of that tragic event or bring back those who perished, it is my hope that the wounds of their loved ones have begun to heal.

AAPI HOSTS SUCCESSFUL
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin recently hosted a legislative conference on Capitol Hill, and I was honored to speak to this organization, consisting of proud American doctors who trace their heritage to India. AAPI's members play a critical role in delivering quality health care throughout the U.S. across a broad range of medical specialties.

I heard from AAPI members who discussed the need for health care reform but also shared their concerns about a single-payer system. These physicians told me that while we need reforms, we should never forget that we have the greatest health care system in the world. I agree. We need to find ways to reform health care delivery by cutting costs without compromising the quality of care provided to patients. A system that rations testing, cannot provide the latest pharmaceuticals to patients, and prevents patients from making decisions about their own health care, is a system that moves the power of healthcare from the hands of patients into the hands of government.

That's not what we need in America. I appreciate the advocacy of AAPI on this issue and the difference Indian American doctors make in providing the best health care to their patients every day in our great nation.

CONGRATULATING DARREL JACOBS ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE 2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY THE PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Vietnam veteran's service to his fellow veterans while battling his own chronic illness. This year, the Phoenix VA Health Care Systems awarded Darrel Jacobs the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. This honor recognizes the remarkable way in which Darrel has given back to the same hospital

that has provided him with excellent care since 1972.

Darrell, a former postal clerk for the U.S. Army from 1967–1971, spends 24 hours a week volunteering at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Since he has had diabetes for 37 years and even underwent open-heart surgery at the Phoenix VA Medical Center about seven years ago, Jacobs is able to provide encouragement and assistance to his patients on a personal level.

Darrell provides support for patients in a multitude of ways, specializing in care for veterans with diabetes and heart disease. On days when the diabetes education class is held at the hospital, Darrell arrives at 6:30 a.m. to set everything up, assists veterans with their glucose tests, and is always the last one to leave once the class is over. He also coordinates lunches from the dietary department, works in the cardiology department, and even trains other volunteers.

I commend him for his energetic efforts in giving selflessly to other vets combating disease. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Darrel Jacobs for his service to our country and his continued dedication to America's veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Birchwood School of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. The school was founded in 1984 by a small group of dedicated parents who wanted to create a haven for learning, quality instruction and character development for their children.

The Birchwood School was first housed in rented space in a church building on Warren Road, beginning with twenty students and three teachers, grades one through eight. The name "Birchwood" was used because of the side street upon which it was located. The name soon took on deeper significance as it was discovered that the Chinese character for the birch tree meant blossoming and soaring upwards.

The school's first principal, Mr. Debelak, consulted with some of the most noteworthy experts in the educational field in his creation of a curriculum that would challenge, instruct and shape the character and intellect of every student. The educational mission and goals of Birchwood School have not wavered throughout the growth of the school: inspire children to set high goals in every endeavor; develop the character of each child to instill a sense of caring, compassion and community; and equip each child with a strong foundation of knowledge and the tools to think critically and creatively. Since 1984, the school has grown to nearly 20 staff members and 117 students, as diverse in background and culture as the City of Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the founding members, dedicated staff and parent volunteers of the Birch-

wood School of Cleveland as they celebrate twenty-five years of fostering, enriching and uplifting the minds and hearts of every child who has walked through its doors. Since 1984, 175 students have graduated from Birchwood School, and 323 students have been a part of Birchwood for all or part of their elementary and middle school years. The vision of Birchwood School—providing each child with a quality education and character enrichment, continues to provide significant opportunity and a solid foundation for the future of every student.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY DAVIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marty Davis of Taylorville, Illinois who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's family.

Marty Davis began his career in 1959 at age sixteen in one of the first McDonald's in the nation located in Des Moines, Iowa. Marty worked as a crew member making hamburgers and French fries just like any other teenager, but Marty continued his career in McDonald's. He worked as a manager in a local store and was eventually promoted to an area supervisor for the local operator in Des Moines. In 1977, Marty was offered the chance to own his own McDonald's franchise and moved to Taylorville. Marty has never looked back and now owns and operates McDonald's franchises in Pana, Vandalia, Shelbyville, and Taylorville, Illinois.

As a small business owner in my congressional district, Marty has not forgotten his community. His local stores are active in many local charitable organizations. His stores traditionally place at the top in the Nation during the local annual Ronald McDonald House Charities "Give a Little Love" heart campaign. This placement is a testament to Marty's willingness to put money back into our communities to help those most in need.

Marty was recently honored by McDonald's when he was able to throw out the first pitch during a game between my beloved St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds on Monday, June 1, 2009. As an avid Cardinal fan like me, this opportunity in honor of his 50 years in the McDonald's family was a wonderful surprise to Marty. While I do not blame him for the Cardinals loss that evening, I sure hope that in a few weeks, I throw much better pitches to the Democrats than Marty delivered that night!

Marty Davis has served Central Illinois as a small businessman, community leader, and my friend, and I wish him a very happy 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's Family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CATHERINE SUTTON-DAWSON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay

tribute to the life and legacy of an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Catherine Sutton-Dawson. Though we lost Cathy much too early, her lifetime of good work has left an indelible mark on our community.

Cathy dedicated her professional life to helping others. In a career that spanned nearly thirty-five years, she was employed at Yale-New Haven Hospital where she worked in a variety of roles, most recently as an outreach worker in the Maternal Child Health Initiative in the Department of Community Health. Cathy understood the importance of giving back to the community. The Department of Community Health often sponsored a variety of causes and Cathy was always an active and willing participant. From toy collections and Thanksgiving baskets to community initiatives, Cathy was always available to lend a helping hand. She saw these efforts not only as a means to support those in need, but also as a way to promote unity and departmental teambuilding.

Cathy was also an active member of the New Haven community. She believed in supporting causes that would enrich the community. As a member of the Connecticut NAACP, Cathy chaired the health committee which sponsored an annual health fair which reached thousands of local residents and families. She was also deeply involved in the Hill Development Corporation—a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing economic progress and improved quality of life to the urban neighborhoods of New Haven County. These are just two examples of Cathy's outstanding contributions to our community. The myriad of awards and citations that she has been honored with over the years, including Yale-New Haven Hospital's Annual Martin Luther King Dream Builder Award, are a testament to her unique dedication to civic service.

Catherine Sutton-Dawson was a remarkable woman—always greeting you with a smile and open arms. She possessed an enthusiasm that was infectious and a kindness that inspired all of those around her. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to Cathy's husband of twenty years, Tony, her daughter, Toni, grandchildren Frank and Amir as well as her family, friends, and colleagues. Though her loss will be felt throughout the New Haven community, she has left a legacy of compassion and generosity to which we should all strive.

CONGRATULING JOSEPH J. SAVITZ, ESQUIRE, 2009 HONOREE OF TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Joseph J. Savitz, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is being honored by the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel for his many years of leadership and community service.

For more than 50 years, Attorney Savitz has distinguished himself throughout northeastern

Pennsylvania and beyond as a highly skilled practitioner of the law and as a dedicated supporter of worthwhile causes that enriched the region and benefitted countless people.

Born in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre, Attorney Savitz graduated from G.A.R. High School and went on to further his studies at then Wilkes College from which he graduated in 1948 following three years of military service in the United States Army that included service during World War II in France.

In 1951 he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. His preceptor was then Attorney Max Rosenn who went on to distinguish himself during decades of service on the federal bench with the United States Third Circuit Court.

Attorney Savitz joined the law firm of Rosenn and Rosenn which, in 1954, became the law firm of Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald. It was from that law firm that Attorney Savitz eventually retired as senior partner and still serves as "Of Counsel."

Over the years, Attorney Savitz has served as Pennsylvania Department Commander of the Jewish War Veterans; USA and then National Judge Advocate; trustee of Wilkes University since 1958 (Chair, Board of Trustees, 1975–1978), now a Trustee Emeritus; treasurer and member of the board of John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine; Past President and continuing Director of Temple Israel; Trustee of the Jewish Community Center and a member of all State and Federal Courts.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Savitz on this noteworthy occasion. His dedication and selfless service to his community is legendary and his leadership and example has inspired countless others to seek his counsel and follow in his footsteps.

Attorney Joseph Savitz has truly improved the quality of life for so many for so long in northeastern Pennsylvania and, in the process, he has earned widespread respect and admiration from his fellow citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FATHER
GERARD JEAN-JUSTE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a dedicated public servant, tireless community activist and one of south Florida's unsung heroes, who passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2009 in Miami, Florida. I will join his countless friends at his homegoing celebration on June 5, 2009 to be held at Miami's Notre Dame Catholic Church.

Father Jean-Juste, a Roman Catholic priest, led a 30-year crusade on behalf of both Haitian Americans and his countrymen in Haiti. In that effort, Jean-Juste walked a fine, tense line between spiritual adviser and political leader. One of south Florida and Haiti's most high-profile advocates, Father Jean-Juste symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. Completely unselfish in his endeavors, he devoted himself as a community-builder and a catalyst par ex-

cellence. The authenticity of his stewardship on our behalf was defined by his utmost consecration to his calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless Haitian immigrants whose lives he deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

For many years, Father Jean-Juste ranked among the most visible and outspoken advocates for human rights. In the 1980s, he spoke out against the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, and since then against what he assailed as unfair treatment of Haitians seeking refuge in America. As a remarkable pillar, as well as our community's friend and confidant, he will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. His faith was deep and genuine, and his love for us was real and unforgettable.

Indeed, Father Jean-Juste will be remembered and admired for his tireless, persistent and unwavering efforts on behalf of poor and marginalized people in south Florida. Many of my constituents' family and friends are in need of refuge, compassion and aid. Through his mission to put the cause of Haitian immigrants on the political forefront, Father Jean-Juste serves as the ideal role model for us to mold ourselves after.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Father Gerard Jean-Juste. Father Jean-Juste's life was a triumph and he was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of his life and his interests. I am honored to pay tribute to Father Jean-Juste for his invaluable services and tireless dedication to the south Florida and Haitian community. He will be missed by all who knew him, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I regret missing afternoon and evening votes from the House on June 4th. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 304, 305, 306, 307 and 310, and "nay" on rollcall votes 308 and 309.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DICK
JACOBS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dick Jacobs, a prominent figure in the Great Cleveland Community and former owner of the Cleveland Indians for 15 years, who died today at the age of 83. His tenure as owner of the Indians not only revitalized the team and their fans, but also the City of Cleveland.

Dick Jacobs was the Chairman and Executive Officer of the Richard E. Jacobs group, a commercial real estate development company he founded along with his brother in 1955. The Jacobs group made history by developing the tallest building between New York and Chicago, the Key Center in Public Square as well as by developing Cleveland's first retail shopping mall. He bought the Cleveland Indians in 1986, during which the Indians won the team's first American League Pennants since 1954, during the 1995 and 1997 seasons. Additionally, the Indians went on to the playoffs five straight seasons in a row and to the World Series twice during his tenure. The Richard E. Jacobs group opened Jacobs field in 1994, the stadium Cleveland fans dubbed "The Jake" until its renaming in early 2008.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Dick Jacobs and in recognition of his significant contributions to the Greater Cleveland Community. His tenure as owner of the Cleveland Indians and his considerable commitment to the revitalization of the City of Cleveland will continue to live on in the hearts of the Greater Cleveland Community.

THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW DWIGHT OGDEN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private First Class Matthew Dwight Ogden, of Corpus Christi, Texas, who died on June 1, 2009, in Nerkh, Afghanistan, while assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Matthew was born in Corpus Christi and attended King High School, where he graduated in 1994. He went on to enlist in the U.S. Army and was a private in the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the life of a young man who died for this country as he fought for our, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," our inalienable rights as outlined in the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Without Matthew's courage and determination to join the U.S. Army, and other young men and women like him, we would not be able to enjoy this life and liberty. It is fitting and important that we pay tribute to Matthew for his bravery and courage as he fought to protect our country and way of life.

Matthew will be missed dearly by his family, friends and service men and women, however, his spirit will forever remain intact. He will remain with us at all times—we will forever remember him.

I would also like to take this time to share my most sincere condolences with his father, Michael Dwight Ogden, and his mother, Charlotte Anne Taylor. He is survived by brothers Nathan Ogden, Stephen Turner, and Nicholas Aikman. My condolences go out as well to the families of his "fallen brothers."

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life and service of Private First Class Matthew Dwight Ogden, who gave his

life for our country. He will forever be remembered as a hero of our nation and—the 27th Congressional District of Texas.

FINAL SERVICE OF SPRINGER COMMUNITY CHURCH IN DIX, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the final service of the Springer Community Church in Dix, Illinois.

For 85 years, the Springer Community Church has been an important part of the Jefferson County community. In the 1920s, with transportation sparse, the church was founded in the old Springer schoolhouse so that local children in the surrounding area would have a place to attend Sunday School. It was 1946 when the church had a building of its own, about a half mile away.

Over time, Springer Community Church became known as "the little pink church," and it was truly a community project. The building was constructed on donated land from the material of an old store which was being torn down in a neighboring town. Members of the community built the church, and put additions onto it in the 1950s and 1970s. It was served by missionaries from the American Missionary Fellowship. Over the decades it became a place for generations of local community members to come together and worship.

Sadly, the building fell into disrepair, and last weekend, the little pink church held its last service, a Remembrance Service, to allow members to gather together and celebrate the church's history. Amidst the sadness of seeing such an important institution close its doors, the church treasurer, Carole Barton, exemplified the perseverance that has carried Springer through these last 85 years, telling the Mt. Vernon Register-News, "we hope some day we can get organized and put in another church." I join with my colleagues in the House in wishing the Springer Community Church family all the best, as they seek a new location from which to continue the important work which they have done so well.

CONGRATULATING CHIQUITA BRANDS INTERNATIONAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chiquita Brands International on receiving the 2009 Circle of Excellence Award presented annually by the Distribution Business Management Association. Each year the association presents this prestigious award to the corporation that best exemplifies three main criteria of supply chain management: current corporate commitment, past demonstrated programs, and plans for continued commitment. The Circle of Excellence Award is the Distribution Business Management Association's highest recognition for Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and environmental protection.

Chiquita, together with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, worked to adequately measure their carbon footprint in bringing bananas from the plantations to the marketplace. Through their studies, they were able to identify areas in the supply chain that will allow them to further reduce their carbon footprint in a sustainable manner.

According to Amy Thorn, Executive Director of the Distribution Business Management Association, Chiquita stood out from other businesses because of its ongoing green transportation initiatives that focus on reducing carbon emissions in transportation throughout North America. Additionally, Dr. Omar Keith Helferich of Central Michigan University stated that Chiquita's accomplishments are testimony to its corporate commitment to sustainability.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the leadership of Chiquita and their 23,000 world-wide employees who are truly committed to making our country and planet a better and sustainable place for future generations.

HONORING THE VISITING NURSE SERVICES OF CONNECTICUT ON THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and extend my sincere congratulations to Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. This is a very special milestone for this organization—a non-profit health care provider and innovative leader in providing home health care needs to individuals in more than fifty communities across Connecticut.

In March of 1909, eighty women representing twenty-one churches and charitable organizations met to discuss their concerns about the spread of tuberculosis and came to the conclusion that the solution was to secure and finance a visiting nurse to treat patients and teach others in the community how to protect themselves and their families from this devastating disease. These women also understood the importance of involving the community in their efforts. They contacted local businesses, churches, and social groups to explain their plans and solicit funds to support it. With the hiring of Miss Finnegan, who made her home visits around the City of Bridgeport on her bicycle, the foundation for Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut was laid.

Over the course of the last century, Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut expanded to meet the growing and changing needs of our communities. Today, Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut provides skilled nursing care, hospice care, therapy/rehabilitative services, medical social work assistance, and home health aide services for thousands of patients each year in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield counties. The commitment of the administration and staff remains as strong today as it was in the agency's earliest years. In the last hundred years, there have been many changes at the agency, however, at its heart has always been the desire to provide affordable, quality health care to those most in need and improve their quality of life.

Humor, Excellence, Attitude, Respect, Teamwork—HEART—is at the core of this agency's mission. "Bringing HEART to Health Care" is so much more than a slogan—it is the essence of their philosophy and the culture of this very special organization. For one hundred years, Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut has been an invaluable resource to countless individuals and families in need. I am proud to stand today and extend my heartfelt congratulations on their centennial anniversary and my very best wishes for many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE 64TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NA-
TIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Chairman DELAHUNT of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, I am introducing legislation to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, U.N.

Joining us in supporting this legislation are Representatives ED TOWNS, MAURICE HINCHEY, SAM FARR, MADELEINE BORDALLO, JOSÉ SERRANO, JIM MCGOVERN, MICHAEL HONDA, DENNIS KUCINICH, JOHN OLVER, and BARBARA LEE.

For 64 years since its founding, the U.N. has made many contributions to the world community and has provided a forum for the achievement of international cooperation in solving the world's most pressing economic, social and humanitarian problems including climate change, trafficking in humans, combating global terrorism, and responding quickly to disasters such as the tsunami in Southeast Asia in 2004.

Last year, Secretary General of the U.N. Ban Ki-moon launched a multi-year campaign to improve awareness among global policymakers at the highest levels regarding issues relating to violence against women. This campaign has been successful in bringing people together to make a difference in the lives of women globally throughout its first year by holding a number of conferences that bring together experts and world leaders to promote solutions to the issues of violence against women.

I look forward to working with Chairman DELAHUNT and others to support the U.N. as the organization moves forward and to commend the U.N. for 64 years of good work.

IN HONOR OF JOAN CLAYBROOK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joan Claybrook, upon the occasion of the renaming of Public Citizen's headquarters in Washington, DC as the Joan Claybrook Building, and in recognition of 27 years of service as President of Public Citizen.

Joan Claybrook was born on June 12, 1937 and grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where she attended Goucher College. Her distinguished career in public service began in Washington, DC, where she worked in conjunction with Ralph Nader addressing highway and auto safety issues. Their combined efforts on transportation issues culminated in the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Highway Safety Act of 1966, our nation's first auto safety laws. Her expertise on auto safety led her to a position in the Carter Administration, where she served as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from 1977 to 1981.

Joan served as President of Public Citizen from 1982 to 2008, throughout her various leadership roles in public service. She currently serves on the board for a number of institutions, including Georgetown University Law Center, from where she earned her J.D., as well as on the board of the Consumers Union, Citizens for Tax Justice, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Goucher College Board of Trustees, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice and the California Foundation Advisory Board. She has been honored numerous times for her distinguished work on behalf of public interest including three honorary degrees from Georgetown University, Goucher College and University of Maryland. Additionally, she was awarded the Phillip Hart Distinguished Consumer Service Award and the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Georgetown Law Center.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Joan Claybrook as Public Citizen renames their Washington, DC headquarters as the Joan Claybrook Building and in recognition of her dedication to public service.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fifty-Second National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 14th, 2009, in New York City. A bright and star-studded event, this parade proudly recognizes the heritage of Puerto Rican people here in the United States, and year upon year has proven to be one of our nation's largest outdoor festivities. This year I am especially pleased to take part in the day because the parade itself is dedicated to the City of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, a vibrant and beautiful community which also happens to be my place of birth.

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is the successor to the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, which held its inaugural celebration on Sunday, April 12th, 1958, in "El Barrio," Manhattan. The impact of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York was both immediate and resounding. It galvanized thousands of New York Puerto Ricans in a very public, very proud demonstration of their emergence in the City as an important and growing ethnic group. For the next 38 years, the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade grew

into a staple of New York's cultural life. In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size and transform it into the national and, indeed, international, affair that it is today.

This magnificent New York institution now includes participation from delegates representing over thirty states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and attracts well over 3 million parade goers every year. In addition, the parade reaches millions more through television broadcasts and via satellite to viewers the world over.

The great success that the parade enjoys each year is brought about in large measure by the continued and tireless efforts of a few dedicated individuals. They are women and men of able leadership and strong conviction, who believe, as I do, in the limitless potential of people of Puerto Rican descent. Leading this effort is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization designed to foster self-awareness and pride among Puerto Ricans in this country, and in so doing, likewise address issues of economic development, education, cultural recognition, and social advancement.

The Parade's march up New York's Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration, is hardly the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events that strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York. Over the years, the two have developed a symbiotic relationship. Puerto Ricans have helped transform New York into a dynamic, bilingual city that continues to welcome newcomers from all over the globe. The City of New York, which is a place of opportunity, has enabled Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, culturally and politically.

Madam Speaker, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade captures the spirit of the special relationship between Puerto Ricans and New York City. It celebrates the many ways that we enrich the traditions of this country, and sends a clear signal to all who witness it, that the Puerto Rican community—both in New York and nationally—represents an exquisite tapestry of individuals. As a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, and as someone who participates in this parade annually, I can attest that the reverberations of this day are both vast and glorious. They can be seen on the faces and heard in the streets, as millions come together to joyously proclaim their heritage. And so it is, Madam Speaker, that with a full and proud heart, I stand before you and my colleagues in Congress to pay tribute to the sights and sounds and wonder that is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HISTORIC
VILLAGE OF SANDOVAL, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the sesquicentennial of the historic village of Sandoval, Illinois.

Sandoval is a small community fifty miles east of East St. Louis, in Marion County, Illinois. Settled in 1823 by Thomas Deadmond,

the area is believed to have been named after the proprietor of a trading post that passed through the town. Sandoval was officially incorporated on February 18, 1859, and the village is currently celebrating its 150th birthday.

Sandoval played an important role in the Civil War. The Illinois Central railroad passes directly through the town, making it a strategic staging point for Union soldiers on their way to battle.

Since the conclusion of the war, Sandoval has continued to grow and prosper through the dedication of its citizens. From the village's founding to its flourishing community today, Sandoval has a rich culture of hard work and entrepreneurship. In 1877, the St. Louis and Sandoval Mining Company opened Sandoval's first coal mine, soon to be followed by the Zinc Company in 1897. As Sandoval moved through the twentieth century, the community has prospered in many of its industries including: oil production, agriculture, and manufacturing. It has proven itself to be an enduring village that the State of Illinois as well as the country should be proud of.

I would like to congratulate Mayor Ron Kretzer, as well as all of the citizens of Sandoval, who continue to make their town a community worth celebrating.

HONORING HERMAN W. HOROWITZ

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Herman W. Horowitz for his remarkable contributions to society. The bravery displayed by Mr. Horowitz throughout the liberation of the French Republic during WWII and his continued community activism are certainly deserving of recognition.

Recently, Mr. Horowitz has been awarded the French Legion of Honor, France's highest award in commemoration of his wartime efforts. As a member of the Seventh Armored Division, Mr. Horowitz displayed the bravery and patriotic sacrifice that eventually led to the war's end. For these efforts, nations around the world are grateful, but for the French citizens who Mr. Horowitz helped to liberate, his sacrifice will always be especially remembered. As Americans, we also have cause for particular gratitude as Mr. Horowitz's efforts helped to bring a close to a war in which so many American lives were lost.

In addition to his wartime efforts, Mr. Horowitz has remained active in his community. Retelling his wartime stories during speaking engagements at local schools and institutions, Mr. Horowitz has kept his dedication to service very much alive. In addition to these contributions, Mr. Horowitz has been extremely active in his volunteer efforts at the Holocaust Center in Glen Cove, N.Y. Throughout all of these efforts, Mr. Horowitz has continued to embody the spirit of service to his community, nation and all humanity that he displayed so many years ago across the Atlantic. The selflessness displayed by Mr. Horowitz, throughout his life, has made his continued service and community contributions so remarkable.

The service and contributions of Mr. Horowitz is surely inspiring to us all, and I am immensely grateful to him for all that he has ac-

complished. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for his extensive contributions to society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed one recorded vote on the House floor on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 308 (On Agreeing to the Issa of California amendment to H.R. 626).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LEVONIA "TINY" CHANEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Levonia "Tiny" Chaney. Levonia was born on June 16, 1909, in the rural community of Brookman, Georgia, to Henry and Laura (nee Boston) Bailey. Her father was a successful farmer, blacksmith, barber, community activist, and chairman of the Deacon Board at New Zion Baptist Church.

Levonia Bailey Chaney migrated from Savannah, Georgia, in 1934, to Hackensack, New Jersey, where she met and married her late husband, Arthur Chaney Sr. They were blessed with three children, Arthur W. Chaney Jr. M.D.; Carol Tunstall, retired music educator; and Dewey Chaney M.D. Her mother was a dressmaker. She watched her mother sew from the scraps that her father brought from the mill whenever he went to town to sell his produce. Levonia looked forward to helping her mother make clothes for the family. After the death of her mother, she became dressmaker, hairdresser, and barber for the family. She was baptized at an early age and joined the New Zion Baptist Church in Brookman, Georgia. She was salutatorian of her class at Seldon Normal Industrial Institute in Brunswick, Georgia, where she majored in home making. As a teenager she was an active member of the Girls 4-H club of America. She won numerous awards, including "Champion Dressmaker of the State of Georgia." She is the oldest living PTA president in the city of Hackensack. She and her late husband were recognized in 1970 by the Hackensack Negro Professional Women's Club as "Parents of the Year." In 1999, Mount Olive Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Rev. Gregory J. Jackson, recognized her 69 years of faithful service. She is a charter member of the Emeritus of the Nurses Unit.

Levonia, affectionately called "Tiny," arrived in Bergen County in 1934 where she united with the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Hackensack under the pastorate of the late Rev. T. W. H. Gibson. She shared her gift of sewing by making choir robes, altar skirts, covers for chairs, the nurse's uniforms, and whatever

else the church needed. She is still an active member of the church for 75 years now, under the pastorate of Rev. Gregory J. Jackson. After 41 years of service, Tiny retired from International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The community also benefited from her skills creating bridal party gowns and garments for members in the church and community.

She enjoys reading with great excitement, doing search and find word puzzles, playing games, exercise time, movies, arts and crafts, celebrating each other's birthday, singing and dancing at the Martin Luther King Center in Hackensack. She looks forward to a new MLK center that would provide friendship, sense of purpose, uplifting and a host of other cultural and educational activities. She is a Past Matron of Pride of the East Order of the Eastern Star, PHA Hackensack and has been honored for her dedicated service for over 60 years.

"Tiny" the matriarch of the Bailey family has three surviving sisters, Vera Brewer, Gussie B. Langston and Susie Richardson. She is the grandmother of seven, Arthur Chaney III, MD, Kip Chaney, Gina Chaney, Corey Chaney, Craig Chaney, Shanda Tunstall-Charles, and Harvey Tunstall. She is the great grandmother of six. She has one living fraternal aunt, Genevieve Scott of Brunswick, GA.

On behalf of myself and the people of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey, I wish Levonia very best as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDY J. BALTZO

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives—to recognize the work of Andrew J. Baltzo, founder of the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center in Walnut Creek, California, who passed on Memorial Day 2009 after a long illness.

Andy Baltzo was born in Berkeley, California, on February 3, 1920. He was raised in Oakland, and studied at the University of California in Berkeley where he attained a teacher's credential. For the 10 years following his graduation, Andy taught chemistry to local intermediate school students. He also served four years in the U.S. Army as a medical lab technician. It was the bombing of Hiroshima that gave Andy the incentive to devote his life to speaking out against the further development of nuclear weapons world-wide.

In 1969, Andy led the way in forming the Mt. Diablo Peace Center and served as the Center's full-time director until 2000. Striving to demonstrate that a peaceful world based on justice for all people is possible, the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center has consistently worked to provide venues for people to further their experience of the peace process through classes, public forums and educational programs.

A man of deep convictions, Andy devoted his life to furthering non-violent resistance and expanding social justice. Because of his work, he received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honorable Mention Award for "Keeping the Dream Alive" from the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 1996. He

also received the 6th Annual Peacemaker Award from the Center for Human Development on January 27, 2000.

Today our thoughts and prayers are also with Andy's wife Doris, his daughter Alice, and son Daniel, and all of his family and friends. We join them in celebrating a life well lived. It is an honor and a privilege to commemorate the life of Andrew J. Baltzo and recognize the indelible mark he leaves behind on the residents of our Congressional Districts.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as a Member of Congress representing 11 tribal nations, but also as a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation to support the passage of H.J. Res. 40. I would like to thank Mr. BACA for his leadership on this bill and for all the work he does on behalf of Tribes. This bill recognizes of the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States and encourages all Americans to observe the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. As a Nation with a tragic history in the treatment toward Native Americans, it is important that this Congress recognize the contribution that native peoples have made to the development of our Nation.

Today, there are 562 federally recognized Indian tribes in 34 States. Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of American history, these tribes ceded millions of acres of land to the United States, but have never ceded sovereignty or agreed to self-liquidation. Today, Indian lands are only about 5 percent of all land in the United States. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, many tribes remain fractured and broken, due to the destructive policies toward Native Americans. However, tribal heritage, history and contributions to the United States remain robust and all Americans should remember to honor the contributions of this courageous group.

Mr. Speaker, from the birth of the United States, Native Americans have contributed to our success as a country. The first European settlers could not have survived without the help of the native communities. Even during the Revolutionary War, Native Americans fought along side the colonists to fight for liberty. During their journey west, Lewis and Clark depended on tribes to see them through harsh winters and save them from starvation. Mr. Speaker, even while it was the policy of the United States to remove or destroy tribal governments in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans still worked alongside European settlers to grow our Nation both economically and culturally.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of our history, Native Americans have fought with, against, and for the United States. In fact, Indians have served in all the country's wars and historically enlist in the military in great numbers. Though all Native Americans did not even have U.S. Citizenship during World War I, they still volunteered their service. It is esti-

mated that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the United States military in World War I. By using native languages to confuse the enemy, these soldiers were able to turn the tide of one of the bloodiest wars in history. These "Codetalkers" continued this heroic effort in World War II. Historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita than any other demographic group and there are over 190,000 Native American veterans today.

Today, Mr. Speaker, tribal communities are vibrant and growing. Tribal governments are strong, ensuring that their people retain their culture, values and way of life. In my state of Oklahoma in particular, home to 39 distinct tribes, Indian Country is flourishing. Tribal enterprises contribute millions of dollars to the State's economy and provide thousands of jobs for Oklahomans. Mr. Speaker, unlike private corporations, Native American owned businesses give back to their communities by investing in basic infrastructure, healthcare, education, law enforcement and a host of other government services. In many areas, tribal cultural activities are the only access to the arts and humanities that the local population can readily access. The changes that have been made my Native businesses in recent years are absolutely astounding. Tribal cultures enrich American life, and tribal economies provide opportunities where few would otherwise exist.

As legislators and as Americans, it is vitally important that we consider the contributions that Native Americans have made to the success of our great country. It is equally imperative that Congress remembers that we have engaged with Indian tribes as a government-to-government relationship with tribes since the first European settlers arrived in North America. As we make laws that will affect Indian Country, we should do so with the intention of keeping tribal governments strong, self-sufficient and encourage the preservation of tribal cultures.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to vote in favor of this significant legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MOST
REVEREND ANTHONY M. PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, for being awarded the 2009 Notre Dame College Medal.

The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, served the diocese as the ninth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for 25 years. A Cleveland native, he is a graduate of Borromeo College and St. Mary Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in 1959. Bishop Pilla served as President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. As Bishop, he directed community-based initiatives such as Church in the City and Vibrant Parish Life. He served on numerous community boards and committees including the board of the former National Council of Chris-

tians and Jews, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable and Catholic University of America.

Notre Dame College established the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Scholarship Fund to honor him for his longtime dedication to higher education to make a Catholic education accessible to the disadvantaged. In 1994 he was presented the Fidelia Award for his longstanding work and support of Notre Dame College.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland for living Notre Dame College's commitment to personal, professional and global responsibility. He is certainly worthy of the award being bestowed upon him for his longtime commitment to civic work throughout Greater Cleveland.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE CHIOU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Chiou, of Ames, Iowa, who is among the outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Education is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Lawrence was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one percent of U.S. student PSAT exam scores. From June to August 2009, Lawrence will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project at MIT.

I commend Lawrence Chiou for his commitment to academic achievement and leadership in science and technology. He is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Lawrence and his family in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RAYMOND BRAGG, RETIREMENT
FROM DIRECTOR OF REDEVELOPMENT
AND SPECIAL
PROJECTS FROM THE CITY OF
FONTANA, CA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Raymond Bragg, Director Redevelopment and Special Projects for the City of Fontana. Mr. Bragg has had an impressive 42 year serving the public in California and abroad.

A native of Burlingame, CA, Mr. Bragg currently resides in Fontana, CA. His accomplishments as a City Planner can be seen throughout Fontana. Prior to his professional career,

Mr. Bragg attended California Polytechnic State University, Pomona where he met his wife Karolyn. His Scholastic career also includes a Master's degree from California State University, Fullerton in Comparative Public Administration, specializing in the Middle East.

In 1967, his venture into public service began when a newly married Mr. Bragg and his wife Karolyn, honorably served two years with the Peace Corps. He and his wife taught English as a second language at the university level in Turkey.

California and The City of Fontana are not the only beneficiaries of Mr. Bragg's talents. In 1978, he accepted a position with the R.M. Parsons Engineering Company and was contracted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to build a new city on the Red Sea. Through this position, as a City Planner, Mr. Bragg was given the opportunity of a lifetime to see a new city develop.

The City of Fontana has capitalized upon Mr. Bragg's education and experience abroad. The pride he takes in his work is visible throughout downtown Fontana. Over 10,000 people from the community joined him to celebrate the opening of a library constructed under his guidance. His achievements with the revitalization of downtown Fontana will impact the community for years to come.

Throughout his extraordinary career Mr. Bragg has also led a harmonious family life. He and his wife Karolyn have been married for 42 years with 3 children, including 7 grandchildren.

I congratulate Mr. Bragg on his impressive 42 year career in public service and I wish him well in his retirement.

CENTENNIAL OF WILDEY THEATER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of an important landmark in Edwardsville, Illinois.

The Wildey Theater first opened its doors in 1909 at 250–254 Main Street in Edwardsville. Originally a three-story opera house and meeting hall, the Wildey soon began hosting silent films and live productions. In 1927 it presented "The Jazz Singer," the first motion picture to include sound.

For the next few decades, the Wildey Theater was the most popular location for entertainment in Edwardsville. Unfortunately, in 1998 the Wildey could no longer stay at it and was forced to close its doors. The City of Edwardsville purchased the building and began renovating the historic theater. With the benevolent actions from the citizens of Edwardsville the Wildey is being restored to its earlier grandeur. Last month, it celebrated its 100th birthday with an outdoor showing of "The Wizard of Oz."

I want to congratulate Alderman Rich Walker, chairman of the Wildey Theater's development committee, and the citizens of Edwardsville who have put countless hours and made generous contributions to this historic landmark. I look forward to visiting a restored Wildey Theater as it begins its second century as a gathering place in Edwardsville.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 U.S. PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2009 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

To be considered for the U.S. team, students take a series of challenging theoretical and laboratory exams. Out of thousands of students, the top 24 finalists are invited to participate in a 10-day physics camp hosted by the University of Maryland. This camp prepares the students to face the challenge of meeting physics students from all over the world in a brain-to-brain competition through nine days of intense studying, testing and problem solving.

At the end of training camp, five exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in July at a tremendous international competition in Mexico. This type of international physics competition is a meaningful endeavor where physics students from across the globe learn in new intellectual and experiential ways and establish working relationships that bridge geographic and cultural differences.

Last year, the U.S. five-member team brought home five medals: four gold ones and a silver.

The members of the 2009 team include: Yishun Dong, Yale Fan, David Field, Justin Holmgren, Patrick Hurst, Robert Kastner, Brian Kong, Kevin Lang, Dan Li, Patricia Li, Bowei Liu, Jenny Lu, Marianna Mao, Anand Natarajan, Joshua Orem, Thomas Schultz, Allen Yuan, Yunfan Zhang and Andrew Zhou.

I commend the American Institute of Physics, the American Association of Physics Teachers and affiliated sponsors for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students.

I know my colleagues share my pride in the achievements of these students. Their success is a testament not only to their individual determination, but also to a group of exceptional teachers and coaches. The 2009 U.S. Physics Team coaches include Paul Stanley, JiaJia Dong, David Fallest, David Jones, Andrew Lin, Warren Turner and Qiu Zi Li. These coaches are all volunteers and usually full time teachers with extraordinary demands on their time. Unfortunately, very rarely do they receive recognition for their work with the physics team. I would like to thank each of them for the time and dedication they have shown to these students. The time spent with these students is a great service to the future of science and America.

I also hope that some of the Olympiad students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world! I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top five the best of success as they represent the United States at the 40th International Physics Olympiad competition to be held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

JACK KEMP

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we were all saddened by the passing of our former colleague Jack Kemp who served with such great distinction in this House and in former President Bush's cabinet. He was most famous for his football career and the following poem from Capitol Guide Albert Carey Caswell reflects on his wonderful life.

JACK, YOU WENT DEEP!

In the game of life . . . going long or deep . . .

What, steps must we so take . . . to so make our lives complete?

All upon this earth, so very deep!

As left behind, when our time runs out to reap!

All in the calls that we so make, all in the hearts that we so touch . . . so very deep!

Whether, on fields of green . . .

Or walking upon, those most hallowed halls of Congress seen . . .

Jack, you . . . always went deep!

A Jack of all trades, a Renaissance Man God so made . . . all in our hearts to keep!

A Fine Father, A Fine Husband . . . and a Good Friend!

A True Leader, of both Women and Men!

Whether, on fields of green . . . or in those halls of Congress seen . . .

As Jack, was always well armed to compete! For this man could lead!

A Man of character and class, soft spoken . . . who in our hearts now lasts!

As why Bob Dole, saw your fine soul . . . and wanted to make you his VP!

As why all of Buffalo knows, to what a fine man Jack Kemp so rose!

For in the game of life, when . . . he came up to that line . . .

He would always shine, and go deep . . . and not think twice!

And, for all of his leadership . . . and all of his accomplishments so bright. . .

The greatest thing of all, for which we so weep tonight!

Is that Family Man, so very bright . . .

For it was once said, "In the end, the love you send" . . .

"Is equal to the number you make!"

Upon, looking at his family's Christmas cards!

The tears in our eyes, now run so very hard! Knowing what his fine life and love . . . had so meant!

For Love of God and Country, and Family your life was spent!

But, for you Jack . . . you kind soft spoken man . . .

Heaven, could not wait!

As why, In the Game of Life . . . Jack, your life was so complete!

As Jack . . . yea! You, went deep!

In honor of a warm hearted man, Congressman Jack Kemp . . . A great leader on and off the field . . . a fine father, a great husband and a family man . . . during the Memorial Day Concert at The Capitol, Dan Snyder asked me if I had written anything for his friend Jack. Inspired by his request and Jack this tribute was written.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate World Environment Day, which is recognized every year on June 5th. World Environment Day was established by the United Nations in 1972 during the commencement of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. For the last 37 years, World Environment Day has been one of the ways that the United Nations has increased awareness in every country about our environment through its goals of giving a human face to environmental issues, empowering people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

This year, the theme for World Environment Day appropriately focuses on taking action to combat global warming. This year's anniversary comes as people from nations all around the globe are calling for action to move towards a clean energy future that will not only drive economic growth but also protect our planet. As the world readies for the United Nations Climate Change Conference this December in Copenhagen, this anniversary also serves as an important reminder of the need for global action as the international community prepares to come together to discuss the path forward.

The scientific debate about whether humans are causing global warming is over. The reports issued in 2007 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscored the clear need for all countries to take action to reduce global warming pollution. In Copenhagen, the United States and the international community must now turn to how to take action to address it.

Last month, the United States took a major step forward when the House Energy and Commerce Committee reported out the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act. This comprehensive energy legislation will unleash a clean energy revolution here in America that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, strengthen our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and stop global warming. This legislation will build upon the progress we have already made with the passage of the 2007 energy bill and the clean energy provisions included in the recovery package. With the leadership of President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, the United States is finally poised to head to Copenhagen as a leader rather than a laggard in taking action to transition to a clean energy future and reduce heat-trapping emissions.

This U.N. event is an important reminder of our global needs and I want to bring it to the attention of all the Members.

GEORGE S. "BUCK" BLESSING

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of George S. "Buck" Blessing. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life but joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

On this occasion, we join with the immediate family and loved ones in saying farewell and praising God for his life. George S. "Buck" Blessing was dearly cherished and well respected by his loved ones, his colleagues, and the community. His service in the Army in World War II illustrates his dedication to America and its ideals. Please rest assured that your extended family from Congressional District Three joins your immediate family and community in recognizing George S. "Buck" Blessing's outstanding service to this nation. As you experience the stage of grief, please find comfort in God's words and wisdom. He is a constant power of strength in these times and will continue to lift you and your family.

Remember, we join Reverend Charles Belz and your friends and family in celebrating George S. "Buck" Blessing's tremendous life. We are all with you in this time of transition. There is an emptiness that only those who have lost a close relative can understand. May the sympathy of those who care make the sorrow of your heart less difficult to bear. If my staff or I may assist you or your family in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us.

In closing, I know that George S. "Buck" Blessing would be extremely proud of the tremendous work his grandson, Nick Martinelli, is doing in my office on behalf of the armed services and veterans. Nick Martinelli is carrying on his family's strong tradition of service to this nation, and I am very thankful for the contributions he makes every day.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and recognize Lynn Morton-Weil, who is retiring after more than 21 years of service to the people of Sonoma County.

During her tenure as a county employee, Ms. Morton-Weil worked in six departments as well as serving as personal assistant to three county supervisors, Tim Smith, Mike Cale and currently, Valerie Brown. As such, she embodies much of the Board's institutional memory.

In addition to her official duties, she helped establish the Sonoma County Regional Park Foundation and served as its first Executive Director. She also administered the first Community Partnerships for Youth grant, which included developing the application process,

contract and monitoring criteria and served as Project Director of the Sonoma County Juvenile Prevention Commission.

Recognizing the importance of public service and involvement, she has dedicated countless hours to both candidates and causes.

She takes pride in living in a television-free household, so her retirement hours will be filled with her passions: gardening, hiking, cycling, music, theatre, dance and most especially, her friends, family and her eagerly anticipated English springer spaniel puppy.

Madam Speaker, Lynn Morton-Weil has served her community and her county well for much of her adult life. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her for her public service and wish her well on her retirement.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and recognize Lynn Morton-Weil, who is retiring after more than 21 years of service to the people of Sonoma County.

During her tenure as a county employee, Ms. Morton-Weil worked in six departments as well as serving as personal assistant to three county supervisors, Tim Smith, Mike Cale and currently, Valerie Brown. As such, she embodies much of the Board's institutional memory.

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Madam Speaker, Lynn Morton-Weil has served her community and her county well for much of her adult life. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her for her public service and wish her well on her retirement.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 626) to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes:

Mrs LOWEY. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. This long overdue and deficit-neutral measure will make the federal government a more family-oriented workplace.

As a mother of three and a grandmother of eight, I understand the challenges families face. Balancing work with child care, especially after the arrival of a new baby, is a challenge Congress can and must do more to address. By providing federal employees with four weeks of paid parental leave after the birth or adoption of a child, H.R. 626 is an important first step in this worthwhile effort.

As the nation's largest single employer, the United States government should be leading the way in adopting family-friendly employment policies, not struggling to catch up. Not only do 75 percent of Fortune 100 companies already provide paid parental leave, but a Harvard University study of 165 nations revealed that the United States joins Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea as the only nations that do not guarantee paid parental leave to their federal employees. Like many of my colleagues, I am pleased that the House of Representatives will act tonight to rectify this embarrassing discrepancy.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, roughly three million federal employees or nearly 60 percent of the current federal workforce will be eligible to retire within the next ten years. The bill under consideration this evening represents a strategic investment in the future of our federal workforce, ensuring that the United States government is able to recruit and retain young, talented professionals.

Madam Speaker, with our nation embroiled in two armed conflicts and confronting the worst economic recession in decades, I believe that this measure is an essential step toward maintaining and enhancing the quality of the federal workforce in years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

ENHANCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION ACT OF 2009, H.R. 2710

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, last week I reintroduced the "Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (E-STEM) Act of 2009," H.R. 2710. This legislation, improved from last Congress, provides comprehensive mechanisms to coordinate the Nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education initiatives. Forty-nine members of the United States House of Representatives signed on as original cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation.

The intent of this bill is to increase the coordination, collaboration, and coherence to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives for the students of today and the citizens and workers of tomorrow.

As a former teacher, principal and school board member I am deeply committed to improving the education we provide our young people. Developing citizens that are critical thinkers and scientifically literate will help drive a vibrant society and create sound economic policy. Our economy depends on our country's education.

Today, more than ever, our economic resiliency depends on the competitiveness of our labor force. Unfortunately, the signs are not good. Over 25 years ago, "A Nation at Risk" identified America's need to improve STEM education to ensure that we remain competitive in an increasingly global economy. In this country we have many successful STEM education programs. The challenge is that these programs are not coordinated. Over a dozen agencies are engaged in STEM education and often not aware of the efforts of other agencies—they are working in isolation. Our Nation is not maximizing the impact of our STEM education initiatives.

The E-STEM Act will provide a framework for federal agencies, the states and all stakeholders, to work collaboratively. It will help them establish national STEM education goals, coordinate STEM education initiatives, and avoid unnecessary duplication among these efforts.

The bill has four major components:

(1) Elevating the STEM Education Subcommittee at the President's Office of Science Technology Policy (OSTP) to the standing committee level. This change would give STEM education a higher profile within OSTP and establish the mechanism for the coordination of federal STEM education initiatives.

(2) Establishing an Assistant Secretary for STEM Education at the U.S. Department of Education. This Office would bring together the Department's STEM education efforts and manage programs such as Math and Science Partnerships, Math Now, Math Skills for Secondary Students, Minority Science and Engineering Improvement, Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow, and Upward Bound Math-Science as well as the non-financial aid components of the National Science and Mathematics Access Retain Talent (SMART grants), the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH grants), and the Academic Competitiveness grants.

(3) Creating the State Consortium on STEM Education. This voluntary group of states will be provided with support to align their STEM education efforts. Their mission is to coordinate policies to address weaknesses in STEM education. For example, the Consortium will work with stakeholders to identify strategies to improve the representation of women and minorities in STEM fields.

(4) And lastly, this bill establishes the National STEM Education Resource Repository (NSERR). This clearing house will be a portal to information about all federally funded STEM education programs, making the results of the more than \$3 billion the Federal Government spends annually on STEM education available to local educators. NSERR will make STEM education resources, research and promising practices and exemplary programs widely available to educators, search engines, and third party developers to create applications to enhance STEM teaching and learning.

We need to ensure that all our children are prepared for citizenship in a world that is in-

creasingly dependent on STEM literacy. The bleak outlook for our economy should be a wake-up call that we cannot continue to move forward without a blue print for our students and our future economic well-being. This is why I reintroduced the E-STEM Act.

I want to thank all my colleagues for joining together to address the critical needs of our Nation. I look forward to working together to move this legislation through this Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON ON ADVANCE OF DEMOCRACY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate National Assemblyman Saad Hariri and his March 14 coalition on their victory in yesterday's elections in Lebanon. In December, I participated on a delegation to Beirut meeting with Saad Hariri and his colleagues who were bravely campaigning to promote a free market democracy. At their campaign headquarters, I was, inspired by the large number of portraits of assassinated parliamentarians. Saad Hariri is upholding the tradition of dedication established by his martyred father. Following the American-led coalition liberation of Iraq, Syria withdrew from Lebanon giving new hopes for the spread of democracy across the Middle East.

I would like to submit the following portions of an article entitled "Hezbollah loses Lebanon vote" that ran in today's Washington Times reporting on the success of Mr. Hariri and his coalition:

"Lebanon's pro-Western coalition claimed victory Sunday night after an election that appeared to douse fears of a militant Islamist takeover in the tiny nation known for sectarian conflict and as a proxy for Iranian and Syrian interests . . .

"Hezbollah, labeled a terrorist group by the United States and European Union, appeared to suffer from a high voter turnout that exceeded 50 percent—the largest since the end of Lebanon's 1975-91 civil war.

"The outcome appeared to avoid a crisis with the United States and Europe, where some analysts had feared that the Hezbollah-led coalition would win and force the United States and European Union to reconsider foreign aid, especially for the Lebanese army. The army is a key institution in a country that transcends sectarian divisions.

"This is a big lay in the history of democratic Lebanon," Saad Hariri, leader of the pro-Western March 14 coalition, told cheering supporters.

"Congratulations to you, congratulations to freedom, congratulations to democracy," said Mr. Hariri, the son of slain former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri . . .

"Analysts said the next government would have to work with the opposition to prevent instability and fighting from a year ago, when Shi'ite Hezbollah-led forces briefly seized control of Sunni-dominated West Beirut.

"Hezbollah is a longtime ally of Iran and Syria. It opposed a 2005 agreement in which Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon, ending a 29-year occupation."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MAJOR KEVIN M. JENRETTE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to recognize the life of a heroic American citizen, Major Kevin M. Jenrette.

Major Jenrette, of Lula, Georgia, died in Afghanistan on June 4, 2009, of injuries sustained when an IED detonated near his military vehicle followed by small arms fire. He is survived by his wife and children in Lula and his parents in Auburn, Alabama.

Like all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict, words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Major Jenrette died serving the United States and the entire cause of liberty, on a mission to bring stability to a troubled region and liberty to a formerly oppressed people. He was a true patriot indeed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
HOME LOAN REFINANCE OPPOR-
TUNITY ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation improves the federal Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) program to allow eligible states to use tax-free bond proceeds to refinance the home mortgages of our military veterans.

This legislation is necessary during our troubled economic times. QVMB home loan financing was not available to newly discharged veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan until passage of the Heroes Earning Assistance Relief Tax Act of 2008 (H.R. 6081) in the 110th Congress.

Prior to 2008, some veterans may have taken out adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) to

purchase a home during the real estate boom earlier in the decade. It is only fair to them that they have the same opportunity as newly discharged veterans to take advantage of the low-interest, fixed rate mortgages available through QVMB financing.

For some veterans with a costly ARM or interest-only mortgage, this legislation could prevent a foreclosure.

Finally, Madam Speaker, this legislation includes an inflation index to ensure the QVMB veterans home loan program remains viable in the future.

I urge passage of the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to add my voice to the millions across the nation to honor Memorial Day and the bravery and sacrifices of our troops and veterans—especially the men and women who have paid the ultimate price for defending our freedom. Since the founding of our nation, the members of our armed forces have been charged with defending liberty, a job that they carry out with honor and distinction every day.

Without concern for their own safety, they have stormed the beaches of Normandy and Okinawa. They have protected the people of Seoul and held Saigon against the Tet offensive. And today, they valiantly serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know firsthand of these ongoing sacrifices. As a member of the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I participate daily in meetings and hearings where I am reminded of their tireless efforts, devotion and dedication to our nation. I was fortunate to witness their professionalism and extraordinary service on the front lines during a recent visit to Iraq and Afghanistan over the Memorial Day recess. Talking with soldiers from my home district was especially moving as it served to remind me of the uncommon courage and dedication that can come from small towns and local communities all across America. I want to say a special thank you to those soldiers I met with in Iraq and Afghanistan for their tireless service.

On Memorial Day, we pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the good of their country. We remember the courage and dedication of soldiers who served on a distant battlefield knowing that they may not make it back home. For this reason, I sup-

port several legislative proposals to honor our men and women in uniform, such as measures to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA affairs, recognize the hard work of our NCOs and support the families of U.S. servicemembers.

Setting aside Memorial Day as a time for the nation to remember our fallen service members is crucial, but we must remember and honor our troops who put their lives on the line not once a year, but every single day, so that we may continue to enjoy the freedom and liberty that make our country great. For that, we are eternally indebted to them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGH
QUALITY TEACHERS ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation encouraging teacher development in the schools that are in need of quality instructors.

Several years ago, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, with the goals of closing the achievement gap and improving academic performance overall. Schools have since found some success, but I believe we need to make a number of changes to NCLB to make it more supportive for educators.

Madam Speaker, our teachers are crucial to our educational system. It is teachers who connect with our children and inspire them to achieve.

I am introducing the High Quality Teaching Act of 2009 to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers in struggling or at-risk schools.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes federal grant funding for schools to invite the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, NBPTS, to implement its Targeted High Need Initiative, THNI. The NBPTS trains teachers to become professionally certified.

This legislation targets funding to the schools the most in need of quality teaching, such as those falling into Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind or those with high student populations from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support professional teacher development in the schools that could benefit from the best possible instruction.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 10

Time to be announced

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider any pending nominations.

Room to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs' construction process.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kurt M. Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Peter Silva Silva, of California, to be Assistant Administrator for Water, and Stephen Alan Owens, of Arizona, to be Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tara Jeanne O'Toole, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security, and Jeffrey D. Zients, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the continued importance of the Violence Against Women Act.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to consider certain pending civilian nominations.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse in security contracts at the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

SD-342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's role in the oversight of air carriers.

SR-253

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Mercedes Marquez, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development, and Herbert M. Allison, Jr., of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Stability; to be followed by a hearing to examine the state of the domestic automobile industry, focusing on the impact of federal assistance.

SD-538

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

3 p.m.

Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gordon S. Heddell, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, J. Michael Gilmore, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Zachary J. Lemnios, of Massachusetts, to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Dennis M. McCarthy, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, and Jamie Michael Morin, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Financial Management and Comptroller, and Daniel Ginsberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, both of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-106

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 417, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 257, to amend

title 11, United States Code, to disallow certain claims resulting from high cost credit debts, S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 369, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, S. 1107, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a limited 6-month period for Federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System and begin contributing toward an annuity for their spouse and dependent children upon their death, and the nominations of Gerard E. Lynch, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, and Mary L. Smith, of Illinois, to be Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

SR-253

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine certain North Korea issues.

SD-419

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-124

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reforming the Indian health care system.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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

To hold hearings to examine S. 372, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel.

SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the National Criminal Justice Act of 2009.

SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health care.

Room to be announced

JUNE 16

2 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine pandemic influenza preparedness and the federal workforce. SD-342

2:30 p.m.
 Armed Services
 Airland Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2010 and the Future Years Defense Program for Army modernization and management of the Future Combat Systems Program. SR-222

Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the National Park Service and proposed expenditures under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. SD-366

JUNE 17

10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the role and responsibility of commercial air carriers and employees. SR-253

Judiciary
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice. SD-226

2:30 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 409, to secure Federal ownership and management of significant natural, scenic, and recreational resources, to provide for the protection of cultural resources, to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, S. 782, to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, S. 874, to establish El Rio Grande Del Norte National Conserva-

tion Area in the State of New Mexico, S. 1139, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a property conveyance with the city of Wallowa, Oregon, and S. 1140, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Deschutes County, Oregon.

SD-366

JUNE 18

2:30 p.m.
 Armed Services
 Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2010 and the Future Years Defense Program for United States Special Operations Command. SR-222

JUNE 24

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs quality management activities. SR-418