

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3854) to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3854 "The Small Business Financing and Investment Act" which will help support our small businesses and hasten our economic recovery. As we all know, small businesses are the backbone of our economy. More than half of all Americans work at or own a small business. Small businesses have been responsible for most of the new jobs created in this country. Anyone who talks about getting our economy on track and does not talk about what we need to do for small business is missing a huge piece of the puzzle.

I firmly support H.R. 3854 because, among other things, it channels investment capital into small business start-ups through public private partnerships, makes microloans more affordable for budding entrepreneurs, and reduces fees for lending programs to help more small businesses afford to raise the capital they need to succeed. Equally important, the legislation will provide much needed assistance to entrepreneurs and communities that need it most by expanding equity investment to low income communities and helping rural and veteran-owned businesses obtain loans.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 3854 all told the bill is expected to support about \$44 billion in small business lending annually, which will help to create or save approximately 1.5 million jobs each year. For our economy to recover and continue to grow, it needs to create jobs for persons seeking work. This legislation will create jobs and thus is worthy of our support. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3854.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on November 2, 2009, I was unavoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall 832, rollcall 833 and rollcall 834. My flight to Washington was delayed due to mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on November 2, 2009. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following:

Roll 832, November 2, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1168, Veterans Retraining Act of 2009.

Roll 833, November 2, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 291, Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, expressing gratitude to The Tower of Hope, and supporting the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Roll 834, November 2, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: S. 509, To authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, and for other purposes.

HONORING THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM FOR ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the West Baton Rouge Museum, located in the City of Port Allen in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of August 7th, 2009, the museum has achieved national accreditation by the American Association of Museums, becoming only the 11th museum in Louisiana and the 777th out of the more than 17,000 museums throughout the nation to achieve this distinguished accreditation.

The West Baton Rouge Museum has successfully demonstrated that it meets the high standards established by the accreditation program and the museum field. It has done this through its completion of a rigorous process of self-study and reviews by a visiting committee of its peers and the Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process certifies a museum's commitment to excellence and professional standards of operation.

The West Baton Rouge Museum is a regional history museum that was established in 1968. Through the hard work and persistent efforts of its curators, benefactors, and other supporters, it has grown to include a four-acre campus that offers six historic buildings and an 11,000-square-foot main museum building. It has become a staple of the local community and an invaluable resource to showcase the

culture, art, and history of the region. With this accreditation, I can only hope that the Museum's next forty years will be even more successful than it's first.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH ROSE FRANA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sarah Rose Frana from Ridgeway, Iowa for her commitment and enthusiasm as a foreign language student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Sarah has been selected for a United States Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study the Arabic language in Amman, Jordan. This Department of State program is an important component of the federal government's coordinated effort to expand the number of Americans learning foreign languages.

I consider it a great honor to represent Sarah Rose Frana in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her on earning this special scholarship. I wish Sarah great success in the program, her travel and in her future endeavors.

HONORING NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE SENATE

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation I introduced, House Resolution 159. My resolution honors the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States. New Hampshire has a proud tradition of being a first-in-the-nation State, and with this historic achievement, the Granite State continues to lead the way in providing equal opportunity for everyone. I am proud to represent the great State of New Hampshire, which today shines as an example for the entire country.

I want to recognize all 13 women who are currently serving in the New Hampshire State Senate. They are the Honorable Sharon Carson, Jacalyn Cilley, Martha Fuller Clark, Betsi DeVries, Peggy Gilmour, Margaret Hassan, Molly Kelly, Sylvia Larsen, Bette Lasky, Amanda Merrill, Deborah Reynolds, Sheila Roberge, and Kathleen Sgambati. These leaders comprise the majority female body of the New Hampshire State Senate and were elected to office on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on December 3, 2008.

I would also like to recognize the following women, who played critical roles in the history of New Hampshire government:

• 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.

Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN was the first woman in the State of New Hampshire to be elected Governor in 1997. She is currently serving as the first female senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The first woman to serve as a member of the New Hampshire State Senate was E. Maude Ferguson, who served from 1931 to 1933.

Vesta Roy served as the first female State Senate President, and in 1983 she became the first female Governor of the State of New Hampshire.

In 1994, the Honorable Sylvia Larsen was elected to the New Hampshire State Senate and has served 7 consecutive terms thus far. She is currently serving in her second term as President of the New Hampshire Senate.

In 1996, the Honorable Terie Norelli was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives and has served 6 consecutive terms thus far, and in 2008 was re-elected to serve as Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives for a 2nd consecutive term.

Thank you for bringing this important resolution on the New Hampshire State Senate's historic achievement of being the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States to the floor of the House of Representatives for consideration. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MRS.
HELEN GARGASH

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Helen Gargash, a resident of my district in Upstate New York, who today celebrates her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Gargash was born on November 3, 1909 as the eldest of four children and spent her childhood on a farm outside Amsterdam, New York. After leaving home to attend school, Mrs. Gargash worked at A.D. Julliard in New York Mills, New York and met her husband, Mr. John Gargash, to whom she was married for over 50 years. Together they have three children, eight grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Over the years, Mrs. Gargash was employed at the former Griffiss Air Force Base and Mele Manufacturing, from which she eventually retired. As a member of various seniors' groups, Mrs. Gargash served often during her retirement as a volunteer at the Utica State Hospital. She was a communicant of St. Joseph-St. Patrick Church for many years until moving to Country Club Courts in New York Mills, New York. There she has enjoyed almost daily visits to the New Hartford Nutrition Center and continues to cook some of her favorite dishes, among them Spanish rice, chicken soup and mushroom stew.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Gargash on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on roll-call Nos. 832, 833, 834 I missed the votes due to other official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 736, which honors the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as "Dedication Day" on November 19, 2009. I am proud to have introduced this resolution as we celebrate the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birthday in 2009 and remember the words of this most remarkable speech.

Arriving by train to Gettysburg on the evening of November 18, 1863, few knew the impact Lincoln's words would have on the future of our Nation and its citizens. The Address' message was one of paying tribute to those who lost their lives while at the same time affirming a belief that democracy may prevail despite the immeasurable losses suffered by both the North and South.

Lincoln's speech was just over two minutes in length, but its meaning has long endured. Nearly 63 years ago, Congress passed a joint resolution designating November 19, 1946, the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, as Dedication Day and declaring the Gettysburg Address to be "the outstanding classic of the ages." The resolution suggested that the Gettysburg Address "be read on that day in public assemblages throughout the United States and its possessions, on our ships at sea, and wherever the American flag flies." Additionally, lines from the Gettysburg Address can be found in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and its entirety is marked a short distance from where we stand today, on the south wall of the Lincoln Memorial.

During this bicentennial year of Lincoln's birth, the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which have both endorsed this resolution, are holding numerous events celebrating the life and legacy of our sixteenth President. On November 19, 2009 the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Commission is hosting "Dedication Day," with events occurring at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. As we celebrate Lincoln's bicentennial, I urge my fellow Members of Congress and constituents to take time to read the words of this remarkable speech:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that 'all men are created equal.' Now we are engaged in a great civil

war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow, this ground—The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Two centuries after his birth, the message of the Gettysburg Address is as significant as ever. As such, please join me in paying tribute to one of our Nation's most important speeches and support House Resolution 736.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN WOLT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathryn Wolt from Ames, Iowa for her commitment and enthusiasm as a foreign language student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Kathryn has been selected for a United States Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study the Russian language in Astrakhan, Russia. This Department of State program is an important component of the federal government's coordinated effort to expand the number of Americans learning foreign languages.

I consider it a great honor to represent Kathryn Wolt in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her on earning this special scholarship. I wish Kathryn great success in the program, her travel and in her future endeavors.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MR. GARY MITCHELL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will be hosting its 33rd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award each year at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Gary Mitchell, President and CEO of Opportunity Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. From the beginning, social work was not only a career choice for Gary but a way of life. Focused on his calling, Gary graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and went on to receive his master's degree in social work from Indiana University. After college, Gary held many positions in the social service field, and he also has years of experience in business and industry.

In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented success under Gary's leadership. The company has continued to grow and expand. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has shown immense growth and now serves over 1,000 individuals. Gary has made it his goal to provide day services, residential programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages, whether they have physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received the three-year accreditation for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. In addition, for his efforts on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor of Indiana, EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Gary is to be commended and admired. He is truly an inspiration.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for 42 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Mr. Mitchell are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2009, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of the transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the seventh in our "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional laws to the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill would establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a district attorney elected by D.C. residents. This bill would effectuate the November 2002 referendum in which D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected District Attorney.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent district attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a federal official. Under this bill, the new, locally elected district attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia would remain and, like other U.S. Attorneys' offices in the U.S., would handle only the federal matters under its jurisdiction. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to our residents, or on which we have less say, than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of a local jurisdiction. This bill simply would make the District's prosecutor accountable to the people by electing him or her, as elsewhere in the nation.

In addition to issues of democracy and self-government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy, that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the District's Home Rule Act to create a local district attorney position would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights attorneys who submitted testimony for a hearing last week of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

ON THE RELIGIOUS CASE IN SHANXI AND THE STATUS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA

(By Mr. Dai Jinbo)

I. THE STATUS OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN RECENT YEARS

Since the release of the Regulations on Religious Affairs (hereafter abbreviated as Regulations) by China's State Council in 2004, house churches and other unregistered religious organizations have all been regarded as illegal by the ruling administration. House churches that do not want to join TSPM (Three-Self Patriotic Movement) churches, due to disagreement concerning their beliefs, have become targeted because they refuse to acquire administrative approval by registering their house church as a religious organization. The Regulations have become the basis for government departments to carry out selective law enforcement on unregistered religious organizations including house churches. This is also a result of China's institutionalization of religious issues.

Therefore, with the official implementation of the Regulations in 2005, house churches in various places have all faced or have experienced being banned, fined and/or requested to suspend their religious activities by the government. This can cause such administrative sanctions against them on the grounds that they are not registered. In terms of banning, there are various kinds of different rulings authorizing the ban. These rulings include administrative penalties meted out by the religion management departments to ban illegal religious organizations, ban illegal venues for religious activities and ban illegal Bible training workshops. The religious affairs departments also manage civil affairs departments and use their capacity as a governing entity for social organizations and religious organizations to ban and crack down on house churches on grounds that they are illegal social organizations. An example is the persecution experienced by the Autumn Rain Church in Chengdu in June 2009. Even public security agencies would also interfere in the internal affairs of religious organizations and prevent them from making progress towards autonomy. Further evidence of this type of religious persecution is the case in Baixiang, Wenzhou, in March 2009.

While the Chinese government was attempting to control and crack down on unregistered religious organizations, including house churches, these unregistered religious organizations did not succumb. Instead, they took the path of defending their rights in accordance with Chinese law. By defending their rights, they have exposed the Chinese government's violation of the rule of law and the principle of human rights. While cracking down on unregistered religious organizations on grounds that they are not registered, it is a violation of the international

convention and the relevant provisions concerning religious freedom in China's constitution. This has also made more religious organizations reach a consensus, that is, whether being registered or unregistered is not a criterion for defining a religious organization as legal or illegal. If they are not legally registered, this should not deprive the citizens of their right to religious freedom.

An excessive number of cases involving violations of citizens' religious freedom would negatively affect China's international image. Controlling unregistered religious organizations by banning them could not achieve the desired effect. Some local governments have changed their strategies of cracking down on the unregistered religious organizations and turned religious issues into non-religious issues, thus, trying to control unregistered religious organizations by means of limiting their access to venues. This is mainly reflected in two approaches. One approach is targeted at urban religious organizations that primarily rent their venues. The government departments often secretly force the landlords to cancel the lease or not to renew their lease so that the religious organizations will not have stable venues for religious activities. The second approach is to forcefully demolish unregistered facilities for religious activities on grounds that they were illegally built. The religious case in Xiaoshan in 2006 was evidence, as was the case in 2009 where the Land and Resources Bureau in Jinghai County, Tianjin, ordered the party concerned to demolish their newly-built church facilities. They also fined the church in excess of 10,000 Yuan on grounds that they had violated the law of land management. Therefore, the unregistered religious organizations in China cannot obtain legal church assets. This has caused a breakdown in achieving religious freedom in China.

The recent case in Linfen, Shanxi, will produce a profound impact on China's religious freedom. This is also an issue of church assets. Since according to the current Law of Land Management and the relevant provisions in the Urban Planning Law, a construction project not only requires a certificate of land use but also requires a planning permit for the construction project. However, the government departments would absolutely not want to process these procedures for houses that may be used for gatherings of house churches. Churches are often unable to obtain approval when they are trying to resolve the problem of meeting venues by building new houses, this includes some TSPM churches. Some registered legitimate historical facilities, used for religious activities also found it very hard to obtain approval for construction of new churches. If houses are built without approval, they would be considered "illegal constructions" and would face the risk of being demolished at any time.

At dawn, on September 13, 2009, more than three hundred police officers, without producing any legal paperwork, stormed into "Gospel Shoes Factory," a gathering venue for house churches in Fushan County, Linfen, Shanxi. The government broke into the gathering place of the church members and used military weapons, wood sticks, bricks, iron hooks and other sharp instruments beat the people, while smashing and looting the property. They severely beat more than one hundred Christians who were caught entirely off guard. Many lost consciousness and many more collapsed in pools of their own blood. At the same time, bulldozers and other heavy machinery were dispatched to destroy and demolish many buildings. All this had occurred because the government departments deemed their meeting venue as "illegal buildings" for the sake of

cracking down and oppressing house churches.

The local government has tried to negotiate with local church leaders since this religious incident. The negotiations between the government departments and the church failed. On September 23, Yang Rongli of Linfen Church and six other church members decided to report the situation to the provincial government. On their way to the province capital they were stopped by the local government. A large number of PAP officers were stationed at the Cathedral in Linfen city, blocking the entrance to the church and confiscated important items in the church. They also prohibited believers from going to meet there. Many church members, including the pastor of the Linfen Church, Huang Xiaoguang, were detained illegally, put under house arrest, or closely monitored. It seemed that the local government wanted to completely destroy the house churches in Linfen. At present, the situation is still developing yet the media has not reported any incidences on this case.

According to Mr. Fan Yafeng, who is rather familiar with the situation, states that house churches in Linfen, Shanxi, are one of China's ten major house church systems in China. If house churches in Linfen were destroyed by the government through the use of illegal force, this would be the ultimate invasion in the Chinese government's crackdown on house churches and persecution of citizens. According to Professor Li Fan's research at the World and China Institute, a non-governmental think tank, house churches in China make up at least half of China's NGO resources. If such respectful and honorable house churches are destroyed, this will be a major regression of China's religious freedom and a serious violation of citizens' religious freedom. This would cause a massive blow to China's non-governmental forces of freedom and would seriously hinder China from making any progression toward religious freedom and the rule of law.

II. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

1. We request that the U.S. Congress review and forward the religious case in Linfen and relevant information concerning the status of religious freedom in China to President Obama. It is our desire to increase attention to the religious case in Linfen. Furthermore, it is our desire for President Obama to convey this religious persecution to the Chinese government during his visit to China.

2. We request the U.S. Congress to immediately ask the spokesperson of the U.S. State Department to hold a press conference focusing on the religious persecution case in Linfen.

3. We request the U.S. Congress pass a resolution to adopt strong measures in response to the Chinese government's infringement of human rights and religious freedom.

4. We request the U.S. Congress encourage and support the U.S. Embassy in China to periodically meet and communicate with the groups of Chinese human rights lawyers and advocates. We also request that the U.S. Embassy will make U.S. entry visas more accessible for these people who are fighting for China's democracy, freedom, and rule of law.

5. We request that the U.S. Congress send a letter to the Chinese government expressing concern for Pastor Wang Xiaoguang of Linfen Church in Shanxi who is currently being detained, as well as church leaders, such as Yang Rongli, Yang Hongzhen, Li Shuangping, Yang Chaizhen, Yang Xuan, Cui Jiaying, Gao Fuqin, and Zhang Huamei.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

THE CHALLENGES RIGHTS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN CHINA FACE AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECT

(By Mr. Li Fangping)

We are now living in the China set against such a dramatic background of the times: First, the economic system is fast evolving while its political system has seen little changes over the years. Second, its legal system is increasingly improving, but the public power is often not restrained by the law. Third, the citizens' awareness of their rights is increasing and the more the awareness to defend one's rights, the more prominent the abuse and the shirking of responsibilities by the public power becomes.

With the advent of the Internet in China, the first widespread and passionate participation by the citizens in political matters occurred in 2003 during the "Sun Zhigang Incident," which successfully made the State Council announce the annulment of the system of "internment and deportation." In the next year, "The State respects and safeguards human rights" was solemnly written into the Constitution. In the next five years, right defense attorneys have, as a professional social group committed to promoting rule of law and safeguarding human rights, presented themselves before the world.

Certainly, in a country where rule of law is still far from realized and where there is full of terrible things against ordinary citizens, the work and life of right defense attorneys must be full of obstacles and frustrations. Just because we engage in work involving human rights, government departments not only do not understand the significance of our existence, they also regard us as the targets of their domestic defense. We seem to have become *personae non gratae* in the eyes of the government and we are often treated unfairly. Some of us have been beaten and kidnapped. The personal freedom of some of us is illegally restricted and some of us are illegally stalked by force. Some of us are forced to report our activities and some are driven out by our landlords due to pressure from the government. Some are threatened and given a disciplinary warning by Bureau of Justice and lawyers' associations. Some are simply fired by their law firms due to pressure from the government.

This year, the right defense attorneys as a social group are enduring more pressure than ever before. As far as I can confirm, there are now at least 17 attorneys at this time unable to practice law. These attorneys have always persisted in providing legal assistance or defense services for clients to safeguard their legitimate rights. They include victims of Sanlu poisonous milk powder, parents of children victimized in the earthquake, HIV carriers, peasants who have lost their land, detained Tibetans, house church Christians, Falun Gong practitioners, right defense activists, political dissidents, victims of family planning policies and clients from other various areas.

Judicial administrative departments in Beijing and other places have terminated attorneys' rights to practice on the ground that these right defense attorneys have not passed the so-called "annual evaluation" or that the law firms where they work have not passed the "annual inspection." However, the "annual evaluation" for attorneys and the "annual inspection" for law firms themselves are not the administrative penalty that can terminate the right to practice of the attorneys or of their law firms. We can see that the "annual evaluation" for attorneys and the "annual inspection" of law

firms have degenerated into an illegal, disorderly and remediless administrative penalty in disguised form that overrides the disciplinary penalty in the industry and administrative penalty on the practicing attorneys.

What delights us is that on the one hand, the right defense attorneys have not given up their idea of safeguarding rule of law and human rights. Each time they negotiate with judicial administrative departments, they express their criticism on the illegal administration and their firm belief that China will certainly develop into a country under rule of law. On the other hand, the disadvantaged social groups whose rights are harmed also express their desire of "attorneys for us, and we for attorneys." It is my belief that the appeal for rights by the ordinary people whose rights are harmed, and the sense of mission of the attorneys, will combine to form a powerful synergy in promoting the progress of our country in human rights and rule of law.

Though the road to rule of law and human rights in China will be hard and long, yet the long march of this time is attracting more and more people, including you, us and them. Given this situation, I, as a member of this social group of defense attorneys, personally am full of confidence for the "Same World, Same Human Rights."

Finally, let me express my gratitude for all my friends who are concerned about the rule of law in China and the progress in human rights!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 832, H.R. 1168, rollcall No. 833, H. Res. 291, and rollcall No. 834, S. 509 I was not present. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on No. 832, "yea" on No. 833, and "yea" on No. 834.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF DR. WALTER C. BOWIE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the memory of Dr. Walter C. Bowie of Tuskegee, Alabama.

For many years, Dr. Bowie served as the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University. Known as "the Dean of Deans," Dr. Bowie was and is considered by many to be a mentor, friend, respected colleague, and a gentleman.

Dr. Bowie held a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Cornell University and completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

His 63-year tenure at Tuskegee University included positions as teacher, scientist, department head, administrator, associate dean, and dean emeritus. Dr. Bowie served as president of the American Association of Veterinary

Physiologists and Pharmacologists, and the Alabama Heart Association. Dr. Bowie was among the founders, and later served as president, of the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools.

Dr. Bowie passed on October 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Cornelia (Connie), daughters Sibyl, Carolyn, and Colleen; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members.

While Dr. Bowie will be sorely missed, his legacy will live on in the students he taught at Tuskegee University.

MR. RON GOOD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and selfless citizens, Mr. Ronald Good, of Lake Station, Indiana. After serving the people of Lake Station as a firefighter for 52 years, the last 16 of which he served as the department's Fire Chief, Ron retired from service at the end of 2007. In recognition of Mr. Good's service to his community, not only as a firefighter but also for his commitment to serving his community in many other capacities, a party will be held in his honor on Sunday, November 8, 2009, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9323 in Lake Station, Indiana.

Following a 3-year enlistment in the United States Marine Corps, Ron returned to his hometown and joined the fire department in 1956 at the age of 21. He credits his grandfather, Captain Solomon Hursey, a charter member of the fire department, which was then the East Gary Fire Department, with peaking his interest in his chosen career path. Mr. Good, as a child, would often go on fire calls and was immediately drawn to the idea of following in his grandfather's footsteps. Later on in his life, it must have made Ron quite proud to see two of his sons keep the family tradition alive through their service as Lake Station firefighters.

Aside from his incredible 52 years of service on the fire department, Ron's contributions to Northwest Indiana and beyond through his service on various firefighters' associations and service organizations have also touched the lives of many people. Mr. Good is a lifetime member of both the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Indiana Firefighters Association, for which he has served on the Board of Directors. He is also a lifetime member of both Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9323 and American Legion Post 100, and he has been an active member of the Lake Station Lions Club for the past 30 years. Never one to shy away from taking a leadership role when it comes to service to his community, Mr. Good also served for several years as a representative on the Lake Station City Council.

Ron Good's commitment to his community has been matched only by his commitment to his family. A husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ron and his adoring wife of an astonishing 54 years, Beverly, have 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Ronald Good for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Lake Station, Indiana. He has touched the lives of countless citizens, and his commitment to the safety of his community and to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Lake Station is to be admired.

REMEMBERING APOLLO 11

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Forty years ago, Neil Armstrong spoke the words that would soon resonate across a nation, and with them bring renewed pride and a sense of patriotism to the American public. It was in 1961 that President Kennedy expressed in a speech before Congress his belief "that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." Eight years later, on the 20th of July, that goal was achieved, and with it a new watershed moment in American history.

The legacy of the Apollo project is a multifaceted one; it demonstrated the unmatched American capacity to meet and overcome challenges, while stimulatingly establishing national prominence over rival nations. As observed in the November issue of Science magazine in 1968, "NASA has not been our largest national undertaking, but . . . it may turn out that [the program's] most valuable spin-off of all will be human rather than technological: better knowledge of how to plan, coordinate, and monitor the multitudinous and carried activities of the organizations required to accomplish great social undertakings."

With the Soviet Union a distant memory for many Americans, it is easily forgotten how the perception of the Soviet leadership in space and technology affected the country's perception of itself. So, as we look back on the Apollo Project, and in particular on the flight of Apollo 11, it is important to remember the political tides that fueled its origins and set the stage for an era of renewed American esteem. Yet let us not lose the greater lesson: that when met with adversity, Americans will rise to the challenge and reaffirm within themselves their ability to meet challenges in order to prosper as a nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3619—the Coast Guard Authorization Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Section: 1321

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 1490 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501

Description of Request: The transfer of two excess 41-foot utility boats from the U.S. Coast Guard to the Nassau County Police Department. The conveyance of these vessels will enhance the port and homeland security capabilities within the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to record that had I been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1168, the Veterans Retraining Act; H. Res. 291, Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives; and S. 509, to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington. The late notice by the Majority of this week's schedule made it impossible to secure a flight back from my district in time for these votes.

S. 509 is of particular importance, as it authorizes \$71.4 million to design and construct a new veterans outpatient clinic and renovate existing facilities at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Walla Walla, Washington State. The Walla Walla facilities serve 70,000 veterans in Oregon, Idaho and Washington State, including many in my own Congressional district. This bill has my strong support and I commend my colleagues for supporting it.

RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ASSISTANCE DOGS IN HELPING WOUNDED VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 291, a resolution honoring the work of Tower of Hope, an organization that provides assistance dogs to disabled veterans.

Thanks to modern medicine, more and more of our brave men and women are able to survive wounds that may have been fatal in the past. This is a blessing, but it requires new tools in order to ensure that these soldiers lead productive lives.

Tower of Hope helps to keep America's promise to disabled veterans and helps improve their quality of life after their service. Tower of Hope helps veterans cross the street, go to work, take their medications, and visit the doctor's office. Tower of Hope has also helped me to craft H.R. 3266, the Wounded Warrior K9 Corps Act, legislation to reimburse organizations for the work they do in training assistance dogs and veterans.

I have seen these programs in action. These programs succeed, and I believe that every American who puts on a uniform and

risks their life for this country should have the full support of this Congress.

I thank my colleague from Florida, Mr. HASTINGS for his leadership on this resolution and the staff and supporters of the Tower of Hope for their important work, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING DONALD K. WHITE, JR.

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, today I honor the life and work of Donald K. White, Jr. who passed away earlier this month after a truly courageous fight with cancer.

Don White was the Assistant Superintendent for the AOC's Capitol Superintendent's Office since 2000, and began his career with the Architect of the Capitol in June 1990. His service to our great country started with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Don White always took great pride in his work, and was committed to providing outstanding service to Congress and the visiting public. Under his direction, the American people have enjoyed several major events at the Capitol, including the past three Presidential Inaugurations. He was truly the personification of the excellent work and values that we strive to embody in our own service to the government.

Madam Speaker, Donald White, Jr. is survived by his children, Donald III and Ashley, and his grandson Matthew Alexander White. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that he will be remembered, and missed, for his lifelong work and service to our government and our nation.

HONORING WALTER M. LAWSON, JR., OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony in Columbus this week to mark the induction of its 2009 class. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: the late Walter M. Lawson, Jr., of Lima.

A graduate of North High School in Columbus, Mr. Lawson earned his undergraduate degree at The Ohio State University in 1941. Following his distinguished service in the Second World War, he returned to his alma mater, completing his juris doctorate work in 1948. He later served in the Korean Conflict, achieving the rank of captain.

Aside from his time in Korea, Mr. Lawson served the Lima community in private legal practice from 1948 to his death in 2006. Additionally, he was Lima's law director for four years, preceded by seven years as assistant law director. From 1974 until his death, he also served the Village of Elida as its solicitor. He was president of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Allen County Bar Association,

and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Lawson's devotion to community service provides us with an outstanding model of civic participation. A past president of the local Jaycees and past chairman of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission, he was a charter member and longtime leader in Ohio Optimist International, which honored him with inclusion in its hall of fame and also with the 2007 Humanitarian Award. His devotion to the youth of Lima and Allen County was well known from his service to the Lima Area Youth Orchestra, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Junior Achievement Board. He held numerous offices at Lima's Market Street Presbyterian Church, where he was a member for more than a half century.

Mr. Lawson was a life member of the Allen County chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, Post 96 of the American Legion, Post 1275 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Lima AMVETS chapter, and the Korean War Veterans Association. Additionally, he served as president of the Allen County Veterans Service Commission.

Madam Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to only 20 Ohioans each year. To be considered for induction, individuals must not only serve the nation honorably in the military, but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

I am pleased to join in the accolades for Mr. Walter M. Lawson, Jr., and his inestimable record of service as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO EVA MAE HARDEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Ms. Eva Mae Harden. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community.

Ms. Harden was born on March 15, 1914, in Leesburg County, Georgia to the late Charlie and Roxie Brown. She later married the late Fletcher Harden. Once Ms. Harden relocated to Miami, Florida in 1951, she began her journey through traveling with the church and crossing the border of many foreign countries.

She remarried her husband Fletcher Harden in 1981 and the two celebrated their Golden Anniversary in the same church she diligently served in for 60 years. Moreover, Ms. Harden served on the Deaconess Board, the Board of Missions and the Senior Saints at Bethel Full Gospel Baptist Church. She was relentless when it came to giving to the church, and she paid her tithes and offerings throughout her 60 years of membership.

Ms. Harden was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her five children and a total of 135 grandchildren; great grandchildren; great, great grandchildren; and great, great, great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to

join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of Ms. Eva Mae Harden. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy, as well as the outstanding contributions she made to Bethel Full Gospel Baptist Church will live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009, I missed rollcall Nos. 832, 833, and 834. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 832, 833, and 834.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDOCINO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mendocino Presbyterian Church on the occasion of the congregation's 150th anniversary. The Mendocino Presbyterian Church in the village of Mendocino on California's north coast is the oldest active Presbyterian Church in California. Eight local residents including six women chartered it in 1859.

The Mendocino Presbyterian Church is California Historic Landmark Number 714 and is listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places. Its spire and English gothic design are iconic symbols exemplifying Mendocino's history and much photographed architecture.

The Church sanctuary is entirely built from local redwood. It was designed by San Francisco architects S.C. Bugbee and Son, who previously designed the Crocker and Stanford mansions, which were destroyed by the 1906 earthquake. Donations by local citizens and businesspeople such as pioneering residents Jeremy Ford and Henry Meiggs made the building possible. The first pastor in 1861 was Reverend David McClure and the first written record of the sermon was on October 19, 1861.

A thousand pound cast iron bell was shipped from one of the most prestigious foundries in the New World, the Meneeley Foundry in West Troy, New York, around the Horn and installed in 1870. It has rung to signal Sunday services ever since. In addition to ringing for weddings and memorial services, since 2006 the bell has also tolled on Friday evenings in honor of our service men and women and Iraqi and Afghan civilians who died the previous week. Inside the bell tower is covered with chalk signatures, including every pastor, and others who have climbed the stepladder to the top. The bell rope, which extends to the reception area of the sanctuary, includes one knot for each ordained pastor who served. Symbolic sections join the knots as a historical record related to events around

the nation and the world. A framed document interprets the bell rope significance.

While the original chandeliers and wall sconces have been electrified and gilded, most of the interior of the Sanctuary remains the same as when it was constructed. The cork floor between the pews is a scuffed record of the many shoes from high heels to logging boots worn by those who have attended services.

The Mendocino Presbyterian Church has been home to Rainbow pre-school welcoming children of all denominations since 1978. The Church sponsors the Mendocino Christian Camp, Bible Study and schools in Nicaragua as part of its mission and outreach. In addition, the adjacent Preston Hall is a popular community center for events such as art auctions, book sales, the Christmas bazaar, and receptions and meals. The Church is a popular wedding location and was featured in a Kodak commercial in the 1970s. In 1947, Warner Brothers filmed a scene for the movie Johnny Belinda inside the sanctuary with the Church choir performing.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring 150 years of invaluable religious, civic and community service by the Mendocino Presbyterian Church.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3619, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: J.E. McAmis, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 621 Country Drive, Chico, CA 95928

Description of Request: This request does not authorize or appropriate any Federal funds, but modifies current statute to authorize the Coast Guard to issue a certificate of documentation for operation in the coastwise trade for the vessel *Maya*, United States official number 1107319. The *Maya* is a flat deck barge that was built in Louisiana in 2001; however, it was briefly reflagged under the Mexican registry while it was transferred to that country for a project. The *Maya* was purchased in 2008 by J.E. McAmis, Inc., a California-based and U.S. citizen-owned company located in my congressional district. The barge is needed to carry equipment and supplies to and from heavy construction or dredging jobs generally located in the greater Pacific Northwest region. J.E. McAmis, Inc., worked vigorously for several years to locate a U.S. flagged and registered vessel prior to purchasing the *Maya*. These types of vessels, however, were unavailable because they were being used to support the Gulf Coast reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, efforts to build a barge were stymied by the credit crisis and banks' unwillingness to lend for such a project. Following the purchase vessel has undergone extensive work and re-

pairs in Oregon, has been registered under the U.S. flag, and has received its certificate of inspection.

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR J. HERLINSKY, SR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Victor J. Herlinsky, Sr., of Mahwah, NJ who passed away on August 14th after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Herlinsky was born in Ukraine to parents Adam and Augusta on July 10th, 1927 and lived in Germany and Brazil before immigrating to the United States in 1956. Embodying the American dream of self-made success, Mr. Herlinsky was one of the founding partners of the 4-H Brothers trailer-body manufacturing and repair company in Wallington, NJ.

Mr. Herlinsky was also an active athlete who excelled in a variety of sports. He was a golden glove boxer in Munich, a semi-professional soccer player in Brazil, and a member of the Ukrainian Carpathian Ski Club. An avid tennis player, Mr. Herlinsky was awarded lifetime memberships to the Nutley Tennis Club and the KLK Ukrainian Sports Club.

Mr. Herlinsky is survived by his wife of 44 years, Irene, their children Victor Jr. and Donna, and granddaughters Larissa and Alexa, as well as his surviving siblings Tamara, Ivan, and Walter.

Madam Speaker, as an immigrant, athlete, entrepreneur, and family man Victor Herlinsky embodied the most important qualities and ethics of the American identity. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this astounding individual.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009, I was traveling in my district on official business and was not present for the vote on H.R. 1168, the Veterans Retraining Act of 2009. Had I been present, however, I would have voted "yes" on the bill and for creating greater opportunities for our veterans to establish economic independence and security.

H.R. 1168 is a common-sense bill that ensures that our veterans are making a smooth transition from their career in the Armed Services to a life in the civilian world. A provision in this bill also creates the flexibility that allows for our veterans to train for positions that are currently in demand, which lets us develop our workforce in a way that meets the present economic needs. This type of program will help us adapt to the ever-changing economy and keep our nation's competitive edge.

I would like to thank and commend the gentleman for introducing this bill. I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF DR. HAROLD HILD

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Dr. Harold Hild. I met Dr. Hild when he was my English professor at Northeastern Illinois University. Dr. Hild was well known for his special commitment to the Latino students at the University, and we were many. A large number were native English speakers who needed improvement in writing, and others were learning English as a second language. Dr. Hild stood by us and believed in our potential even after so many had written us off as ill-prepared. He worked tirelessly to develop an English-language program at the University that included tutoring and guidance for students who wanted to improve their language skills and succeed at the University.

Long before the culture wars, we were fighting to learn English, and he was fighting beside us. He defended us like we were his own children. When Northeastern Illinois University refused to give Dr. Hild tenure and attempted to let him go, I organized a group of students to stage a sit-in to demand that he be reinstated. We were successful, and Dr. Hild was placed back on the faculty. Dr. Hild later became the Chairman of the Communication, Media and Theater Department. Dr. Hild defended us, and so it was our duty to defend him. In fact, Madam Speaker, I think that this probably represented my first steps as a community organizer.

Dr. Hild and I worked together on the English-language program to ensure that Latino students at the University had every opportunity to succeed. That program still continues today, and is part of his significant legacy not only to the University but also to students everywhere. He saw the potential in me, and he saw the potential in all of us. Dr. Hild is and should always remain an inspiration to countless generations of Northeastern Illinois University students. I only hope that those of us who were touched by his life will continue to be inspired to make a difference in someone else's life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 832 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1168—Veterans Retraining Act of 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 833 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 291—Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in

helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, expressing gratitude to The Tower of Hope, and supporting the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 834 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—S. 509—To authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, and for other purposes.

REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVES TO
HEALTH CARE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, A 2,000 page, 1.2 trillion dollar health care takeover is headed to this floor. Given its abrupt arrival, I hope the Speaker will open the floor to the 53 alternatives presented from Republicans.

Republicans continue to offer positive health care solutions, but our alternatives are not being scheduled. Our solutions will give Americans access to affordable, accessible, and quality health care that is centered around the patient.

Unlike PELOSI's health care takeover, our alternatives do not contain any of the cuts to seniors' Medicare benefits. Or the costly tax increases and job-killing mandates. Our alternatives will not sever the doctor-patient relationship, or put a trillion dollar price tag on the backs of our children and grandchildren—threatening devaluation of seniors' fixed incomes.

We need to promote the vision German Chancellor Angela Merkel described today for America to be the land of unlimited opportunity. The Big Government takeover will limit opportunity.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, November 2, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 832—"yea;" rollcall 833—"yea;" rollcall 834—"yea."

CELEBRATING UT DALLAS:
CREATING THE FUTURE SINCE 1969

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker it is a great honor to recognize a fine

higher educational institution—the University of Texas at Dallas. Beginning this fall, the University of Texas at Dallas marks its 40th year as a Texas public university and a member of The University of Texas system.

Born at the dawn of the information age, UT Dallas helped pioneer new fields in science and technology and created sought-after degree programs that did not exist a generation ago. These include geospatial information science, neuroscience, bioinformatics, nanotechnology and materials science, among others.

The University has a unique past: built from the top down, first a research institute, then a graduate school, and finally becoming a full university with the admission of its first freshman class in 1990.

Located in the center of one of the most dynamic economic and demographic regions in the nation, UT Dallas owes its existence to three entrepreneurs, Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and J. Erik Jonsson, who deeply valued education and entrepreneurial activity.

These individuals, who also founded Texas Instruments, found themselves importing talent from outside the state while the region's bright young people pursued educations elsewhere. Having identified the need, the Founders took action to serve both their enterprise and the region, establishing the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, which in 1961 was renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, SCAS. The center recruited some of the best scientific talent in the nation.

In 1969, the founders bequeathed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies to the State of Texas, and then-Governor Preston Smith signed the bill establishing UT Dallas, thus fulfilling the mandate to create science and technology educational opportunities in North Texas. By law, the University offered only graduate degrees until 1975. In 1990, the University admitted its first freshman class.

The transition from a graduate research facility to a university with an emphasis on engineering, mathematics, the sciences and management has been facilitated by the excellence of the UT Dallas faculty. Among them are four members of the National Academies—Dr. Ray Baughman, Dr. David Daniel, Dr. Brian Berry and Dr. Don Shaw—and Nobel laureate, Dr. Russell Hulse. Other Nobel laureates have included the late Dr. Polykarp Kusch and the late Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid.

During the past decade, the University's teaching mission has expanded, its external research funding nearly doubled, its program offerings grew and its reputation has gained notice nationally. The student body has grown, even as quantitative markers of excellence—average entering SAT scores, graduation rates, numbers of distinguished scholarship holders and national merit scholarship winners—have also moved up.

UT Dallas has a unique past, and its aspirations to become a top national research university promise an even more remarkable future. Congratulations to everyone who helped make 40 years of educating the best and brightest a reality at UT Dallas. Thank you for all you do to improve Texas. God bless you and I salute you.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE LATE SENIOR DISTRICT
JUDGE SOLOMON CASSEB, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., for his dedication and contributions to the city of San Antonio and South Texas community.

Judge Casseb was born in 1915 in San Antonio, Texas. He attended St. Mary's University and University of Texas Law. By 1938, he was admitted to practice and later was enlisted as a Private in the United States Air Force at the break of World War II. After his service overseas, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Major to return home to a private practice of law. Thereafter, he was appointed for 2 terms as Judge of the 57th District Court and later served as Presiding Judge of the District Courts of Bexar County, as well as Presiding Judge for the Fourth Administrative District. It was 1985 when Judge Casseb acquired senior status and began serving as Senior District Judge of Texas. Shortly after in 1987, he received the Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding Jurist Award. He was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Joint Task Force. Judge Casseb's contribution to the community of law was further recognized when he presided over the critical phases of the Pennzoil versus Texaco case, which resulted in the largest jury award in American jurisprudence. The judgment of that case has been upheld by the Appellate Courts of Texas and proves monumental to the state and Judge Casseb's work.

The progression of Judge Casseb's career went hand and hand with the numerous awards, recognitions, and appointments he received. Early on in his career, he was chosen the Outstanding Ex-Student of St. Mary's University. In 1965, Judge Casseb was named Outstanding Judge of 1965 by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Thereafter, he received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the San Antonio Bar Association, San Antonio Bar Foundation and the Laredo/Webb County Bar Association. By 1991, Judge Casseb was named Mr. South Texas at the Annual Washington Birthday Celebration in Laredo. A year later, the University of Texas Law School established the Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., School in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., and I thank you for this time.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SER-
GEANT FIRST CLASS JOSE
"ROY" PARRA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy"

Parra, a Salinas, CA native who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of our nation in 1950.

Born in 1927, Army Sergeant First Class Parra spent his days as a young child delivering the newspaper, The Salinas Californian. Roy learned early on the importance of family and hard work by contributing his wages to his family. At the age of 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and later joined the Navy before enlisting in the Army. After receiving a post in Germany for 3 years, Mr. Parra returned to Salinas in 1949, only to be called to active duty the following year to serve on the Korean peninsula.

As a forward observer for artillery, Mr. Parra found himself on the front lines fighting north across the 38th Parallel and up to Pyongyang. His unit was ordered farther north and halted about 50 miles away from the Chinese border to await supplies. Just three months after being deployed, Mr. Parra was killed in action after he bravely took over a machine gun whose operator had been killed to repel waves of advancing enemy infantry. Sergeant First Class Parra was buried alongside 150 fellow American soldiers in a North Korean field where local Koreans placed unmarked crosses above the fallen.

It took three years before his family learned of his courageous efforts in the moments before he was killed and decades longer until they learned the fate of his remains. In 1954, after three years in a prisoner-of-war camp Lt. Walter Mayo, Parra's commanding officer, wrote to Parra's family detailing how the young man from Salinas sacrificed his life protecting his unit. The prolonged wait to return Sergeant First Class Parra to the U.S. ultimately ended when a recent excavation of a burial field in North Korea turned up remains. As soon as the identity of the remains was confirmed, an Army sergeant was assigned to escort the body of Sergeant First Class Parra home. After an agonizing wait of over 60 years, in August 2009, his family was finally able to bury their fallen hero in Arlington Cemetery.

For his dedication and service, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Parra was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra was laid to rest with full military honors. Mr. Parra's sister, Lucille Withers, led the fight to identify and bury his remains.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to have the privilege to share his story with you today and on behalf of my colleagues, want to thank U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra and his family for their service to our Nation.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new indus-

try, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefitting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan.

By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities", the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that I acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE POINT ARENA
LIGHT STATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Point Arena Light Station on the magnificent Mendocino Coast in northern California.

A beacon to mariners since the original Point Arena Lighthouse was constructed in

1870, the Point Arena Light Station was rebuilt following its destruction by the devastating 1906 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. The old brick and mortar construction was replaced with a new design featuring steel reinforcement rods encased in concrete to withstand future earthquakes. Point Arena Light Station was the first lighthouse to be built in this manner.

The new Lighthouse stands 115 feet tall and began operation in 1908, nearly 18 months after the quake. The Light Station is home to a First Order Fresnel Lens built in France and one of very few left in the United States. It is six feet in diameter and weighs more than six tons. The lens is made up of 666 hand-ground glass prisms all focused toward three sets of double bull's eyes. It gave the Point Arena Lighthouse its unique "light signature" of two flashes every six seconds. This incredible optic, that holds an appraised value of over \$3.5 million, is set in solid brass framework.

Prior to the introduction of electricity, the lens was rotated by a clockwork mechanism. The Keepers, or "wickies" as they were called, had to hand crank a 160-pound weight up the center shaft of the lighthouse every 75 minutes to keep the lens turning. Later, two 1,000 watt electric lamps were installed to replace the oil lamp, and an electric motor was installed to replace the clockworks.

In 1977, an automated aircraft-type beacon on the balcony tower, and the historic First Order Fresnel Lens was discontinued. The 400-pound aircraft beacon was recently replaced by a modern rotating light that incorporates the Fresnel principles for the efficient projection of light. In addition, a radio beacon, with a 50-mile signal that originates from the station, also assists mariners. The original oil lamp was visible for approximately 18 miles, the 1st Order Fresnel Lens for 20 miles and the current modern rotating light can be seen for 16 miles. In 1978, the fog signal at the station was silenced, and a bell buoy was placed nearby.

In 1984, The Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Transportation transferred the Point Arena Light Station to the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, a nonprofit organization as part of a 25-year land lease. In 2000, the PALK became the official owners of the property due to their diligent historic preservation and educational efforts. Daily visitation, gift store sales, memberships and the rental of the historic Keeper's homes on the property as vacation houses, provide income for ongoing preservation, facility upgrades and educational endeavors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the ongoing contribution and historic significance of one of America's treasures, the 101-year-old Point Arena Light Station.

WELCOMING HIS ALL HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE, NEW ROME,
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

SPEECH OF

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.Res. 838. I am proud to be a co-

sponsor of this important resolution which welcomes His Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, to the United States of America.

His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom, Muslim-Christian dialogue, and international environmental protection. He has been internationally recognized for his work to improve our worldwide community in many ways.

His work in the Muslim world advocating for religious understanding and tolerance and his efforts with victims of soviet oppression have earned him the title of "Patriarch of Peace." In 2008, His Holiness was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine.

Madam Speaker, while I am pleased that the House of Representatives is expressing our strong support for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his leadership on many important issues, it is equally as important that I address the fact that the Patriarchate itself operates under numerous unfair restrictions imposed by the Turkish Government, where the Patriarchate is located. Unfortunately, the Patriarchate's property rights, its ability to open religious schools, and other issues of religious freedom must be properly addressed by the Turkish Government. I hope that the United States and the world community will work with the Government of Turkey to end this terrible crime of inhibiting religious freedoms.

I am pleased to welcome His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and I look forward to joining with our country's leaders to formally welcome His Holiness to Washington. I look forward to learning from him and working with the Greek Orthodox Community in the United States to bring full religious freedom to the Patriarchate. His Holiness has been instrumental in bringing light to those who have lived in darkness and helping those who need it most. We all benefit from his teachings.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF WINSTON WALKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Winston Walker, a Korean War veteran and a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on October 29, 2009. Mr. Walker spent his life serving his country and his community, and I am proud to honor his dedication and his service.

Born in Baker, Florida on December 10, 1925, Winston was a life-long Florida resident. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1949 and became an Air Force officer. After serving honorably during the Korean War, Winston returned to Okaloosa County, Florida in 1954. He was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Fort Walton Beach City Council in 1957, and then became City Manager shortly thereafter.

Winston worked for the city for 23 years as City Manager, and many credit him for being instrumental in transforming Fort Walton

Beach from a small town into the thriving city it is today. He retired as Chief Executive Officer of Ready Bank. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason and a lifelong member of St. Simons on the Sound Episcopal Church.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Winston Walker as a Northwest Florida leader. Winston will be remembered as an important part of the fabric of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his family as we remember and honor the life of Winston Walker.

ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they join together in celebration of their 95th anniversary. The parishioners, along with Parish Priest, Father Marko Matic, and Parish President, Mr. Dennis Svilar, will be celebrating this very momentous occasion on Sunday, November 8, 2009. Festivities will begin with Divine Liturgy, followed by a banquet and program featuring Mr. Nicholas Chabraja as the guest speaker. This special event will take place at Saint Elijah Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, which was founded in Gary, Indiana, and is now located in Merrillville is one of the Midwest's oldest parishes. The tradition of Saint Sava's is well-known throughout Northwest Indiana because of the continued efforts of the clergy and parishioners over the past 95 years to perpetuate the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions. In 1914, the founders proclaimed the mission of their new church before the Secretary of State in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their mission is as follows: "The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love, and respect among its members."

Named for Saint Sava, the first Archbishop of the Serbian church, Saint Sava's first formal church-school congregation was organized in 1914, followed by the first church in 1915. From there, the parishioners built the first church and school on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. Through difficult economic times, the parishioners at Saint Sava continued with their mission, and after the Great Depression, the parish built an even larger church, school, and parish hall on 13th Avenue and Connecticut in Gary in order to accommodate their rapidly growing membership. This building remained until a devastating fire consumed it in February of 1978, causing Saint Sava's to quickly relocate to a newly constructed chapel in a parish hall they had built years earlier. This hall, located in Hobart, Indiana, had been utilized as a place for summer meetings and family picnics.

From 1978 until 1991, Saint Sava's Liturgy continued to be performed in the Hobart chapel. However, it was during this time that long-time parish priest, Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich, and the church board

began to assemble ideas for the construction of a new church. With Father Todorovich's leadership and committed efforts, as well as the vast efforts of many parishioners, the people of Saint Sava were able to move into their current place of worship. In May of 1991, the parish celebrated a "new beginning" when a brand new building was constructed. This magnificent building opened in Merrillville, where relics which survived the fire were blessed and installed into the new church. Today, Saint Sava's members continue to gather there to worship and to celebrate, as well as to continue with the mission of their founding members.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church on their 95th anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint Sava have dedicated themselves to providing a spiritual and guiding light through the protection of the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions for all of Northwest Indiana. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION'S 30 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, San Francisco's Community Alliance for Special Education (CASE) was formed in 1979 in response to an unmet need to protect the educational rights of children with disabilities. As CASE celebrates its 30th anniversary, we can all celebrate their good and inspired work supporting children with disabilities by ensuring the fair and just implementation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state special education laws.

Perhaps most impressively, CASE recognizes the financial hardship that can beset a family raising a child with a disability and has never turned away a client based on their ability to pay.

Their excellent work has led to impressive results over the past three decades, including 94% of children served by CASE receiving appropriate educational services and 95% of clients being connected to local parent networks to help them address other family needs.

Over the last thirty years, CASE has provided more than 20,000 consultations to parents and professionals, represented upwards of 3,000 families and trained in excess of 25,000 people. In addition, their handbook, Special Education Rights, is the most widely-used resource guide in California on the special education process.

Madam Speaker, you and I are both blessed to represent what San Francisco legend Herb Caen called "The city that knows how". I am happy to report that CASE furthers San Francisco's proud legacy by successfully harnessing the power of collaboration and communication to engage children, parents, educators and the community to advance the admirable goal of improving educational op-

portunities for children with disabilities so that they, too, can become happy and productive members of the community.

It is with great admiration that I commend the Community Alliance for Special Education for making our world a better place by advocating for those who otherwise might not be heard. I congratulate everyone who has had a part in making CASE the success story it is and look forward to more great work over the next thirty years.

TRIBUTE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, In recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I would like to thank the United States Army for the work it has done lately to raise awareness about domestic violence. So many resources are expended ensuring that our soldiers are equipped to fight wars abroad, however, upon their return, soldiers and their families should not be subjected to war at home in the form of domestic violence. It takes a community and an ongoing commitment to address the epidemic of domestic violence. No sector of society is immune from domestic violence, including the armed services.

Fortunately, progress is being made by raising awareness about domestic violence and assisting families impacted by domestic violence. Yet, so much work remains to be done because senseless acts of violence continue to occur in homes and communities across America every day.

The 2009 Army Domestic Violence Awareness Month observance theme is "Make the Right Choice! Act to Prevent Domestic Abuse." This theme stresses the need for each person in the Army to know that he or she can do something to prevent domestic violence. For instance, the Army's Family Advocacy program is working hard to address domestic violence by providing counseling and other resources to Army families.

A critical component of these prevention efforts is to support soldiers when they return home so that the effects of conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other reactions to the combat experience, do not contribute to domestic violence. These resources provide soldiers with the counseling and support they need to cope with the violence they were subjected to while at war.

However, we know that PTSD does not cause domestic violence; we must direct resources to address the inter-generational cycle of violence and support victims in violent relationships. We must foster an atmosphere of no tolerance for domestic violence, no matter the rank or status of the perpetrator of the violence or that of the victim.

I would like to take this opportunity today to join the Army in its commitment to educating soldiers and their families about domestic violence and recognize the collective responsibility of all of us to prevent domestic violence wherever it occurs.

I hope we can all reaffirm our commitment to raising awareness about domestic violence,

and most importantly, breaking the silence and stigma surrounding domestic violence. We do this by encouraging atmospheres of openness and responsiveness in support of victims instead of punishing them. The war against domestic violence is one that has waged far too long, but with ongoing commitment and hard work, we can win this war!

WATCHING THE GIANTS, AND AMBUSHED BY ZOMBIES

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an essay published in the New York Times and written by a constituent of mine, Mr. James H. Burns (Jim Burns) of Valley Stream.

[Oct. 23, 2009]

WATCHING THE GIANTS, AND AMBUSHED BY ZOMBIES

Columbia Pictures Images from ads for films such as "Zombieland" can startle or frighten unwarly TV viewers.

Halloween has always been the season when Hollywood unleashes some of its most suspenseful and supernatural offerings. When I was a child in the late '60s and early '70s, the horror slate was a splendid array, ranging from the relative innocence of monster-ramas to the erotically tinged creature flicks of Britain's famed Hammer Studios. Somewhere in between were the less stylish but often enjoyable low-budget drive-in fare from America's exploitation studios (almost all of which went out of business years ago) and the occasional major-studio horror movies often rereleased at this time of year.

But this mostly imaginative crop devolved to the dime-a-dozen, cut-'em-up-and-watch-'em-bleed movies, of which "Friday the 13th" is perhaps the most famous example. Although I was one of the earliest group of writers for Fangoria, the horror-movie magazine, and also acted in a couple of horror films years ago, my opinion of the genre's more grotesque examples has changed.

I used to believe that slasher movies—or "gore-or," as I started calling them in the 1980s—were like a celluloid roller coaster, a relatively harmless catharsis. But now I think that the intensity of Hollywood's blood-and-guts barrage and the ability of such films to desensitize at least a portion of the audience cannot be denied. And they certainly should not be advertised on television during what are supposed to be family viewing hours.

Sometime back, I was stunned to look up from a halftime snack to see horrifying images from one of the "Hostel" movies—rapidly edited for maximum terrifying impact—being run as a commercial during a 4 p.m. football game.

A few weeks ago, the Giants game included an advertisement with a zombie child (dressed in her chiffonlike finest, a pink bow in her hair) being dragged behind a car, and a bikinied beauty running in a parking lot, her mouth covered with a darkened ooze. (The spot, an ad for "Zombieland," ended with a "hero" threatening an obese ghoul with an oversized pair of garden shears.)

Last Sunday about 2 p.m., Giants fans saw possibly even more disturbing sequences—an apoplectic screamer, a man having convulsions, and an almost subliminal shot of a foreboding, wraithlike alien—even though

the movie being advertised, "The Fourth Kind," has been rated PG-13. Late afternoon also had a particularly creepy "Criminal Minds" clip about forced impregnation, with a chilling baby-doll motif. Comparable commercials have been shown during early-evening prime-time broadcasts.

This is the week when we're reminded of how much fun can be derived from a sense of the fantastic, and how deeply the desire for terrifying thrills is imbued in many film fans. But the choice of whether to be confronted with these images should clearly still belong to each person. Innocent bystanders should not be ambushed by these kinds of graphically violent, disturbing scenes.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAND BEST

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my father-in-law, Normand Best.

TRIBUTE TO AN EVERYDAY AMERICAN:
NORMAND A. BEST

Normand Audrey Best was born in Omaha, Nebraska on November 3, 1928, to his proud parents, Catherine and Paul Best. He was born and raised in the country's heartland where his mother's family, the Kelleys, had farmed since the late 1880s. The nation was on the verge of the Depression and ultimately Paul's work would take them to California, and then on to Washington State, but it was his midwestern values and work ethic that would serve him all of his life. He would often talk at Christmastime with great fondness of the farm in Nebraska, the small schools, and his family.

The Kelley girls—as Norm's mother, Catherine, and her sisters were called—made their mark in the community and the parish. The five daughters of John Kelley would remain close throughout their lives as pillars of both the parish and the community. They were a source of comfort and solace to one another. Norm has two sisters, Joan and Mildred, and a brother, Gordon. A nine-year difference in age didn't allow the brothers to get close until they were older; however, Gordon looked up to his older brother and more than Best Brothers they were Best Friends and great fishing buddies.

Norm had a quiet reserve about him, a humility that comes from being raised in hard times and the decency and demeanor of a gentleman and a soldier. Like most who served in his generation, he said little about his war experience. It's not a subject that one dwells on, but over a few Bellows, his drink of preference, he would reflect on his service in the Marine Corps and how the training and discipline had served him well.

Norm enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and served with distinction. He spoke rarely but poignantly of having to escort home the bodies of fallen heroes. He recalled how painful it was to go to the door of the Marines' parents and give them the news. He was proud of the Marines and the way they conducted themselves and the honor and respect they paid to those who had given the full measure of devotion to their country.

He had a mind that was perhaps pre-disposed to math and engineering. He had a clearheaded way of making decisions and an acute ability to analyze data and information. These skills would serve him well in his profession as a flight engineer for Pan Amer-

ican, as a trouble shooter for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, and even in a game of pinocchle.

How a boy from Nebraska develops an aptitude for flight and engineering is a story in itself. It was in pursuit of this career that his life would be transformed when he met Carolyn Tasse. Carolyn, as his brother Gordon aptly described her, had a smile you could see a block away and lighted up any room she entered with its warmth. They were the quintessential American couple—he looking like Glen Ford and she a short-haired Donna Reed. They met at Pan Am, so even before they married they got to travel and see the world together. This Midwestern man and New England woman fell in love and were married. His job carried them to Minnesota and then on to San Antonio, where they started their family of four: Leslie, Louise, Warren and Allen. Ultimately his job would lead them to East Hartford, Connecticut, where he would live, work, and raise his family for the rest of his life.

It's hard to comprehend how at 39 years of age he dealt with Carolyn's passing. She died of Cancer in 1967, leaving him with four little children—the oldest, Leslie, who was nine and the youngest, Allen, who was just four. Nothing in his life experience could have prepared him for this, yet he met the circumstance with the resolve to keep his family together. To those ends he gave the full measure of his devotion both to his deceased wife and his children.

He and Carolyn were a love story before Ryan O'Neil and Ali McGraw had portrayed a similar saga in the movie "A Love Story." He never remarried and dedicated himself to his children and his work. He made sure that he took the family on interesting vacations that they all still recall fondly whenever they gather together. He cooked, cleaned, and showed up at all of their events. He was their compass and their rock. There was no doubt of his love and selfless devotion.

I was fortunate to meet him through his daughter, Leslie, and eventually became his son-in-law. I treasured my conversations, dinners, birthdays, holidays and especially the times when his brother Gordon or his mother were in town. The card games and the stories had all of the sentimentality that makes the bond of family so strong. If I close my eyes, I can still hear the laughter of their voices lingering in the night.

He was proud of his children and their accomplishments and especially proud of his grandchildren, whom he also showered with the full measure of his love and devotion. He was the family support system, the go-to person in a crisis, and the unfailing steady rock on which everyone depended and whom he never let down.

He reminded me very much of my own Father, different but alike in many, many ways. Their values, work ethic, sense of responsibility and character are examples that I only wish I could emulate. He was an everyday man who minded his own business and tended to his individual needs and family responsibilities. He asked little for all he had sacrificed.

I often wondered when I'd see him drift off or reflect while he was listening to his music if he wasn't thinking of he and Carolyn traveling the world, creating a family and how short their time was together. Having given the full measure of his devotion, it's heart-rending to know he was reunited with Carolyn on August 6, 2009. Norm completed his circle of life, and while he is dearly missed, we are comforted knowing his journey has brought him to a place his heart never left—back home to her.

THANKING BOB LARSON ON HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Larson, a true community leader in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois. People in Central Illinois know Bob very well from his work as a WMBD 31 News anchor and his efforts in community service. This Friday, November 6th, Easter Seals of Central Illinois is honoring Mr. Larson at its 19th Annual Tribute Dinner. Each year Easter Seals recognizes individuals who have served the Central Illinois community in extraordinary ways. Past honorees include Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Congressman Bob Michel.

Bob Larson began his work in the community at a very early age. When the owner of WRMI Radio in Morris, Illinois heard Bob's voice, he offered him a job and soon the once shy 16-year-old boy was on the air and his passion for broadcasting began.

Larson eventually went on to Texas Christian University and graduated in 1971. Upon graduation, Bob returned home to Illinois and began his career at WMBD in Peoria, which was then both a television and an AM/FM radio station. In his 38 years at WMBD, Bob served as a movie host, weatherman, reporter, and anchor. He has been honored by the Associated Press for Best Downstate Radio Newscast and Best Downstate TV Newscast, as well as being named "Best News Anchor" by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

However, Central Illinois residents don't only have to turn on their televisions to see Bob Larson at work. When he joined the Peoria community, Bob made a commitment to dedicate his time and skills to dozens of local charities and events. He began volunteering for the Easter Seals telethon in the 1970s, and in 1981 when the usual hosts unexpectedly could not attend, it was Bob who rose to the occasion and hosted the program. He was such a great host that in 1993 he was designated as one of the official emcees, a role he has filled ever since. Each year Bob and WMBD produce preview stories about the children of Easter Seals. Over the years he has watched these children grow and make their own positive contributions to the community.

Bob is also an active supporter of the American Heart Association, a cause he became involved with after a news story he was working on ended up saving his life. As part of the story, Larson allowed himself to be scanned by a new piece of equipment at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. A simple demonstration became a life-changing moment when doctors discovered Larson had a dangerous blockage of his heart. The story turned into a three-part series following Larson through the whole experience and inspiring men who were watching at home to get their own hearts checked.

Larson also volunteers for St. Jude, the Salvation Army, the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Cancer Center for Health Living, and Junior Achievement. He hosts the annual telethon of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and has emceed the annual Santa Claus parade since 1974.

In summary, Madam Speaker, Bob Larson is an exceptional example to all Americans of what the phrase "service to community" truly means. In these challenging times for America, it's folks like Bob Larson who illustrate the best of our country. I wish to sincerely thank Mr. Larson for all he has done for the people of Peoria and beyond, and congratulate him on his much deserved honors.