CONGRATULATING CAROL STREAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CHIEF MICHAEL KANZIA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the long and distinguished service of Carol Stream Fire Protection District Chief Michael Kanzia on the occasion of his retirement. On September 30 of this year, Chief Kanzia concluded his loyal service to the community he has been faithfully serving since 1976.

On November 19, the Village of Carol Stream will gather to celebrate Chief Kanzia’s impressive career, from his time as an on-call firefighter to his days as Fire Chief.

Day in and out Chief Kanzia led the men and women of the Carol Stream Fire Protection District as they risked their lives to protect our communities. His leadership is reflected in their bravery and courage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that it represents.

RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR "ARTIE" HILL, SR. ON HIS LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. GREGORY W. MECKS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MECKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Arthur B. "Artie" Hill, Sr. on his lifetime achievement in the community. Arthur B. "Artie" Hill, Sr. was born in New York City on April 2, 1922. "Artie" Hill, Sr. graduated from John Jay College in 1966 and received his MPA degree from City University of New York in 1973.

On September 16, 1946, Arthur B. "Artie" Hill began his career in law enforcement as a patrolman, retiring after 27 years of service as assistant chief, commanding officer of the Special Operations Division. Arthur B. "Artie" Hill, Sr. began a career of over 17 years at UPS on January 15, 1973 where he held several management positions throughout the company, eventually retiring on September 30, 1990 as Vice President of Public Affairs.

Arthur B. "Artie" Hill served as an alternate delegate to Democratic National Convention from New York in 1980 and 1984. Arthur B. "Artie" Hill is a distinguished member and affiliate of numerous organizations, including his service as Director of the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority, the Apollo Theater Foundation and AmeriChoice Northeast Managed Health Care Systems of New York, Inc.; Trustee of North General Hospital; Life Member of the NAACP; Member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity "Boule," Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, National Association of Guardsmen, Comus Club Inc., National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), 100 Black Men, 369th Veteran's Association, Shriners and Prince Hall Masons;

In May 2008, the North General Hospital's Board of Trustees opened the new Arthur B. and Patricia Hill VIP Patient Room on the Hospital's sixth floor. Hill is a former board member and long-time supporter of North General Hospital and has worked to ensure that the people of Harlem continue to have access to excellent healthcare. At 87 years old, Arthur B. "Artie" Hill, Sr. remains a tireless advocate for a number of causes in the community. I would like to take a moment to have the House of Representatives recognize and honor Arthur B. "Artie" Hill, Sr. on his lifetime achievement in the community.

THE CITY OF TEMECULA CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CITY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Temecula, on the celebration of its 20th Anniversary as a City on December 1, 2009.

Since its founding, the City of Temecula has quadrupled in population and continues to provide improvements and amenities to its citizens to ensure a high quality of life. Temecula has also prioritized the protection of its citizens, instigating both regional and federal projects like the Murrieta Creek Flood Control Project. Furthermore, the city has partnered regionally to create jobs through economic development, road improvements, and funding to enhance the community's ability to serve its citizens.

As one of California's pioneering communities, the City of Temecula diligently works to preserve its rich historical culture, providing a wealth of cultural opportunities to its citizens through establishments like the Temecula Theater, History Museum, and Children's Museum. The city also values its strong relationship with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians.

On the occasion of its 20th Anniversary as a City, I encourage the citizens of Temecula to reflect on both the present and historical significance of their community and how it makes the City of Temecula one of America's most livable cities.

HONORING SIG SANCHEZ OF GILROY, CA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. JERRY McNERNEY, and Ms. ANNA ESHOO to honor Sig Sanchez, a truly dedicated public servant of California's 15th Congressional District. Sig, a resident of Gilroy, California, will retire this December, after 55 years of exemplary public service in Santa Clara County. His most recent service included 29 years as a Director and five-time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Prior to this, Mr. Sanchez served as an elected member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for 18 years, a Gilroy City Councilmember for 14 years, and Mayor of the City of Gilroy for five years.

During his busy and productive career, Mr. Sanchez has also been an active member of numerous national, state, and local water resource affiliations, including the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Central Valley Project Authority, Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority Board and Finance Committee, Uvas/Llagas Flood Control and Watershed Advisory Committee, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Ad Hoc Audit Committee, and the South County Regional Wastewater Authority.

Even while dedicating so much of his time to water issues, Sig did not lose focus on the big picture, helping to strengthen the local community through his efforts with HOPE Rehabilitation, Wheeler Hospital Foundation Board, South Valley Hospital, Health Dimensions Inc., Odd-Fellows and Rebekah Children's Home, and the Gilroy Elks Club.

In 1981, Mr. Sanchez was inducted into the Gilroy Hall of Fame and was honored and recognized with a 10-mile portion of state Highway Route 101 named for him. His work as a farmer and businessman, along with his years as public servant to the water community as a leader during very tumultuous times, has won him the hearts and good will of all who know him.

Our community is grateful to Sig Sanchez for his dedication to public service and contributions to the residents of Santa Clara County, and we wish him well in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, I...
Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning, Joan E. Sisco and Carl G. Schneider—inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. These citizens are recognized for their exemplary service for our country.

For both bravely serving our country and inspiring those outside their military service, 19 Arizona residents were selected to be part of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. In a state boasting more than 600,000 veterans, I am truly honored to represent five of this year’s recipients.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society annually rewards and honors veterans for their contributions to our community. Each recipient of the prestigious award is personally selected by the Office of Governor Jan Brewer in partnership with the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services.

These veterans represent the courage and patriotism that is so revered by many Americans. It is people like this that I am continuously thinking of and am proud to serve. As members of the Hall of Fame Society, I am sure these veterans will carry on inspiring and serving our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning, Joan E. Sisco and Carl G. Schneider’s exceptional service.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George McNeill for his many years of service to the Ripon Society.

For the past five years, George has served as Chief Administrative Officer of the organization. In this position, he has not only run the day-to-day affairs of the group, he has also helped position it as one of the leading voices of centrist Republican thought in Washington, D.C.

As one of the founders of the Ripon Society, I have to confess—when we established the organization in 1962, we could only dream of some of the things it has achieved since that time. Through his hard work and dedication, not only as the Chief Administrative Officer since 2004, but also as a member of the Ripon Board of Directors dating back to 2001, George has helped turn that dream into a reality.

In the process, he has not only made a difference in the life of the Ripon Society, he has also added another impressive chapter to his own rich and full life. It is a life that has taken George from the streets of his birthplace in the Bronx to the halls of his ancestral home in Scotland, from the jungles of his tour of duty in Vietnam to the meadows of his current home in Danby, Vermont. It is also a life dedicated to service, and one that has revolved around his loving family and devoted friends.

George has indeed worn many titles in his lifetime, earning the respect of friend and foe alike along the way. But the title that he is perhaps most proud of is that of husband and father. George and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of two wonderful daughters—Megan and Caitlin.

George recently announced that he is retiring as Chief Administrative Officer of the Ripon Society. It is a real loss for the organization. Those of us who have worked with and gotten to know George over the past several years would dearly love to see him go. But we also understand that, after five years of commuting weekly back and forth between Vermont and Washington, the time has come to return home.

We thank George McNeill for his service to the Ripon Society. We honor him for his many contributions to the group and for advancing policy debate in Washington. And we wish him all the best in the years ahead.

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, this week the co-chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus joined with 129 original cosponsors to introduce H. Res. 914, a resolution supporting the observance of National Diabetes Month.

H.R. 2590. This bill would extend Medicare coverage to medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services for people with pre-diabetes and other risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes. Under current law, Medicare pays for MNT services provided by a registered dietician for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover MNT for beneficiaries diagnosed with pre-diabetes. Nutrition therapy services have proven very effective in preventing diabetes by providing access to the best possible nutritional advice and help to manage their condition. By helping people with pre-diabetes manage their condition, Medicare will avoid having to pay for the much more expensive treatment of diabetes.

In addition, we are working hard to pass, H.R. 3668 and related Special Diabetes Services Programs for Type I Diabetes and Indians. This program provides federal funding for the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type I Diabetes Research at the National Institutes of Health and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the Indian Health Service. H.R. 3668 would extend these critical programs through 2016 and increase funding for both programs to $200 million a year.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, for his many years of leadership working together with me as Co-Chair of the Diabetes Caucus. I also want to thank both sides of the House leadership and both sides of the House leadership for their bipartisan support of diabetes issues. I look forward to working with the Congressional
Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District whose dedication to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold so dear earned him the highest military award our country has to offer. Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Lewis Millett passed away on November 14, 2009. He was a true American hero and today I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to honor and remember him and his 31 years of service.

Colonel Millett was born in Mechanic Falls, ME, on December 15, 1920. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940 and served as an air gunner, then joined the Canadian Army when it appeared the United States would not enter World War II. Millett returned to the U.S. Army in 1942 upon the United States’ entrance into World War II and served in the 1st Armored Division. After making sergeant, he was awarded a battlefield commission.

According to his Medal of Honor Citation, then-Captain Millett distinguished himself “above and beyond the call of duty in action” in Korea, after he and his men came under heavy enemy fire on February 7, 1951. Captain Millett ordered and led a bayonet counterattack up the hill, killing enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand assault during which he was wounded by a grenade blast. Despite the adverse conditions Captain Millett’s company had taken the hill by early afternoon.

Captain Millett was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman in July 1951. He retired as a colonel in 1973 after a 31-year career in which he served in World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

Other notable military decorations awarded to Colonel Millett include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts and three Air Medals. Colonel Millett’s dedication to his country is a testament to a life of service and a legacy that lives on through his sacrifices. Today let us pledge to always remember Colonel Lewis Millett—a testament to a life of service and a legacy of serving the basic freedoms and liberties that our country stands for.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who dedicated his life to helping others, Mr. John Gaffaney of San Diego, California. Tragically, John was killed on November 5, 2009, a victim of the horrible events at Fort Hood.

John was a man of sacrifice and devotion who spent his life counseling others. After 15 years of teaching developmentally disabled adults in San Diego, John decided to work for the San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services. After spending the last 22 years investigating cases of elderly abuse and neglect for San Diego County, John once again answered the call of duty and re-enlisted in the Army Reserves. He arrived at Fort Hood only a few short weeks ago to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan to help other soldiers cope with the trauma of war.

Madam Speaker, John Gaffaney was a man of integrity and will be greatly missed by all of San Diego, especially his wife Christine and son Matthew. I ask that this body honor John and the rest of the fallen at Fort Hood for their dedication and sacrifice to this country.

Mr. M. C. MAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Salinardi of New York. Mr. Salinardi has done extensive work with the developmentally disabled population for the past 40 years. He has ensured that disabled individuals in my district have had their voices heard.

Mr. Salinardi has spent much of his career improving the treatment of developmentally disabled individuals. From his 30 years of teaching developmentally disabled adults through his decades volunteering his time and knowledge, he has helped these individuals become productive members of our community.

Richard serves as the Executive Director of Lifestyles for the Disabled Inc., overseeing all aspects of the agency. Richard has taken an aggressive and innovative approach, yielding remarkable results.
While the Lifestyles for the Disabled family continues to grow, Richard has maintained a solid connection to his roots. As an alumnus of Wagner College, Mr. Salinardi started a program to have students from his alma mater volunteer their time at Lifestyles, maximizing their college experiences.

Mr. Salinardi continues to volunteer his time with Special Olympics at Wagner College. The Special Olympics program at Wagner started 35 years ago with 10 athletes and has grown to over 500 athletes, training year-round. Since 1975, Richard has served as the Staten Island Area Coordinator and currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics of New York.

Mr. Salinardi is a truly great American and a dedicated community leader. Because of the devotion of Richard Salinardi, I know that disabled individuals on Staten Island and around New York City are in good hands.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Richard Salinardi for his dynamic leadership and acknowledging the impact he has made on the developmentally disabled of Staten Island.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPRECH OF
HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will strengthen America and offer greater security to our workers, families, seniors and businesses. It will enhance our Nation’s health care system, placing the burden of America’s health care costs on employers, individuals and insurers.

Sixty percent of our Nation’s entire uninsured population are small business owners and their employees and families. This equals at least 28 million uninsured Americans. Small business premiums have risen 129 percent since 2000. In 2008, 38 percent of small companies offered health coverage, compared with 41 percent in 2007 and 61 percent in 1993.

For too long, the health of our Nation has dwindled while the pockets of the insurance giants have thickened. Our seniors have compromised prescription drugs for necessary groceries, while the pharmaceutical industry has made record profits. Hard working families have watched their savings plummet and their homes foreclosed after unexpected illnesses. Women, breast cancer men with heart disease and children with leukemia or childhood diabetes have been flat-out denied health insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions or reaching insurance policy caps.

The House Plan, the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, the region I represent, will benefit immensely and in very specific ways: 386,000 residents will see improved employer-based coverage. 167,000 households would be eligible for credits to help pay for coverage. 39,000 uninsured citizens just in our region would be eligible for insurance under a reformed system. 14,500 small businesses will be allowed to obtain affordable health care coverage and 12,400 among tax credits to help reduce the costs of health insurance. 102,000 beneficiaries will benefit from an improved Medicare program. 7,600 seniors will benefit from closing the prescription drug donut hole, starting with $500 of cost forgiveness in 2010. 1,700 families will be protected from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs. $120 million in savings will be seen by hospitals and health care providers as a result of reductions in uncompensated care.

Under this bill, employers, the uninsured and seniors will receive relief through a temporary insurance program. Individuals receiving COBRA will be allowed to keep their coverage until a more customer friendly, one-stop marketplace for health insurance, known as the Exchange, is created. The Exchange will offer affordability credits and tax credits for individuals and businesses that need them. Health plans will be required to allow young people until their 27th birthday to remain on their parents’ health insurance policy. Moreover, insurance companies will be subject to public review and disclosure of insurance excessive rate increases.

Much needed investments will be made right away in training programs designed to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals. Not-for-Profit purchasing collaboratives, such as the FrontPath Health Coalition from Northwest Ohio, will be strengthened to achieve careful plan management and cost-savings, and encouraged as a central provision of Title I. Community Health Centers will see an increase in funding to allow for a doubling of patients over the next 5 years. A $10 billion fund will be created to finance a temporary reinsurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55–64.

Women would immediately receive affordability credits to cover employees, resulting in an astounding 60 percent of our Nation’s entire uninsured population.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM is necessary to cut the costs of doing business, reduce the share of government expenditures spent on health care, help our companies to be more competitive in the world market, unlease the entrepreneurial talents of the American people, and give peace of mind to the middle class and millions and others that everything they have worked for will not be taken away if they get sick.

As someone who grew up in a small business family, I watched our father forced to sell our small family grocery when he became ill. He needed health insurance for his family and took a job at a local auto assembly plant to obtain it for his wife and children. I promised myself when I was elected to Congress that passing legislation to cover small business would be one of my top priorities. Finally, it has become possible to vote on a bill that will do this for millions of our fellow citizens.

With the mounting economic strain on American families and the rising costs of health insurance to workers, businesses and federal budget, the status quo has proven itself unsustainable, financially irresponsible and morally unacceptable. The time has come for this historical change. I stand in support of its promise to the American people.

THANKING RICK KESSLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE RIPON SOCIETY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Bill Gates once said, “Great organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved.”

I rise today to recognize Rick Kessler, whose commitment to one particular organization—the Ripon Society—has not only spanned three decades, but has left a lasting impact on public policy debate in the United States.

In 1962, as a student attending Harvard University, I helped found the Ripon Society. The intent was to provide Republicans with a place where they could debate the issues and discuss the challenges of the day.

Rick’s involvement with Ripon dates back to the early 1980s. He had been involved with John Anderson’s presidential campaign, where he served as National Finance Director before going on to serve on the Inaugural Committee for President Reagan.

Rick joined the Ripon Society as Executive Director in 1981 and immediately set out to re-vitalize the organization. Among his accomplishments, Rick created the Congressional Advisory Board; the nonprofit Ripon Educational Fund Transatlantic Conference; the Congressional Liaison Board; the Rough Rider Awards Dinner; and he oversaw the rejuvenation of The Ripon Forum, the Society’s journal of thought and opinion. More than anything, though, Rick carried the organization on his shoulders through good times and bad.

In 2004, Rick was invited to follow in the footsteps of the Honorable Bill Frenzel and become President of the Ripon Society. He has served in this role with great distinction.

Rick also was busy raising a family. He and his wife Daphne have been married for 21
After five years as President, Rick recently announced that he is stepping down and becoming President Emeritus of the Ripon Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for Ripon. What started out 47 years ago as a seed on the Harvard campus has become a strong and sturdy tree in Washington, DC, today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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. 2996, the Interior-Environment Appropriations Act, 2010.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail was initiated in 1990 to complete a trail corridor along the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Bonneville and along the foothills of the Wasatch mountains from Ogden to Provo. This partnership has been so successful that the communities in Cache and Box Elder counties have worked to extend the trail north. The 150-acre North Ogden property is a priority for protection by the U.S. Forest Service. The property serves as important habitat for deer and elk and as an important buffer for fire protection for the rapidly developing area along the Wasatch Front. The property also provides watershed protection for neighboring areas in addition to key recreational resources.

The North Ogden program is a partnership effort to fill in the boundaries of the national forest along the BST in North Ogden and Pleasant View. In 2005, a five-mile stretch of the BST along North Ogden and Pleasant View was secured through a trail easement along an existing utility corridor granted to the nonprofit Weber Pathways. The property available for protection this year is critical to the North Ogden program because it will bring Forest Service ownership to this stretch of the BST and add critical trail access to the citizens in this area of the state. Protection of this property will also protect beautiful views of the foothills of the Wasatch Front and Ben Lomond Peak, one of Weber County’s most important landmarks, while conserving important wildlife habitat and winter range along this rapid growth area.
The changes made to the AFG and SAFER programs in H.R. 3791 will improve these programs by allowing funding to be used for certain volunteer emergency medical services organizations and for building inspector certifications.

I want to thank Representative MITCHELL for his hard work in crafting this legislation which reflects bipartisan cooperation and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

All fire departments, including those in our congressional district in Texas, strive to provide a superior level of emergency service that continually improves the quality of life, health and safety of our residents, and I am proud to support legislation that will ensure that they can achieve those goals.

HONORING DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL COACH TONY MAGNI AND CATHOLIC CENTRAL SHAMROCKS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Detroit Catholic Central Coach Tony Magni and the entire Catholic Central Shamrocks’ Cross Country team on their Division 1 State Championship.

I am a proud graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School. As a student, I learned how important it was to work hard, seek out knowledge, and fight for the less fortunate. I learned how important sports are in teaching our children the values of common respect for one another if we are to grow as a nation.

The Tompkins Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons that is now celebrating its 150th anniversary. This fraternal order has had a rich and long history filled with dedication to and compassion for the people of our community.

The Tompkins Lodge’s history dates as far back as the American Revolution when British propagandist and colonist met in the Guyon-Clark homestead in the New Dorp section of Staten Island. The War of 1812 brought a halt to Masonic activity on Staten Island but the lodge was reconvened in 1819 in the home of Vice President Daniel D. Tompkins, who also served as Grand Master of Mason of New York State. They met in various homes until about 1825 when the Richmond Lodge had its first meeting on the top floor of the Nautilus Lodge.

In 1839, the anti-Masonic movement had grown in New York and many lodges around Staten Island were closed. The Tompkins Lodge stood firm and weathered the storm. In May 1856, the lodge moved to the room occupied by the former Richmond Lodge, where it remained until a massive fire ripped through the Tompkinsville section of Staten Island.

After many years in their location, the Tompkins Lodge moved in 1908 to their current location above the Stapleton Office of the U.S. Postal Service.

From national programs such as their hospitals and senior living homes, to their works around Staten Island, the Tompkins Lodge is at the forefront of community service on Staten Island. Throughout their long and prestigious history, the Tompkins Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons has volunteered their time and skills to the improvement of our communities.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Tompkins Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons for the vigorous devotion to the people of New York’s 13th Congressional District for the past 150 years.

AMB. LYNDON OLSON SPEECH—IMPORTANCE OF CIVILITY IN AMERICAN LIFE AND POLITICS

HON. CHET EDWARDS OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD wise words from Ambassador Lyndon Olson that we would all do well to follow. In a time of such little civility in our public discourse, Ambassador Lyndon Olson reminds us what is best about America. It is the strength of our values, our character, and common respect for our fellow man and woman that make our nation great.

We must strive to protect and nurture those values of common respect for one another if we are to grow as a nation.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR LYNDON OLSON UPON ACCEPTING THE TEXAS LEGACY AWARD FROM THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TEXAS LEGACY LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 12, 2009, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Thank you very much for this honor. I appreciate the kind remarks of my friend Congressman Edwards. I also appreciate the opportunity today to talk to this distinguished group about a concern of mine.
scant time for reflection or reasoned analysis. Market forces demand instantaneous information and jarring entertainment values, not sober analysis or wisdom. The news media's mandate to focus on the loud, the most outrageous, and the most partisan actors. And given the rise of the politically-consultant class, candidates and campaigns create conflict in order to raise hackles, money, and attention...fomenting issues to suit their agenda. It's all about the message, not the solution, not the negotiation, the debate, the compromise to move forward. It's about who is controlling the message, who is defining the message, who is creating the conflict alive often where none existed before the consultant decided one was needed. Is this great entertainment the teacher's throat killer? Is it talk radio? Attack TV? Is the talk show, the shout festivals where absolute hyperbole is the only currency? Mean-spirited hyper-partisanship and hyper-cynicism. Citizens are increasingly cynical about politics and about their government's ability to work. The damage to the state, the nation beggars Whose job is it to change course and effect the necessary repairs? I'm not sure I have the answer to that, but I propose that in a room full of policy makers and politicians, men and women who talk to the media, who work in the public arena, who hire consultants, who set agendas, maybe we have a role to play in making things better.

You know, I can say that there are some people in this room, people I consider dear friends, who understand this problem and I say, you and I both know that we disagree very fundamentally on some very big issues but the truth is that we could care less about our disagreements and are more concerned about where we can find consensus and reason to work and live together to construct a better future. I consider this kind of committees or open dialogue crucial to maintaining a sustainable society.

And indeed, isn't it about building a better future for our community, for our country, for our children? I see that even on the most intractable of issues, there is room for constructive debate, for consensus building, for the search for some common ground.

President Johnson once said to his Democratic colleagues, Governor George Wallace of Alabama, during the crisis of civil rights in the South. "If I was left behind?" You want a great, big marble monument that says, 'George Wallace: He built.' Or do you want a little piece of scrappy pine lying there that says, 'George Wallace: He hated'."

The people I know in this room are building. But we are confronting a world today where hate seems to be a predominant factor in the crisis of incivility confronting our politics.

Where are the rules that govern conduct? What happens eventually after this continuous rancor tears the fabric of our society completely asunder? Can we survive with this tension...taking no prisoners, giving no quarter?

I'm asking these questions because you folks here are blessed with skills, talent, experience, and commitment to positive public policy. You understand the importance of maintaining and protecting our commonweal where we strive to serve our clients, our community, our country, and our state. If civil discourse self-destructs, we cannot move on the issues that matter. Think of this as an environmental crisis, the environment being our civil society and our very ability to live and work and prosper together.

I do want to sound precise or preachy here, but if we are to prevail as a free, self-governing people, we must work together. We shouldn't try to destroy our opponents just in the hope that we have to govern our tongues. The Proverbs tell us, chapter 18, verse 12, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." How do we choose to use words—good or for wrong—clearly our choice. The health of our democracy depends upon a robust public discourse.

I recognize that I am not saying that conflict in our political life is to be avoided. Hardy so. It is not only proper but necessary for candidates to vigorously debate the issues of our day and examine their opponents' records. Don't let people confuse civility with goody two-shoes niceness and mere etiquette. Civility is a robust, tough, substantive civic virtue, critical to both civil society and the well-being of our republic. Civility entails speaking directly, passionately, and responsibly about who we are and what we believe. Divisions based on principles are healthy for the nation. Vigorous and passionate debate helps us to define issues and to sharpen positions.

Conflict cannot, should not be avoided in our public lives any more than we can avoid the conflict with the people we love. But just as member of a household, as a family learn ways of settling their differences without inflicting pain on each other, so, too, in our politics, must find constructive ways of resolving disputes and differences.

Our work is here. We build from the base. We will foster our example...by working together, respecting one another, and negotiating our differences in good faith and with mutual respect. Civility is neither a small nor inconsequential issue. The words come from the French civilite which is often translated as "politeness." It means much more. It suggests an approach to life...living in a way that is civilized. The words celebrated, estranged, and city share a common etymology with a root meaning "household." To be civilized is to understand that we live in a society as a household. There are certain rules that allow family members to live peacefully within a household. So, too, are there rules of how we live peacefully within a society. As we all learned in 1st grade a long time ago, we owe certain responsibilities to one another. Perhaps we spend a lifetime learning how to play well with others. So be it. It is a crucial goal for a civil society. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF J.E. "GENE" SMITH

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. J.E. "Gene" Smith, a national and community leader who is retiring from almost thirty years of service with the Florida Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Smith has been chairman of the Florida Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Board of Directors since 1981. Gene has been chairman of the Florida Electric Cooperative Association and the National Food and Energy Council Board.

Beyond his expansive career accomplishments, Gene Smith has spent a lifetime dedicated to community service. He serves on the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, the Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State College, the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council Executive Committee, and the Rotary Club. He is also a very active member of the All Sports organization which raises money for local youth-oriented non-profit organizations with an emphasis on sports. Local beneficiaries include the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Special Olympics.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Gene Smith for his service to the people of the United States. He is a dedicated community servant and national business leader. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for Gene and his family as they embark on this next endeavor in their lives.

W. HAZEN HILLYARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF
HON. ROB BISHOP
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, individual like Hazen Hillyard deserve to be remembered and honored, and that is why I'm happy to sponsor this legislation to name the Smithfield Post Office after him. His life was a hallmark of dedicated public service, at the level
closest to the people where it really matters and makes a difference.

That service included time as President of the Kiwanis Club, many years on the City Library Board, work as Chairman of the Smithfield Historical Heritage Society and multiple terms on the Smithfield City Council.

He was a charter member of the Cache Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and in 1961 received the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his long time service in the scouting program.

The Smithfield Lion’s Club honored Hazen in 1974 with its Outstanding Citizen of the Year award.

Hazen Hillyard was appointed Postmaster of Smithfield in 1934. At the time of his appointment, there was no house-to-house mail delivery in the city, so residents were required to go to the Post Office for their mail. Hazen enjoyed interacting with the people as they stopped at the general delivery window for their mail and for other mail services. He was very involved in the Utah chapter of the National Postmasters Association and was even elected President of the state chapter in 1952. He visited all of the post offices in Utah during that year of service.

As the population of Smithfield increased, Mr. Hillyard recognized the need for expanded and better postal facilities. He was successful in getting a new, larger building for the post office in 1957. In 1963 he completed arrangements for city delivery of the mail to houses in Smithfield.

A letter from the city manager of Smithfield says, “The citizens of Smithfield City have long appreciated and admired the legacy of W. Hazen Hillyard. As a city we strongly encourage and support an effort to rename the Smithfield Post Office in recognition of his lifetime of service and achievement.”

When Hazen grew older he still was very interested in the improvement and advancement of Smithfield. His life and service clearly prove that he loved the people and the community, and I’m honored to help the United States House of Representatives acknowledge and recognize that.

COMMENDING CENTURYLINK’S COMMITMENT TO LOUISIANA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER, Madam Speaker, it is with deep appreciation for this company’s many contributions to Louisiana that I rise today to commend CenturyLink.

The telecommunications provider has an impressive track record of success. In July, CenturyLink was formed through the acquisition of Embarq Corporation by CenturyTel Inc., becoming the nation’s fourth largest traditional telephone company. It is currently one of three Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Louisiana, and more importantly, it has been one of the state’s top private-sector employers for many years.

CenturyLink, which has approximately 20,000 employees in 33 states, announced yesterday it will add 350 jobs in Louisiana while maintaining its headquarters in Monroe for at least the next decade.

The recent decision by CenturyLink to stay and grow in the Monroe area is a testament to the strong and skilled workforce found in Northeast Louisiana. During this time of economic uncertainty, CenturyLink is actively working to create new jobs in our community. I am confident the remarkable progress of CenturyLink will continue to provide great opportunities for the residents of our area.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting CenturyLink and its commitment to building a stronger Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding achievement of the University of South Alabama Jaguar football team. The University of South Alabama is located in my Congressional district.

During 2009, the NCAA Division III Jaguars, under head coach Joey Jones, delivered a perfect 7–0 season. The undefeated Jaguars made history not only for their unblemished record on the gridiron but also for the fact that until this year, the Jaguars never had a football team. What’s more, they didn’t even have a marching band until this year.

The Jaguars’ 2009 inaugural season was nothing short of a Cinderella performance, capped by an impressive 35–0 final game victory over the Huntingdon College Hawks on November 12. The average inaugural season game attendance was an impressive 18,000.

Speaking at USA’s Media Day on November 16, Jaguars Head Coach Joey Jones put their victory into context: “Number one, it makes a statement that South Alabama is here to build a Division I football program.”

This summer the Jaguars took on a daunting task and they defied the odds by building on the basics and truly working together as a team. With this winning combination, they will surely succeed in reaching Division I.

I would like to congratulate the USA coaching staff and the team: Head coach Joey Jones and coaches Bill Clark, Kurt Crain, Greg Gregory, Mitch Rodrigue, John Turner, Jeff Bailey, Barrett Parker, Dameyune Craig, Chuck Dunn, Tommy Perry, Brian Turner, Duwan Walker, Brendt Bedsole, and Justin Schwind.


Much credit also goes to President Gordon Moulton and the Board of Trustees and the administration for their vision and support of the inaugural USA football program.

The Jaguars’ story is inspiring to us all, and I know that I speak for the entire community when I wish them congratulations on a job well done. Can’t wait for 2010. Go Jags!

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL. (RET.) RICHARD KLEIN DERRIDINGER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to retired LTC Richard Klein Derridinger of Tampa, Florida, who passed away on September 4, 2009 after a long illness.

Dick was a successful businessman, decorated military veteran, and devoted family man. Born on March 4, 1932, in Easton, Pennsylvania, Dick grew up in Chambersburg. He was a hardworking young man and a devoted Eagle Scout. He attended Corpus Christi School and played football at Chambersburg High School. Dick then attended Gettysburg College and joined the Air Force to fly in Vietnam.

Returning to the United States, Dick continued to serve as an instructor pilot for single engine fighters and became Captain of an air refueling tanker for 6 years. His last assignment was Chief of Flight Tests at Rome Air Development Center where he earned the Flying Safety Award for saving the crew, passengers, cargo, and the aircraft after the KC–135 he was piloting experienced multiple mechanical failures. In addition to earning other decorations, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star for Valor.

Dick earned his masters degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern
California, and after retiring from the Air Force, he became President of Air North in Vermont, and then president of Dolphin Airways in Tampa, Florida. Dick was an avid entrepreneur and started several additional businesses in Florida including a gift shop, a sheet metal business, and an interior landscaping company.

Our hearts are with Dick’s wife, Dawn, and his children and grandchildren in this time of sorrow. I hope my colleagues will join me honoring this remarkable man who was a lifelong patriot dedicated to his country and his family. His humility, kindness, and compassion continue to inspire those who knew him and he will be greatly missed in our community.

IN SUPPORT OF U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND’S EFFORTS IN EL SALVADOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the humanitarian assistance efforts of the U.S. Southern Command, whose headquarters is in south Florida.

Last week, El Salvador was hit with torrential rain storms, causing massive flooding and mudslides that devastated parts of that country. Nearly 200 people were killed. Many thousands more were left stranded and in immediate need of assistance.

The very next day—the same day our Nation paused to celebrate Veterans Day—U.S. troops deployed nearby in Honduras boarded helicopters bound for the affected areas. These troops spent their Veterans’ Day partnering with their counterparts in El Salvador, supporting them in saving lives and fulfilling a mission of cooperation that continues to serve our Nation well.

In just four days our troops distributed more than 217,000-pounds of aid to villages completely isolated due to damaged roads and bridges. They brought food, water, milk, clothing and other emergency necessities.

I understand that these airlifts were the only way to help villagers in this moment of need.

A native San Antonian, Judge Casseb graduated from Central Catholic High School and St. Mary’s University before earning his law degree at the University of Texas Law School in 1938. After several years in private practice, he enlisted as a private in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, and was honorably discharged as a Major by the time he returned from overseas. He then practiced law until his appointment and two subsequent elections to serve as a Judge of the 57th District Court in Bexar County. He presided over many important cases during his career, though none may be more famous than 1984’s Texaco case, which resulted in what was the largest award of damages in history.

During his time on the bench, Judge Casseb was repeatedly honored by his colleagues in the legal community and again as an outstanding jurist, and the endowed Judge Solomon Casseb Jr. Research Professorship in Law at the University of Texas Law School stands as a tribute to the esteem in which he was held.

Before and after he obtained senior status in 1985, Judge Casseb worked to improve the lives of the people of South Texas outside of his official duties as well. He was a co-trustee of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust and was a bold and diligent advocate for the poorest citizens of his community.

Solomon Casseb Jr. was a great judge, a great friend, and a great man. His family, friends, and all those who had the privilege to know him will miss him deeply.

This Thanksgiving in honor of All the Armed Forces and Their Families

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit a heartfelt poem penned by Capitol Guide Albert Caswell, entitled “This Thanksgiving” in honor of all the members of the Armed Forces and their families who are separated by war and death this Thanksgiving. Our thoughts go out to all of them this Thanksgiving. Bless them all.

This is a special Thanksgiving as we recognize the success of Cold War veterans from Korea to Vietnam and across the world who achieved victory on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall inspired by Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II working with Lech Walesa of Poland and Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

The spirit of Ronald Reagan is kept alive by Young America’s Foundation and Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia. Paul II working with Lech Walesa of Poland.

Many important cases during his career, though none may be more famous than 1984’s Texaco case, which resulted in what was the largest award of damages in history.

Near and far, who sit, with one less spot at the Thanksgiving giving table set . . . and have to yet . . .

On this day of days . . . Give Thanks, Be Thankful for all of those who gave!

This Thanksgiving . . .

PRAISING NEBRASKA’S HONOR FLIGHTS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, a week ago, our Nation celebrated Veterans Day. I rise today to honor a couple who have done a great service for Nebraska’s Veterans.

Bill and Evonne Williams have organized seven Heartland Honor Flights which made it possible for 1,454 World War II veterans to receive the recognition they deserve. Veterans participating were able to visit the World War II memorial, as well as other points of interest here in the Nation’s capital.

I know their visit to Washington was a trip of a lifetime for each and every one of them, and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their service to our country. Bill and Evonne also deserve our thanks for making these moments possible. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not have been able to honor these men and women who have helped make our Nation great.

The ones who so live without the ones, they so can not live without. . . who now so cry . . .

And all of those children, whose daddies and mommies, can’t wipe those tears from their eyes . . .

And not watch their children grow and smell that pumpkin pie . . .

The ones who but gave, That Last Full Measure!

One’s Life, The Greatest of All Treasures.

The ones without arms and legs . . .

As their fine eyes they gave . . .

Showing us all, of what a hero is made!

So Few, but for so many . . .

Have carried that load . . .

Have bore all of the heartache so . . .

And when you watch that touchdown run . . .

While, holding your loved ones . . . having all that fun . . .

But, let your thoughts to them so run . . .

The ones who died, for what is true . . .

And all of those out on the front, the face of death must so view . . .

And the loved ones at home, each day who wait by the door . . . the phone . . .

Bow down now upon your knees . . .

And ask our Lord God, so please . . . to bless all of these . . . The Families . . .

Who with such heartache, and will never see another day of peace . . .

And as you say grace . . .

Say a prayer for all of those Heroes of such splendid grace . . .

Who did not so hesitate . . .

And all of those families, whose loved ones for them now so wait . . .

Who sit, with one less spot at the Thanksgiving table set . . .

Be ever thankful, for what they gave . . .

And have to yet . . .

On this day of days . . .

Give Thanks, Be Thankful for all of those who gave!

This Thanksgiving . . .
HONORING THE 102ND INFANTRY AND THE 250TH ENGINEER COMPANY OF THE CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the deployment of 102nd Infantry Battalion and the 250th Engineer Company. On November 15, 2009, Connecticut sent off 700 soldiers from the two Connecticut National Guard units to be deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The logistical and tactical work that the Connecticut soldiers will do in Iraq and Afghanistan is critical to the Nation's success in the two conflicts. The 102nd Infantry will deploy to Afghanistan to partner with the Afghan security forces to assist, train and mentor the Afghan army, police and border police forces in order to strengthen, stabilize and legitimize the Government of Afghanistan. The 250th Engineer Company will work in Iraq to provide bridging support for theater mobility, and to ensure rapid emplacement of bridging assets in the event that routes in their area of operations should become impassable.

The Connecticut National Guard currently has nearly 500 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan in support of counterterrorism missions. This is the largest single deployment of Connecticut Army National Guard soldiers and airmen since the Korean War and will bring our total number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen to 1,200.

The 250th Engineer Company, commanded by Captain Charles Taylor of Hamden is being deployed to Iraq to provide bridging support for theater mobility, and to ensure rapid emplacement of bridging assets in the event that routes in their area of operations should become impassable.

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HONORING REVEREND E. THURMAN WALKER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALES
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALES. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, to report the passing of the Reverend E. Thurman Walker after a long illness. For more than 22 years, Reverend Walker was a leader in the city of San Antonio, first as assistant pastor and for the past 16 years as the senior pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

Under Reverend Walker’s leadership, Antioch grew to three thousand members and opened the Christian Academy, a private school at the Church, in 1995, and the Antioch Community Transformation Network, an organization dedicated to community service, in 2000. Reverend Walker was the spiritual leader of his congregation, but he insisted that the church play a role in the whole community and in the daily lives of all San Antonians. The church has been a pillar in the San Antonio community for a long time, but its role and reach increased under Reverend Walker as well. He forged alliances with other churches, particularly through the Community Churches for Social Action, and with other religious and social service organizations and with the city’s political and business leaders. As his wife, Jo Angelia Walker, recalled his words, “If the church is doing nothing to serve and minister to the community then we might as well lock up the doors, close down and go home!”

Reverend Walker gave a voice to so many different groups of people in San Antonio’s community, uniting people around their shared ideals and helping them to productive discussions even when their views diverged, always seeking out the best path for every one. He touched the lives of so many men, women, and children during his too short life. Though he may be gone, that legacy will live on forever.

HONORING ANNE BURKHOLDER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH
OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anne Burkholder, the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s Beef Quality Assurance Program Producer of the Year, for her dedication to ensuring Nebraska beef producers, practices ensure safe, wholesome, and quality beef and beef products.

Anne is a wife, mother of three young children, and a cattle feedyard owner and operator with 3,000 head of cattle. Anne grew up on a farm in the Nebraska panhandle and went to Cozad, Nebraska where she became a key producer in Nebraska’s cattle industry.

After she married her husband, Anne went from a neophyte ranch hand to becoming part owner and manager of one of the most progressive cattle feeding operations in Nebraska.

In her work, she has experienced every aspect of the feedyard business—from operating the feed truck, scooping bunks, cattle nutrition, vaccinations, to name it. Her determination and dedication to her family, community, and industry are nothing short of impressive.

HONORING REV. JESSE JACKSON, SR.

HON. MELVIN L. WATT
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Twenty-five years ago, Reverend Jackson took an historic step when he ran for President of the United States, becoming the second African-American to run for that office. He received over eighteen percent of the total Democratic primary vote and won five primaries and caucuses.

The numbers, while impressive, don’t begin to convey the broad impact of his candidacy. Reverend Jackson motivated millions of new voters to register to vote and become engaged in the electoral process. His example of how to achieve the self-worth of an entire generation of young African-American men and women. His candidacy was not a compromised, watered-down one. It demanded publicly that the national political agenda include the issues affecting a “Rainbow Coalition” of individuals, including African-Americans, Hispanics, Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, gays, lesbians, farmers, the poor and the working class, and it started a whole new public dialogue.

Reverend Jackson challenged us to think bigger and inspired many to pursue careers in public service. He paved the way for many of us in this body to run for political office and laid the foundation for the candidacy, nomination and election of President Barack Obama, our most recent historic candidacy and election.

Rev. Jackson’s place in American history was legend long before his presidential candidacy—through his activism at North Carolina A & T University and leadership of civil rights demonstrations in Greensboro, North Carolina, his work with Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the S.C.L.C. and the formation of Operation PUSH and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. But his presidential run twenty-five years ago solidified his place in history and continues to be an inspiration for all Americans today.

Rev. Jackson, thank you for all that you have done.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS ON THE GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM OF PEACEFUL NATIONS

HON. JOHN LEWIS
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Global Symposium of Peaceful Nations and the countries awarded for being the most peaceful in the world. Let me begin by congratulating those Nations that were selected to participate in the Symposium—Australia, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

Earlier this year, I led a congressional delegation to India to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King’s visit to follow in the footsteps of Gandhi and other assassinated, my good friend Mrs. Harriet Tubman, widow of the late, great Senator J. William Fulbright, and her staff introduced me to the Global Peace Index and the Symposium.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds.” As Mrs. Fulbright explained the symposium and the GPI, I was impressed by the methodology of the research, the focus on peace, and the true commitment to improving the global community.

Every year Vision of Humanity researchers develop the Global Peace Index, GPI, based on a variety of economic and analytical factors. The results are based on a variety of economic and social indicators that rank over 140 counties on their peacefulness and evaluate the economic benefit of peace. The Global Symposium of Peaceful Nations then brings together representatives from the two most peaceful countries in each of the nine global regions on the GPI.

While here, the delegates engage in comprehensive dialogue about how to build and maintain peace. The countries that participate in the forum have unique histories, perspectives, and domestic and regional realities, but they must be commended in their significant progress in combating domestic poverty and making strides towards creating more peaceful communities. Together, we have a collective responsibility to combat poverty and violence and promote peace, diplomacy, and stability.

I hope that all my colleagues will find time to review the report and the Symposium summary. Again, let me commend the Global Symposium for this international forum highlighting the strategies and benefits of global peace.

HONORING REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, SR.

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Anne is a wife, mother of three young children, and a cattle feedyard owner and operator with 3,000 head of cattle. Anne grew up in urban West Palm Beach, Florida, before moving to Cozad, Nebraska where she became a key producer in Nebraska’s cattle industry.

After she married her husband, Anne went from a neophyte ranch hand to becoming part owner and manager of one of the most progressive cattle feeding operations in Nebraska.

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I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.

RECOGNITION OF STEVE BAERTSCHE BEING INDUCTED INTO THE FARM SCIENCE REVIEW HALL OF FAME

HON. MARY JO. KILROY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Steve Baertsche on his induction into the Farm Science Review Hall of Fame on September 22, 2009. Mr. Baertsche was inducted as one of five members of the 20th Hall of Fame Class.

Mr. Baertsche recently retired as the Assistant Director for Ohio State University Extension. OSU Extension seeks to bring the knowledge of the university to those Ohioans who do not have regular access to campuses around the state. Extension fulfills the land-grant mission of the Ohio State University by interpreting research developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State, and other land-grant universities, so that Ohioans can use scientifically-based information to improve their lives. OSU Extension serves a vital role by strengthening communities through research-based educational programming.

Mr. Baertsche led OSU Extension’s leadership effort for more than 15 years and helped enhance the program’s presence at the Farm Science Review. FSR. FSR manager Chuck Gamble stated that, “Steve Baertsche’s leadership was much appreciated. His understanding of Extension and its mission definitely led to the success of Ohio State University research and educational efforts at Farm Science Review. He took Extension to a higher level.”

I am privileged to say that Steve Baertsche is one of my constituents. I would like to congratulate Mr. Baertsche again, and I thank him for his service and his work to instruct Ohioans how to better their lives through education.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN O’QUINN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredibly gifted personal injury lawyer and dedicated philanthropist, Mr. John O’Quinn.

Mr. O’Quinn spent his career serving others by fighting to make sure the most vulnerable members of our society received justice. As a lawyer, his unwavering commitment to his clients was legendary, and throughout his legal career, he used his unique personality and staggering intellect as an advocate for the powerless. In his life, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal, 100 Legal Legends of Texas by Texas Lawyer magazine, Five Best Texas Trial Lawyers of the Past Century by the Houston Chronicle, and was recognized in Harvard Law’s “Best Lawyers in America.”

It is important to note, however, that Mr. O’Quinn’s remarkable capacity in the courtroom was only one part of his dynamic personality. As a notable philanthropist, he handsomely endowed his alma mater, the University of Houston, by helping to fund the John O’Quinn Law Library and the John O’Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium. He served as a Regent for the university as well as a Trustee for the law school. Additionally, he assisted numerous other charitable organizations including the Children’s Assessment Center, the Women’s Center, Baylor College of Medicine, the End Hunger Network, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, and the South Texas College of Law Advocacy Center.

Madam Speaker, the world truly lost a gracious soul with the untimely death of John O’Quinn. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in both honoring this brilliant attorney and celebrating his life and countless accomplishments. He will be truly missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN DANIEL C. RHODES ON BEING NAMED “MARINE OF THE YEAR”

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Daniel Rhodes of La Grange, Illinois on being named the 2009 Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year. All our service men and women make extraordinary sacrifices and are worthy of acclaim. But the Marine Corps Times has chosen a truly exemplary member of our Armed Forces for this incommencred honor.

Growing up in La Grange and attending Lyons Township High School, Daniel Rhodes always knew he would be a Marine. His strong faith and passion for community service are a tribute to his parents, who have spent the last 10 years in Lima, Peru running an orphanage. With their selflessness as his guide, Daniel enlisted in the Marines in May 2001 with an uncommon drive and certainty of purpose.

Then First Lieutenant Rhodes served as the commander of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines in Karmah, Iraq starting in August 2008. With just two years of experience as an officer, he commanded 200 Marines and more than 500 Iraqi military members, functioning as both a warrior and a mentor. Daniel Rhodes and his men used emergency relief funds to commence more than 30 service projects in the area in and around Karmah. The results included the refurbishment of 21 schools, four bridges, two waste treatment plants, two roads, a community center, and two factories, as well as the development of an adult literacy program. These projects helped thousands of Iraqis and are examples of the kinds of critical but often unseen efforts that lie at the heart of our military’s work in Iraq.

During his personal time while deployed, Daniel Rhodes authored a book on military ethics that is now used throughout his battalion. He also incorporated discussion of ethics and leadership into his company’s weekly routine. Truly, Daniel Rhodes is a man of uncommon ability and unimpeachable character.

Upon his return to Hawaii, Daniel Rhodes was promoted to Captain and named commander of Charlie Company, 1/3. There he developed a relationship with Aloha United Way, and continued to be involved in community service projects, helping to refurbish vacant public housing units and assisting with food drives along with his men.

After eight years, Captain Daniel Rhodes left the service this past July to continue his education and to spend more time with his wife, Marine Captain Elizabeth Jackson. I have no doubt that he will accomplish more great things in life. I ask you to join me in honoring Captain Daniel Rhodes for his outstanding service and recognition as the 2009 Marine of the Year.

FOREIGN STUDENTS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. SAM JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Foreign Students Social Security Numbers Reform Act. Simply put, this bill would prohibit foreign students from receiving Social Security numbers. In no way however would this bill prohibit foreign students from getting jobs as they can do so now. As is currently the case, foreign students may receive Social Security numbers for work purposes even though they do not need to pay Social Security taxes on any of their earnings.

Given that the real purpose of a Social Security number is to track workers’ earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes, it makes no sense that we are giving out numbers to those who are here temporarily and do not pay Social Security taxes. Moreover, a 2007 Inspector General report found that some foreign students “may have obtained Social Security numbers for purposes other than on-campus employment or other authorized work.” After all, these are highly prized numbers.

So rather than giving out numbers to those who don’t really need them, we should instead work to better safeguard numbers to those who should have the numbers in the first place. Also this likely will prevent foreign students from overstaying their welcome.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MAJ. L. EDUARDO CARAVEO OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Maj. L. Eduardo Caraveo, who was among the 13
killed in the tragic shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, earlier this month.

Maj. Caraveo, a resident of Woodbridge, Va., was a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves who had arrived at Fort Hood just one day prior to the shootings. He was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, where he planned to provide stress counseling to deployed service members.

He was active in his adopted home of Prince William County, where he spent time counseling prison inmates. He also offered his services for anger management training and couples therapy.

A native of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Maj. Caraveo came to the United States as a teenager and became the first in his family to graduate from college. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at El Paso and earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Arizona.

According to local news accounts, he was a generous, giving friend and father who enjoyed spending time playing in the yard with his children.

Maj. Caraveo is survived by his wife, Angela Rivera; their son and her two daughters; three children from a previous marriage and six siblings.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life and service of Maj. Caraveo and the lives of the twelve others killed on that tragic day at Fort Hood. Their brave service, and that of their families, will never be forgotten and we extend our sympathies to them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

HON. MIKE ROGERS OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day for the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, Alabama.

This important Veterans facility opened November 30, 1989, and was named after William "Bill" Nichols, who was instrumental in making Alabama's first state veterans home a reality. Congressman Nichols, a World War II veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 and served until his passing in December of 1988.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home is a 150-bed skilled nursing home for our Veterans, and because of its excellent quality of care, has well over 100 Veterans awaiting admission. To date, over 1,500 of our heroes have resided there.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home was awarded the 2009 Quality Award from the American Health Care Association for its commitment to continuous quality improvement in long-term care. On November 30, 2009, the facility and its proud employees will host a 20th Anniversary Celebration program followed by a luncheon and open house.

I would like to congratulate this facility, its proud employees and the community for reaching this important milestone. These Alabamians are shining examples of dedication for the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform and I wish them all the best at this important occasion.

THE TAXPAYER INVESTMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, with little more than the blink of an eye, the American taxpayers have lost $25 billion—with no transparency, accountability or justification.

In December 2008, the Treasury Department loaned General Motors $13 billion. In the spring, Treasury loaned GM another $6 billion. Days before GM declared bankruptcy, the Obama administration poured in another $30 billion—just in time to convert taxpayer loans to equity and take ownership of this American giant. All of these funds came from the Troubled Asset Relief Program—a bailout never intended for such purposes. As the Congressional Oversight Panel wrote last month, "the use of TARP funds for the automotive industry raises questions regarding both presidents' authority to use these funds under EESA legislation and, more broadly, under the U.S. Constitution."

Last month, the ex-"Car Czar" Steve Rattner, the Government Accountability Office and the TARP Congressional Oversight Panel independently estimated the taxpayers’ $49 billion investment in GM to be worth about $25 billion. The government’s “Bridge Loan to Nowhere” lost half of the taxpayers’ money. This is only one company. The U.S. taxpayer owns debt and equity securities in other private corporations, including Chrysler ($12.5 billion), Citigroup ($45 billion) and AIG ($41 billion).

How much are taxpayers losing on nearly $100 billion invested in these struggling firms? Today, I introduce the “Taxpayer Investment Protection Act,” which sets a December 2010 deadline for the Treasury Secretary to divest the federal government’s ownership of private firms. These TARP-funded government investments add to the Treasury’s $12 trillion debt burden and put taxpayer funds at risk for greater loss. The time has come to protect the taxpayer from any more losses and set a timetable for withdrawal to get the government out of private business.

HONORING THE PANTRY OF BROWARD, INC.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has helped countless individuals in my community. The Pantry of Broward, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that provides food and support services to low-income seniors and to grandparents raising grandchildren.

In Florida alone, there are 147,893 grandparents raising grandchildren, yet 8 percent of grandparent caregivers live in poverty, as do nearly 10 percent of all seniors. For those who live in Broward County, and the children who rely on them, the Pantry of Broward is an indispensable resource.

Each month, the Pantry of Broward delivers a 60 pound box of food items to hundreds of
seniors. However, the Pantry of Broward is much more than a food bank. They also provide seniors with transportation services, legal assistance, access to affordable medical care, and a slew of other resources that make life just a bit easier for Broward’s struggling seniors.

Whether an individual needs help finding affordable housing, has trouble understanding complicated medical or insurance forms, or simply needs a pair of eyeglasses fixed, the Pantry of Broward is there to help.

Seniors in South Florida, like those around the Nation, have worked hard and provided for themselves and others their entire lives, yet often, despite incredible need, they are too proud to ask for a helping hand. For this reason, the Pantry of Broward provides assistance in a caring, dignified manner, mindful of their clients’ privacy and self-esteem.

Madam Speaker, while we in Congress work to revive our Nation’s economy, it is organizations like the Pantry of Broward that serve as a lifeline to the seniors and families in our districts struggling to make it from one day to the next. New York has many programs that provide services to their clients’ privacy and self-esteem.

In addition, DESC began developing permanent supportive housing for homeless adults affected by HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or addiction, implementing a “Harm Reduction” model. That same year, it also introduced the “Housing First” model to Seattle with the opening of the Kerner Scott House: 40 apartments for formerly homeless, mentally ill, addiction-challenged adults. In 2005, DESC expanded its “Housing First” model with the opening of the 1811 Eastlake, a 75-unit building for late-stage chronic inebriates, typically high users of public services.

Over the years, DESC has received dozens of awards and widespread recognition for its innovative approach and effective services. In 2004 and in 2005, it received the Metlife Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing, making it the only organization to win the award in two successive years. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded its “Best Practice Award” to DESC for innovation in developing services that later became industry standards. Most recently, DESC won the 2007 Maxwell Award of Excellence for its 1811 Eastlake project. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2009 revealed that the 1811 Eastlake program has saved taxpayers $4 million dollars annually.

Madam Speaker, for more than thirty years, DESC has served disabled and vulnerable homeless adults through a continuum of care model that not only helps people survive but breaks the vicious cycle of homelessness. Today, it has become one of the largest multi-service centers for homeless adults in the Pacific Northwest, employing more than 300 employees who provide permanent supportive housing, clinical and emergency services, and overnight shelter. DESC is an invaluable asset to our community, the Seattle-King County Coalition to End Homelessness, and to our nationwide efforts to address homelessness. I extend my best wishes and commend DESC’s Executive Director Bill Hobson, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its clients on “30 years of opening doors to end homelessness.” I know DESC will continue to lead the way with thoughtful, innovative answers to our most challenging social issues.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DEA SPECIAL AGENT FORREST LEAMON OF DALLAS, TX

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American president, Zachary Taylor. Zachary Taylor was born on a farm in Barboursville, Virginia, on November 24, 1814. His father had served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and his family members were prominent planters. Zachary Taylor had a 40-year military career in the U.S. Army, serving in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Second Seminole War, and the Mexican-American War, where he earned the nickname “Old Rough and Ready,” because of his willingness to share his troops’ hardships. He faced overwhelming odds to triumph in a battle against the Mexican General Santa Anna at Buena Vista.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American, Zachary Taylor.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American, Zachary Taylor.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American, Zachary Taylor.
Ms. CAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Stupak-Ellsworth-Pitts-Smith-Kaptur-Dahleker Amendment that maintains existing Federal law on the compelling issue of abortion. For 34 years, citizens of conscience on all sides have weighed in on this important moral and legal question. Lawmakers have attempted to accommodate very divergent views, even on the meaning of life itself. Many lives must be considered—the life of the mother, the life of the child, including the unborn but conceived, and in my opinion the rarely mentioned responsibilities of the father as well.

Our legislative struggle to do what is proper is rooted in interrelated moral, scientific, legal, and yes, theological dispositions. What is right? What should be legal? And what will lead to a just and responsible society for all?

I continue to approach this deeply moving issue as a representative from a widely diverse Congressional district in northwestern Ohio, an area of our Nation comprised of people from many different ethnicities, races, faiths, denominations and belief systems. My representation of these varying views embodies the deepest respect for all our people, and for all the integrals with which they have arrived at their values.

This amendment reaffirms longstanding, existing law, and nothing more. It represents the broad consensus of the American people after decades of consideration on the issue. Recent Gallup polls show that 51 percent of Americans consider themselves "pro-life" on the issue of abortion. But, this amendment does not resolve all moral questions that face pro-choice, pro-life and non-aligned Americans on this issue. All do not restil existing law.

It states that no Federal funds "authorized under this Act may be used to pay for any abortion, or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion," except in the cases of the life of the mother, rape or incest.

Effectively, the precedent setting Hyde amendment—which has been in effect for 34 years in our Nation—will apply to the public option, and to any Federal plans which include elective abortion. The amendment does no more, and no less. Further, with the added coverage for all Americans that this bill provides, perhaps the abortion choice will become less attractive for those faced with such a life wrenching choice.

This amendment will not bar any one from purchasing their own private supplemental rider. Our language is the same that applies in current law on Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Plan, and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, FEHBP, itself which offers many private insurance plans. The FEHBP is a model for how this language will be applied. It has been tried, tested, and proven.

The inclusion of this amendment clarifies the bill’s language on the potential fungibility of premium dollars deposited in Federal accounts that costily sanctioned insurance paid for by taxes, premiums, or Federal subsidies diverted to pay for abortions by those who do not agree with the procedure.

Importantly, for the first time, the base measure itself will help vast scores of women to obtain health coverage and, by so doing limit abortion by enhancing broad coverage options for women’s and children’s health. The rate of infant mortality, which is fueled by shamefully high rates of premature birth in the United States, shows us that we are not addressing adequately their babies. Providing the necessary support for women is the answer. This bill will vastly improve preventive care, double funds available to community health centers including obstetric and gynecological care, and move America fully into this 21st century. No woman, no matter if she is pregnant, unmarried women, unemployed women, working women, single women, and nursing women—will be left out of health insurance coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce this important bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representatives HELLER, NADLER, KENNEDY, CAPP, WAXMAN, SPEIER, McGovern, ISRAEL, GRIJALVA, RICHARDSON, PERRELLIO, ENGL, DELAHUNT, COSTA, WATERSON, HALL (NY), STARK, CHU, NORTON, MOORE (KS), and HOLT. The companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senators FRANKEN, GRASSLEY, HATCH, and FEINSTEIN.

I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith.

It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored "The Debbie Smith Act" to provide Federal funding to process the unconscious backlog of DNA evidence. This legislation passed as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, authorizing the necessary funding to start processing the backlog through the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Despite the availability of funding and some progress made, the national backlog continues to persist. Recent media reports have documented that across the country, backlogs continue to rise and sexual assaults occur that might otherwise have been prevented were the kits processed in a timely manner. This bill addresses the continuing and several other problems that work to deny justice to victims of sexual assault—including the denial of free rape kits to survivors of sexual assault, and the shortage of trained health professionals capable of administering rape kits.

By creating incentives for jurisdictions to eliminate their rape kit backlogs, process their incoming rape kits in a timely manner, and publicly report their backlog numbers, this legislation would go a long way to ensuring that the purpose and intent of the Debbie Smith Act be fully realized.

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted somewhere in the United States. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated by the victim’s fear, their evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK YANKEES OWNER GEORGE STEINBRENNER III

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner III. I recently sponsored a resolution congratulating the Yankees on their 27th World Series win. Since the World Series victory was dedicated to Mr. Steinbrenner, I wanted to honor his dedication to the city of New York and the Yankees. He has owned the franchise for 36 years, the longest serving owner in Yankee history.

Mr. Steinbrenner always has had a long-standing interest in coaching and sports management. He began as an athletic director and baseball/football coach at an Ohio high school. In 1955, he became an assistant football coach for Northwestern University. The following year in 1956, he was an assistant coach for the Purdue University football team.

By 1961, he led a team of investors in the purchase of the Cleveland Pipers of the National Industrial Basketball League, which soon joined the American Basketball League, ABL. In May of 1962, Steinbrenner got the coveted young rookie, Jerry Lucas, to play for the Pipers. That same year the Pipers won the ABL Championship. Under his ownership, Steinbrenner made history by having the first African-American coach in professional basketball, John McClendon.

It was not until 1973 that Mr. Steinbrenner became part of a now historic deal when he bought the Yankees for $10 million from Columbia Broadcasting Company, CBS. When Mr. Steinbrenner took ownership of the Yankees, they were a team in decline. After the 1962 season, the glory days were winding down for the Yankees. In 1966, they finished last in the American League, which had not
INTRODUCING THE INCREASING ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY SCREENING FOR HIV/AIDS AND STIs ACT OF 2009
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Act of 2009, a bill that will reduce the spread and morbidities associated with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Fifty percent of sexually active Americans will contract an STI at some point in their lives, and 15 million STIs are reported each year in the United States. Many of these infections are asymptomatic for an extended amount of time and often remain undiagnosed, or diagnosed at later stages resulting in increased rates of mortality, morbidity, disability, and transmission.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend that voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs be integrated into routine clinical care. However, stigma, culture, language, lack of education, cost, limited resources, and inaccurate perceptions of risk contribute to insufficient screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. And, these same factors have exacerbated the instances of transmission and late detection of HIV/AIDS and STIs over the past decade.

The Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 takes an aggressive and multifaceted approach to combating HIV/AIDS and STIs by increasing access to voluntary screening and other preventative methods while preserving patient rights and confidentiality.

Among other things, my bill includes 83 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, FMAP, rate for the screening of HIV/AIDS and other STIs and requires all private health insurance plans to cover screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. My bill provides grants to Federally Qualified Health Centers to serve individuals who cannot access screening because they lack insurance coverage or sufficient income. And, my bill urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a prototype approach to covering screening for HIV/AIDS, and encourages CMS to take steps to reimburse screening for other STIs.

Additionally, the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 supports access to early medical and mental treatment. It includes language from the Early Treatment for HIV/AIDS Act, ETIA, and requires testing facilities to link patients to appropriate medical and mental health services.

Lastly, the bill will make screening and other preventative services more accessible to groups that have been historically underrepresented in public health interventions for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. It requires the Director of the CDC to work with appropriate entities to track screening trends for HIV/AIDS and STIs among people with disabilities, and ensure that comprehensive sex education materials are accessible to these individuals. The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take the appropriate steps to ensure that all women have equal access to screening for cervical cancer regardless of sexual behavior or sexual orientation. And, this bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve research efforts concerning the prevention, spread and transmission of HIV/AIDS and STIs in the transgender community.

Madam Speaker, voluntary and routine screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs is an effective and low-cost approach to decreasing the life-threatening and life-altering effects of these infections. My colleagues and I support this important bill that includes a comprehensive and evidence based strategy to improve the overall health of our nation.
I rise before you today in support of H.R. 1225, the "Expanding Entrepreneurship Act of 2009." I would like to thank my colleague, Representative LUETKEMEYER, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the cosponsors.

When people think of the American Dream, there are few things they are more likely to think of than opening a small business. Our President called them the dreamers who built this country. In his words, "They're the workers who took a chance on their desire to be their own boss, the part-time inventors who became the full-time entrepreneurs, the men and women who have helped build the American middle class, keeping alive that most American of ideals." My home city is very much a part of this dream—according to Fortune Small Business magazine, Houston, Texas, is one of the five best cities in which to start a small business.

That is what makes the Expanding Entrepreneurship Act such an important bill. It would make several changes to the Small Business Administration's, SBA, entrepreneurial development programs including establishment of planning standards, greater coordination of SBA programs, maintenance of an entrepreneurial development database, creation of an entrepreneurial development portal, and the introduction of community specialists to the program.

Under this legislation, the Administrator of the SBA would be required to develop a job creation strategy for 2009-2010. This plan would include the agency's intent for using existing programs, including Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, Women's Business Centers, WBCs, Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE, Veterans' Business Outreach Centers, Native American Outreach, and other appropriate initiatives, to create and retain jobs throughout the United States. The SBA Administrator would establish performance measures and criteria including job creation, job retention and job retaining goals, to evaluate the agency's progress in this effort.

Also, under this act the Administrator would be required to oversee the coordination of SBA's Entrepreneur Development Programs with other Federal agencies when it's appropriate. The Administrator would be required to report to Congress annually on opportunities to foster coordination, limit duplication, and improve Federal entrepreneurial development programs, without regard to the agency that houses an entrepreneurial outreach effort.

To ensure easy access for entrepreneurs, a portal will be designed on the SBA website with links to all of the SBA's entrepreneurial development programs. This portal will also have links to relevant web content organized by industry type, stage of business, and level of need. A separate database of providers of entrepreneurial development services will also be established on the SBA's website.

A community specialist would also be recruited to serve in every SBA District Office. Their sole purpose would be working with
local entrepreneurial development service providers to improve coordination with Federal resources. This will make the bill especially helpful for minority owned businesses.

This legislation is particularly efficient because it develops a cost effective way to reach a larger number of entrepreneurs in need and streamlines all entrepreneurial development programs eliminating duplication and government waste.

That is why I am supporting this legislation—because of what it will do to help women, minorities, and veterans who gave the ultimate service to the great country to be a part of its great dream.

CHARLES GOLDEN

HON. MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Golden as he celebrates his 90th birthday this month. Mr. Golden is the grandfather of my constituent Stacie Lacey-Pendleton, and I honor him for being a great community role model.

Throughout his life, Mr. Golden overcame many adversities. As the only son born into a family of young women, much was expected of him after his father's death. Still only a child when his father died, he took a job in the coalmines of Virginia to help support his family through the Great Depression. It was a different time in America. There were few jobs available especially for African-Americans, so Mr. Golden considered himself lucky, even blessed to have a job, no matter how difficult it was on a day to day basis.

An early work accident left him unable to join the military, but it opened a door to higher education. He applied and was accepted to Central State, which later became Central State University. Throughout his college years, he continued to work and send money home, at times holding more than one job.

Upon graduation, he became one of the few African-American engineers in America. He was hired by a federal defense contractor in Dayton, Ohio spending his entire career with them and retiring after over 40 years of service in 1989. During his 40 plus years as an engineer, he mentored countless young people as they began their engineering careers.

He has always been a great community leader. He became an active member of the Middle Run Baptist Church which was founded by freed slaves and is one of the oldest such institutions in the country. As a member of the Middle Run Baptist Church for over 50 years, he serves as a senior deacon, assistant treasurer and a member of the men’s choir. He supervises church maintenance and repairs, and cooks for the weekly breakfast program that is open to church members and non members alike. He also fills in as the driver of the church bus which helps transport seniors and people with disabilities.

He was married to his devoted wife Frances for more than 50 years before her passing a number of years ago. Mr. Golden puts his religious beliefs into everyday action. He is a role model for young and old.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Charles Golden as we join with the members of his church who honored him on November 13, 2009, as a man who overcame insurmountable obstacles, and as the quiet man who has touched and made a difference in so many lives.

THE DIABETES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a serious and expanding health problem. Rates of type 2 diabetes continue to rise—despite our knowledge of how to prevent it—and it is time we took action to reverse the disturbing trend.

Thirty years ago, there was no known or proven strategy to fight the onset of type 2 diabetes. Now, we know how to delay onset of this disease or prevent it completely, according to the National Institutes of Health, NIH. And yet, we are not using this potentially lifesaving knowledge to our greatest benefit.

Meanwhile, those who develop the illness still suffer from and can’t always properly recognize its symptoms, including fatigue and vision problems. When type 2 diabetes causes those symptoms to progress, it can lead to detrimental and heartbreaking results.

Furthermore, the cost to care for diabetes patients reached $174 billion in 2007, and that number is only expected to get larger. The illness is growing in the population as a whole, and appears to be increasing among children and adolescents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. It makes sense to work to prevent onset of type 2 diabetes. This will both ensure quality of life for patients and reduce overall health spending—especially when the number of Americans at risk is predicted to grow.

I am introducing the Diabetes Prevention Act of 2009 to put our medical knowledge to use to reduce and delay instances of type 2 diabetes. Through the CDC, communities will be able to apply for grants to establish prevention programs designed to assist those diagnosed with pre-diabetes. Working with local medical officials, the programs will help patients with good diet, exercise plans, and other lifestyle changes needed to prevent or delay onset of the illness.

The Diabetes Prevention Act of 2009 builds on the success community organizations have had with similar programs in preventing illness. It is crucial that we address this serious problem and act now to stem the number of cases of type 2 diabetes developing in our country.

In my consideration of the legislation.

RECOGNITION OF SPRINGFIELD NARFE CHAPTER 893

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Springfield Chapter 893 and applaud its dedication and service to the local community. This chapter of NARFE enjoys the second largest membership in the country, and continues to carry out NARFE’s mission of safeguarding and enhancing the benefits of America’s active and retired federal employees, and their survivors.

In memory of the veterans, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chaplain Margaret Yowell entitled “What Is a Veteran?”

“WHAT IS A VETERAN?”

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day and making sure the armored personnel carriers didn’t run out of fuel. He is the barroom loudmouth whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who went away one person and came back another—or didn’t come back at all. He is the Quantico drill instructor that has never seen combat—but has saved countless lives by turning young men into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other’s backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quarterback who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean’s sunless depths. He is the man who overcame two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who fought and suffered while liberating a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being—a person who offered some of his life’s most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just loan over and say Thank You. That’s all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chaplain Margaret Yowell and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Springfield Chapter 893 for their dedication and service to our brothers and sisters who have so bravely served their country. Our veterans have made the ultimate sacrifice to their nation, and I am proud to work with NARFE to ensure we uphold our commitment to our federal employees and service men and women.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was...
IN RECOGNITION OF THE 63RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. A. NORMAN BANTZ

HON. ERIC CANTOR
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Bantz.

On November 16, 2009, Norman and Gloria Bantz celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Norman was born on July 17, 1921, and his wife, Gloria, was born on November 16, 1922.

The couple married on November 16, 1946 at Annunciation Church in Crestwood, New York.

Over the years, Norman and Gloria have been blessed with 6 children, Alexandra Louise, Rita Marie, Ralph Frederick, Margaret Elizabeth, Katherine Mary, and Peter James; 13 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

On November 16, the couple along with their family and friends celebrated their anniversary at the home of their daughter.

I would like to congratulate Norman and Gloria, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING CARY LIGHTSEEY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a nationally recognized leader in protecting the environment and a sixth generation Florida rancher, Cary Lightsey of Lake Wales, Florida, who was awarded the 2009 Sunbelt Farmer of the Year.

The Sunbelt Agricultural Exhibition SouthEastern Farmer of the Year award honors excellence in agricultural production and management, leadership in community and farm organizations, and recognizes family contributions in producing safe, abundant supplies of food, fiber, and shelter for U.S. consumers. Cary Lightsey, as the sixth award recipient to come from the state of Florida, represents some of the best of American agriculture.

It is a great privilege to recognize Cary Lightsey and his family for their many achievements and contributions to the farming industry and their community.

Brahma Island, a large secluded region in Lake Kissimmee, is home to 28 endangered species, 14 nests of bald eagles and 300-year-old oaks, ancient Indian settlements, wild game, and commercial beef cattle. This island, owned by Cary Lightsey, and the Lightsey Cattle Co., is preserved in its natural state and will remain so through a perpetual conservation easement. On the island and his other ranches, Lightsey raises over 7,000 head of commercial cattle.

Lightsey and his family have been innovative leaders in methods to market cattle, development of replacement stock, as well as expansion and vertical integration into the cattle market throughout the United States. In addition to raising livestock on the island, Lightsey offers ecological tours and guided hunts for wild hogs and exotic deer.

Cary Lightsey was the first Florida rancher to use conservation easements. By keeping 40 percent of his ranches in native land use, Lightsey has been able to expand the use of conservation easements that cover over 70 percent of his ranching properties. With the easements, Lightsey retains ownership of the land and receives benefits from environmental and governmental organizations in return for giving up his use of the land.

In addition to these conservation and livestock endeavors, Lightsey has been involved in several other innovative ventures including harvesting palmetto berries used for a prostate cancer medicine, relocating threatened gopher tortoises onto his ranches, and his latest effort, raising Wagyu cattle for the Japanese beef market. He has also established new grass varieties used for forages and treatments for water flow nutrients, sharing these technologies with other Florida ranchers.

Cary Lightsey has made valuable contributions to his community through numerous civic activities as well. Each year he donates cattle to the Florida State Fair Futurity Steer Show, is active in the Polk County Youth Fair, and has served on numerous conservation and water management boards.

I stand today to commend Cary Lightsey and his family, including his wife, three children and grandchildren for this honor, which was said to be have been bestowed due to his entrepreneurial spirit, good business judgment, sound farming practices, high ethical standards and leadership in his family, community, state and nation. The 2009 Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year title was also awarded to Lightsey for his sensitivity to the environment, his response to community and social concerns, and his "abiding devotion to his family, his faith and his nation."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent this great American.

HONORING CHRIS MARROU

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the end of an era. For just shy of 35 years, Chris Marrou has anchored the news broadcast at San Antonio’s KENS-5 television. On November 24, 2009, he will give his final broadcast.

Though he spent his youngest days in San Marcos, TX, Chris was born in San Antonio and has lived in the city for most of his life. He was among the first students at Robert E. Lee High School. After being voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by his graduating class, it was off to Pepperdine University for his career in broadcasting on the campus radio station, WPDR. Upon graduating, Chris returned to San Antonio, working first in radio, for KITE and KBAT, before moving into television with WOAI, where he soon began covering sports.

In 1978, Chris lost his brief stay in Dallas and radio station lured him away, but he soon returned, taking over the anchor spot at KENS-5 television on December 24, 1973. And what a Christmas present that was.

Over the past 36 years Chris has been one of the most trusted and respected voices in San Antonio and South Texas, even during his brief sojourn in Boston. He has won numerous awards from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and other organizations. Not content with just one career, however, Chris began attending St. Mary’s University School of Law, graduating with his Juris Doctor in 2007, the same year he was voted “Best TV News Anchor” by the San Antonio Express-News. After passing the Texas bar later that year, he founded the firm of Ramírez, Marrou & Martinez de Vera, P.L.L.C. with some of his law school classmates.

Chris Marrou has been a great friend to the City of San Antonio, a familiar and trusted friend, welcomed into the homes, and hearts, of San Antonians. He briefly hosted a 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscast, every night. He will be greatly missed, though we wish him the best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

COMMENDING BETA GAMMA CHAPTER (VSU) OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. RANDY FORBES, to call attention to a group of young students from Petersburg, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their University, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I direct my colleagues’ attention to the brothers of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Virginia State University. Over the last three years the Beta Gamma chapter has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and has maintained one hundred percent chapter membership participation rate. They are the first, and only, Alpha Phi Alpha chapter in the country to accomplish this remarkable achievement. I would like to applaud my brothers for volunteering to be responsible role models for at-risk youth, helping them to reach their full potential and to lead viable, successful lives.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. As the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established for African Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a brotherhood and study and support group for many students at Cornell, but it also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political and social injustices faced by African Americans.
From that initial foundation at Cornell, the core Alpha Phi Alpha principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity were established. Alpha Phi Alpha now has a presence on hundreds of college campuses as well as in hundreds of alumni chapters in 44 States. The presence of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity can also be felt here in Washington, where nine members of the U.S. Congress are members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

In 1991, an agreement was entered into between Alpha Phi Alpha and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to unite their efforts to transform communities and the lives of young African Americans. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha have become thoroughly engaged in recruiting volunteers, and cultivating a positive relationship and experience with their Little Brothers.

The brothers of Beta Gamma continue this proud tradition by proactively engaging the Petersburg community’s schools and families, in addition providing one-on-one youth mentoring for children at-risk of slipping through the cracks of our society. Studies show that the regular presence of a responsible adult provides lasting, positive impacts on the life of a child. Those children mentored by the Big Brothers of Beta Gamma chapter will be less likely to use drugs and alcohol, will perform better in school, and will have healthier family relationships.

Today, I rise to recognize these young gentlemen for their genuine concern for their local community and for their dedication to public service.

RECOGNIZING CAKES BY HAPPY EATERY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a sign of recovery and reinvestment in our nation’s economy. On November 19, 2009, “Cakes by Happy Eatery” opens its doors for business in Manassas, Virginia.

This family-owned business was established in 1986 as the “Happy Eatery Restaurant and Bakery.” It previously operated in Alexandria, Virginia as a traditional Chinese restaurant with an in-house bakery for 17 years. In 2002, the business moved to a location in Centreville, Virginia and became “Cakes by Happy Eatery.” During this move, the family decided to undergo more than just a name and location change. They also transformed the business model and focused all of their talents and efforts on becoming a full-service bakery.

This has proven to be a successful business decision. The family’s recipes and catering services have been well received and the business has outgrown its Centreville location. The new Manassas location will expand the family’s services and responsibilities. The matriarch, Mrs. Fu-Mei Wu, will act as the chief quality control manager. Mrs. Wu’s daughters will continue to be involved in the bakery’s everyday business. Acting CEO Wu will oversee daily operations, Charlotte Wu Homme will handle advertising and Emily Wu-Rorrer will continue to create the popular bakery’s new products.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Wu family for creating jobs by opening a new “Cakes by Happy Eatery” location. I admire the Wu family for their hard work, and I hope for their continued success.

HONORING SIMON HUGHES
HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently the Texas record for the largest gator killed on state property was broken by 110 pounds. The new state record stands at 800 pounds and 12-foot-6-inches. The remarkable thing is that the shooter, Simon Hughes, had only a year of experience under his belt. Even more remarkable was that the shooter is a five-year-old boy named Simon.

Simon Hughes is the son of Scott Hughes, a sixth generation rancher also from East Texas. Mr. Scott Hughes was reasonably worried that something “real big was out there” and driving smaller gators into his stock ponds. He then obtained a state permit to kill the alligators populating his 5,000-acre ranch near the Lake. Mr. Hughes also took his son, a mere first grader, along for a hunt seeing as he already had been taught gun safety since he was “big enough to walk and stand in a deer blind.” When the gator came upon Simon, he screamed “Dad! Dad!” and shot the beast that was twenty times his size with his new junior-sized .410-gauge shotgun.

Madam Speaker, in true cowboy fashion Simon wants the world to know that he was never afraid for a second. Texas commends Simon for his bravery and outstanding accuracy at such a young age.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN FOSTER AND SENATOR JOYCE FOSTER
HON. DIANA DEGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. DEGETTE of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished couple in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, Rabbi Steven Foster and State Senator Joyce Foster. Rabbi Foster has been an activist for social justice, an advocate for interfaith outreach, and a spiritual leader to the thousands of Temple Emanuel congregants. Rabbi Foster’s work has included founding the Temple Emanuel Preschool and Kindergarten, Herzl Day School, and Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me, an outreach program for interfaith families. He has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, National Council of Justice and Peace, United Way, and Allied Jewish Federation, to name just a few.

Rabbi Foster has taken on all of these tasks while also tirelessly devoting himself to the spiritual needs of his flock. Never reticent to speak out and take action on social issues, Rabbi Foster has worked assiduously against the death penalty and for racial equality, reproductive rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In the words of Rabbi Foster, “Either we are all created in God’s image, or we’re not.” Temple Emanuel’s largest community service project, Mitzvah Day, embodies Rabbi Foster and Temple Emanuel’s commitment to social justice, as hundreds of families go into the Denver community and perform good deeds.

Foster grew up in Milwaukee, where he grew up attending the synagogue during the emerging civil rights movement. By the time of his bar mitzvah, he was determined he would become a rabbi. As a senior in college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he traveled to Alabama to walk in the historic Freedom March led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the state capitol in Montgomery. His actions marked a lifelong commitment to social justice.

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On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District, I wish to express our gratitude to Rabbi Steven Foster and Senator Joyce Foster. Through their commitment to public service and social justice, they have made our community a better place. We look forward to the continued involvement of this remarkable couple in our civic life. Please join me in commending these distinguished public servants.

HONORING MRS. DEBBIE SPERO FOR RECEIVING THE JOHN CAMPANIUS HOLM AWARD

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Debbie Spero, recipient of the 2009 John Campanius Holm Award.

Each year, the National Weather Service honors Cooperative Weather Observers with this prestigious award, named after John Holm. During the years 1644 and 1645, Holm recorded observations of the local weather twice a day, and he is the first known person to have kept these observations.

Since September 1, 1985, Debbie Spero has been involved with the NWS Cooperative Observer Program in Bethpage, Tennessee, reporting daily weather and precipitation data to the Army Corps of Engineers. Her reports are used to document the climate of Middle Tennessee and are also used by local NWS officials to verify forecasts, warnings and precipitation patterns.

Through her 24 year involvement, Debbie has been an incredibly reliable observer. Her observations are complete and in near real time. When she has been unable to make her observations because of illness or travel, she has enlisted help to ensure as few breaks in the records as possible.

In her spare time, Debbie is an active community member. As a Girl Scout leader for more than 14 years, her troop has helped serve underprivileged girls in the Bethpage area by meeting with them weekly. Debbie also works as a Youth Leader at Grace Baptist Church and serves on the Board of Directors of the Bethpage Parent Teacher Organization.

Each year, the John Campanius Holm award is given to only 25 Cooperative Observers from more than 11,000 in the program. The award is based on complete and accurate observations, outstanding enthusiasm for imparting observational knowledge, and civic involvement in the community. The award is only given to active observers of more than 20 years.

Debbie, thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving your community. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT HAMID KARZAI

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman of the Afghanistan Caucus, I want to congratulate President Hamid Karzai on his inauguration for a second term in Afghanistan. In his speech, I am pleased President Karzai stated that he is committed to tackling corruption and restoring security in his nation.

I support the nomination of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who attended the inauguration, that President Karzai has his chance to “have accountability and tangible results that will improve the lives of the people.” In my nine visits to Afghanistan, I have learned of the dedication of Defense Minister Abdul Rehman Wardak and Interior Minister Haneef Atmar. I know firsthand of the capabilities of the Afghan police and army units, who were trained by my former National Guard unit, the 218th Brigade led by Brigadier General Bob Livingston, 2007–2008, of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

It is vitally important that in order for Afghanistan to turn the corner, the U.S. must do everything promised to the people of Afghan- stan to provide for a secure and stable soci- ety. We must grant the necessary resources with our NATO allies to President Karzai to get the job done.

I was grateful to learn last night at a dinner with Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution that Slovakia is doubling its troop commitment in Afghanistan. Slovakia is a revered partner of America promoting free- dom and democracy.

CONGRATULATING TURKEY AND ARMENIA FOR THEIR STEPS TOWARDS PEACE

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, last month in Zurich, Switzerland, with the strong support of the United States, the for- eign ministers of Turkey and Armenia took an unprecedented step forward in their efforts to overcome decades of animosity and distrust between their two countries.

Almost before the ink was dry special inter- est groups in both countries and abroad who profit from the status quo were attacking the deal which means that there are still immense hurdle left before Turkey and Armenia full nor- malize diplomatic and bilateral relations. Nev- ertheless, the two protocols offering a “road map” signed on October 10, 2009, is the right course of action for both countries. The proc- ess is very fragile, but enjoys the support of the international community.

The protocols have been submitted to the Turkish and Armenian parliaments for debate and ratification. The stage is now set for the two parliaments to both deliberate the contents of and hopefully pass the protocols. It will not be an easy vote but the political, eco- nomic and international benefits for both sides are enormous; that is if Turks and Armenians are willing to take the change for real peace; and willing to give up business as usual.

For years I have come to this Floor advo- cating that issues concerning Turkey and Ar- menia should be resolved at the negotiating table by the two countries in question. I urge my colleagues to strongly support this proc- ess.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN RENEWABLE WATER SUPPLY BOND ACT OF 2009

HON. XAVIER BECERRA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act of 2009 with Rep- resentative GINNY BROWN-WAITE. This legisla- tion would authorize public water agencies to issue tax credit bonds as a financing vehicle for certain innovative new water supply tech- nologies.

Drought, global climate change, population growth, and increased competition for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs have combined to create potential water shortages of crisis proportions in the decades ahead unless Congress acts quickly to invest in new, alternative water supply facilities.

Fresh water is a limited resource in high de- mand. Population growth continues to strain available and quickly diminishing water sup- ples, leading to a growing need for new in- vestments in water supply and treatment facil- ity projects. The U.S. General Accounting Of- fice has stated that even under normal water conditions, 36 States anticipate water short- ages in the next 10 years.

However, innovative technologies exist that can help provide new sources of clean water while helping to improve the environment. While the costs of these technologies continue to decline, the initial capital expenditures re- quired to build their infrastructure is still too high to use conventional financing mecha- nisms. A deeper subsidy is needed and can be achieved through the use of tax credit bonds.

This legislation would authorize the use of tax credit bonds, Clean Renewable Water Supply bonds, or “CREWS”, to finance certain kinds of innovative water supply facilities. These facilities include water-recycling facili- ties, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination. These CREWS bonds would be issued by public water agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue conven- tional tax-exempt municipal bonds.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds would result in an interest-free loan to the agency. Instead of having to make interest payments to the bondholders, as would be the case with conventional tax- exempt municipal bonds, the Federal Govern- ment would provide the bondholders with a tax credit equal to what the interest payments would have been. Under the proposal, the agency would save over $60 million in interest payments on a $100 million water supply project, which is the type of subsidy necessary to offset the upfront capital expenditure.

Working with Representative BROWN-WAITE, I hope this Congress moves with all due speed to consider and pass this vital legisla- tion. Let me also take this opportunity to invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this bill that takes concrete action to address our nation’s future water needs.
PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009 through the morning of Friday, November 6, 2009, I could not be present for votes due to a family funeral back in Michigan. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 832. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 833. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 834. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 835. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 836. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 837. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 838. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 839. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 840. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 841. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 842. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 843. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 844. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 845. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 846. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 847. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 848. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 849. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 850. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 851. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 852. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 853. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 854. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 855. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 856. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 857. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 858. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 859. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 860. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 861. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 862. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 863. I would have voted "yes." 

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcalls 896, 897, and 898. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures.

HONORING LT. FLORENCE BACONG CHOE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Lieutenant Florence Bacong Choe of San Diego, California. Lt. Choe was a victim of a tragic shooting that occurred at Forward Operating Base Shaheen in Afghanistan's Northern Balkh province on March 27, 2009.

According to friends and family, Lt. Choe was all Navy. She was born at San Diego Naval Hospital and grew up in San Diego, where she graduated from Monte Vista High School in 1991. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in Biology in 1997, she continued her education and received a Masters degree in Public Health Care Administration from San Diego State University in 2001. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Lt. Choe visited the San Diego Navy recruitment office and enlisted as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps.

While serving in her capacity as Healthcare Administrator for Medical and Surgical Services at the National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, she met her future husband, Lieutenant Commander Chong "Jay" Choe. They were married on June 21, 2004 and in 2006, they welcomed the birth of their daughter, Kristin Bacong Choe. A dedicated service member, Lt. Choe fulfilled various duties in the Navy Medical Corps in Japan and San Diego before deploying to Afghanistan in May of 2008. It was during this deployment where she made the ultimate sacrifice after a shooter, disguised as an Afghan Army soldier, opened fire and killed Lt. Choe and Lt. J.G. Francis L. Toner IV.

Madam Speaker, for Lt. Choe it was never about self, but about family, friends and country. She dedicated her extensive knowledge about the medical field to provide quality care for the men and women of the U.S. Navy. For her and the thousands of others who have given their lives in the name of freedom and democracy, I ask that this body continue to do its best to ensure their deaths were not in vain. May God continue to watch over the family and friends of Lt. Florence Bacong Choe as her memory, passion and dedication to our country continue to live on as we moved forward to a better tomorrow.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. Langevin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Congress has made unprecedented strides this year in the fight to reform our nation's health insurance system and provide coverage to all Americans, and today's vote represents a historic culmination of these vast, collaborative efforts. This transformative bill offers real solutions for Rhode Islanders by providing better access to affordable, quality health care coverage and finally puts America back on the path to an efficient and sustainable health care system.

This summer, I traveled across the district to meet with Rhode Islanders and discuss health reform. I met with constituents who had health insurance all their lives, but then lost it when they were diagnosed with cancer. I met with small business owners who provided coverage for their employees for decades, but were forced to discontinue it when they could no longer keep up with skyrocketing costs. And I met with parents who were desperate to protect their children's health, but feared they would soon run up against lifetime insurance caps.

All of these stories conveyed the same message—health care costs in the United States are rising at an unsustainable rate, and they are placing a huge burden on Rhode Island families, employers and health care providers. This year alone, over 13,000 Rhode Islanders lost their insurance coverage due to rising unemployment. And those who still have coverage are struggling with rising premiums, co-pays and crushing medical debt.

Meanwhile, yearly double-digit premium increases are forcing businesses to choose between keeping their employees' health coverage and keeping their employees. As a longtime advocate of universal health care, I made a promise to my constituents to change the status quo of health care in America. The time for inaction is over—we must join together to pass this bill.

H.R. 3962 will institute the changes we need to provide more security and stability to Americans who have health insurance, guarantee insurance to the millions who don't, and lower health care costs for our families, businesses and the government.

This legislation builds on the strengths of our current employer-based system by encouraging businesses who offer their own coverage to continue doing so. Americans who have health insurance through their employer will be able to shop for their choice of a health plan through a new "health insurance exchange," modeled after the tried and true Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which successfully provides coverage for over 9 million federal employees, retirees and their dependents.

Unlike the limited options that are available to most consumers today, the exchange will
provide a more convenient, transparent and affordable way to choose among a variety of health plans that meets individual needs. Americans who cannot afford to purchase coverage within the exchange will receive financial assistance to ensure that they can obtain comprehensive coverage. Additionally, small businesses will have tax credits that will make it more affordable to offer insurance to their employees.

I am also pleased that this bill encourages competition by ensuring that Americans will have the ability to choose a public plan as an alternative. Unlike private insurance carriers, the public option will not be obligated by big profits for shareholders or large salaries for CEOs. And while it represents just one option for the consumer and one component of health care reform, it will serve as an important tool to increase choice and competition and lower overall insurance costs.

Included in this proposal are a number of important health consumer protections. It will finally end insurance discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions and prevent insurance companies from imposing lifetime limits or dropping coverage when people are sick and need it most. It will cap out-of-pocket expenses so people don’t go broke when they get sick; eliminate extra charges for preventive care like mammograms and diabetes tests to extend and protect Medicare for seniors while working to eliminate the “donut-hole” gap in coverage for prescription drugs. It will also require that insurers reinvest at least 85 percent of their premiums back into health coverage. This will limit the amount of money spent advertising, underwriting, overhead and profits that do nothing but reduce health benefits for patients.

Improving access to coverage will also require investments in our health care workforce. Our system is strained by a lack of nurses and primary care physicians, particularly in underserved areas. That is why our bill contains important workforce development initiatives like new scholarships and loan repayment programs, grant programs for primary care training and immediate financial support for community health centers. This will strengthen the number of nurses, doctors and other health care professionals necessary to meet the increased demand for services.

This bill also makes historic changes to our antitrust laws by removing exemption enjoyed by insurance companies so that they are no longer shielded from liability for price fixing or dominating their market—all of which reduce competition and increase prices for consumers. It establishes new grant programs designed to encourage states to implement alternatives to traditional medical malpractice litigation with the goal of reducing frivolous lawsuits while allowing legitimate cases to be heard. This bill also has my strong support because every portion will be completely paid for, and it will reduce the deficit by $109 billion over the next ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is incumbent on us as policymakers to offer a new vision for health care in America—one that contains costs, improves quality, increases efficiency, promotes wellness, puts health care decisions back in the hands of patients and doctors, and guarantees coverage as a right to our citizens. Every American deserves the promise of quality, affordable health care. I urge my colleagues to join me in fulfilling that promise today, and support the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

RECOGNITION OF THE 211TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 211th Regional Support Group from Corpus Christi, Texas, for their tireless efforts to ensure the security and well being of not only the country of Iraq but the United States as well.

Deployed on December 1, 2008, this unit worked in the face of grave danger and performed in an exemplary fashion in the management of installation and camp activities.

Sixty members of this unit will be returning to my district on Saturday, November 21, and it is my honor and privilege to welcome them home.

Our Reservists put their lives on hold, to fulfill the duties asked of them. I have the greatest respect for our service men and women who selflessly disregard their own safety in order to voluntarily serve our country.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the 211th Regional Support Group of Corpus Christi, Texas, for their service to this nation.

HONORING ST. HUGO OF THE HILLS IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the selection of St. Hugo of the Hills, Michigan, as a 2009 Blue Ribbon School. This prestigious award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Department of Education. That St. Hugo earned this designation is a testament to the dedication of its administration, teachers, staff, students, parents and community members, whose hard work of self-evaluation, review and goal-setting for the future has proved exemplary.

The Blue Ribbon Schools designation is reserved for schools that provide only the most rigorous academic programs or which have made only the most dramatic strides in improving their students’ academic achievement. In fact, St. Hugo School was the only private school in Michigan to receive the award this year.

St. Hugo of the Hills has a long-celebrated and exemplary tradition of striving for academic excellence, with standardized test scores that reflect a deep commitment to high achievement. St. Hugo of the Hills provides its students an outstanding program of nationally recognized excellence in an environment in which the teachings of the Catholic faith are instilled, nurtured and demonstrated. Since 1940, it is this combination that has enabled St. Hugo to count among its alumni scores of community leaders and dedicated, productive citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my recognition of St. Hugo of the Hills on the honor of its outstanding achievement for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School.

CONGRESSMAN BOBBY L. RUSH DAY

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus I rise today in honor of my colleague and fellow CBC member, the Honorable Bobby L. Rush. Throughout his distinguished career, Congressman Rush has served as a determined leader for civil rights and a passionate advocate for our nation’s least fortunate citizens and their communities. On Saturday, November 28th, Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will honor Congressman Rush during “Bobby Rush Day,” a celebration of his life and service.

Congressman Rush was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1946 and spent his childhood growing up on the north and west sides of Chicago. As a child, his Boy Scout Master encouraged Bobby to pursue public service. Congressman Rush enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17, which marked the beginning of what was to become a lifelong career in public service. After serving honorably for 5 years, he left the Army to attend Roosevelt University, where he graduated with honors in 1973.

It was during this time that Congressman Rush began his passionate advocacy for the basic civil and human rights of minorities, as a member of the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to serving as a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Congressman Rush co-founded the Illinois Black Panther Party in 1968. With the Panther Party, Congressman Rush organized the Free Breakfast for Children program and established a Free Medical Clinic, which gained renown as the nation’s first to develop a mass sickle cell anemia testing program.

This commitment to the health and dignity of communities of color has been a remarkable trademark of Congressman Rush’s career in public service. After serving as an Alderman in the Chicago City Council for 8 years, Congressman Rush was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993 to serve Illinois’ First Congressional District. Congressman Rush has been a strong leader and vocal proponent for issues such as health care reform, job creation, environmental protection, gun control and ending the embargo against Cuba.

Most recently, as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, Congressman Rush used his deanship to shepherd the bipartisan passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (H.R. 4040), which modernized the Consumer Product Safety Commission and established essential safety requirements for children’s products.

An ordained Baptist minister, Congressman Rush has remained true to the principles of truth and justice throughout his distinguished
career. Today we rise in appreciation, not only of his contributions to date, but in anticipation of that which he will accomplish in the future. He is, and continues to be, an inspiring advocate for equality and a voice for the voiceless. The Congressional Black Caucus is stronger because of Congressman Rush’s diligent work. His clarity of purpose and vision reinforces the CBC’s role as the “Conscience of the Congress.” For that we are deeply grateful. We salute and celebrate this great leader for freedom and justice.

To all, we wish you a very happy “Bobby Rush Day”!

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicare Reimbursement Act of 2009 today to raise the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), or contribution of the federal government from 70 percent to 75 percent, and to reduce the District’s unique role as the only city, except for New York, that pays any portion of Medicaid, an expense that is carried by states and counties in our country. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent local share to Medicaid, while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District’s statutorily mandated 30 percent contribution. I introduce this bill because the District’s continuing responsibility for the share of Medicaid costs typically borne by entire states is a major component of the District’s structural deficit and a threat to the financial stability of the city itself, according to the District’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Today, in the midst of an unprecedented recession and of structural change in the U.S. economy, this burden is not sustainable. Yet the District, unlike other cities which have lost significant populations, has no state economy to share this burden. More than 25 percent of District children and adults are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 12 percent in Maryland and just 9 percent in Virginia. On average, the District spends over $7,000 per enrollee, while Maryland and Virginia spend $5,509 and $5,177, respectively, reflecting serious health conditions that are concentrated among big city residents in this majority African American city.

In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress recognized that state costs were too high for any one city to shoulder. To alleviate the resulting financial crisis in the District, Congress increased the federal Medicaid contribution to the District from 50 to 70 percent, and took responsibility for some, but not all, state costs—prisons and courts—reliieving the immediate burden, but the city continues to carry most state costs.

In 1997, a formulaic error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment reduced the 70 percent FMAP rate, and as a result, the District received only $23 million instead of the $49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to $32 million from FY2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of $20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing DC’s Medicaid reimbursement payments to $57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. However, today’s bill cannot reimburse the District for the years a federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses. Now, with health care before the Congress, the time has come to close the loop on this leftover issue.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments become necessary. The District Medicaid agency won federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the federal government’s child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance to recovering $15 million in fraudulently billed funds. The city’s novel DC Health Care Alliance, for which federal approval is pending, would allow coverage of residents and provide more early and preventive care, avoiding huge Medicaid costs when health conditions become severe and Medicaid becomes the only option.

The DC Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2009 is the eighth in the “Free and Equal DC” series. This series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction. Although today’s bill cannot address the entire structural problem that the District faces because the city is not part of a state, the bill would at least make the city no worse off than the only other city that contributes to Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase that will help my city’s most needy residents.

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY
HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an upcoming landmark event in Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District—the 140th anniversary of Chatham University, one of the oldest women’s colleges in the country.

On December 11, 1869, the Pennsylvania Female College was founded in the City of Pittsburgh by the Reverend William Trumble Beatty, the founder and pastor of the Shady Side Presbyterian Church. The college was originally housed in the Berry mansion on the Greensburg Presbyterian Church. The college was renamed the Pennsylvania College for Women, the only other city that contributes to Medicaid.

In 1955, the Pennsylvania College for Women was renamed Chatham College, in honor of William Pitt, the Elder—the first Earl of Chatham, the statesman who led Great Britain into the Revolutionary War, and the man for whom Pittsburgh was named.

In 1992, Dr. Esther Barazzon became the school’s 16th President, and under her leadership, the school has undergone substantial growth. New construction was undertaken, co-educational graduate programs were established, and the school’s endowment was increased substantially.

On April 23, 2007, the school was granted university status by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and it officially changed its name to Chatham University a year later on May 1st, 2008.

Today, the university is home to three colleges—Chatham College for Women continues the school’s original mission of providing a high-quality undergraduate education for women. The College for Continuing and Professional Studies offers a number of certificate, masters, and doctoral programs, and online degree programs were begun in 2005. The College for Graduate Studies offers masters’ and doctoral programs for both women and men in more than 20 fields, including art, architecture, business, health sciences, teaching, and creative writing. In 2007, Chatham University’s Creative Writing M.F.A. program was singled out by The Atlantic Monthly as one of the top five innovative and unique programs in the country. Today, Chatham has more than 2,200 students enrolled. The university is home to several outreach centers as well, including the Center for Women’s Entrepreneurship, the Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy, the Rachel Carson Institute, and the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute.

In 2008, Chatham University expanded dramatically to accommodate the growth in a number of academic programs.
On May 1, 2008, the Eden Hall Foundation gave Chatham University the Eden Hall Farm in Gibsonia, a suburban municipality near the city of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. This 400-acre farm had been the summer home of philanthropist and H.J. Heinz Company Vice President, Austin A. Layne, from the early 1900s. At Mr. Mueller’s death in 1938, his entire estate, including Eden Hall Farm, was committed in his will to benefitting women. For the next 70 years, it was operated as a vacation and respite destination for the H.J. Heinz Company’s working women. The Eden Hall Foundation was established in 1983 to further Mr. Mueller’s goals of supporting other charitable efforts.

Chatham University’s Eden Hall Farm Campus now is home to a number of educational, environmental, women’s leadership, and community programs. It also provides a convenient campus for serving Chatham University certificate and degree program students who live in the suburban communities north of Pittsburgh as well as young participants in the school’s Summer Music and Arts Day Camp.

In September of 2008, Chatham purchased a building in Pittsburgh’s East Liberty neighborhood to hold its architecture and health science programs. The new facility is less than a mile from the university’s main campus in nearby Shady Side. Establishment of this new facility, named Chatham Eastside, both benefited from and contributed to community efforts to redevelop and revitalize East Liberty.

Madam Speaker, Chatham University has grown from an enrollment of 100 undergraduate students 140 years ago to a university with more than 2,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students today. It is a highly respected institution of higher learning that has faithfully carried out its mission of educating young women and promoting women’s leadership for nearly 150 years. I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students, alumnae, and friends and supporters of Chatham University on the 140th anniversary of its founding, to express the appreciation and deep respect that the residents of Pennsylvania have for this venerable local institution, and to wish Chatham University continued success in the years to come.

HONOURING MR. AUSTIN LAYNE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Austin Layne, a trail-blazing entrepreneur and valued member of the St. Louis community. For over 30 years Mr. Layne has served the residents of St. Louis with an admirable sense of compassion during their most difficult times.

Upon graduating from Vashon High School, Layne entered the U.S. Army where he studied to become a computer specialist. Layne was motivated to pursue a career as a funeral director after a family friend, Gilbert Wade Granberry, offered him a position working at his mortuary. This rewarding experience inspired him to earn his associate’s degree in applied science from the School of Mortuary Science at Forest Park Community College.

Mr. Layne opened his first business in 1979, the Austin A. Layne Mortuary. He has since opened the Layne Renaissance Chapel and most recently, the Austin Layne Normandy Chapel. Mr. Layne independently owns and operates all of his businesses.

Mr. Layne is committed to providing people with the highest quality care possible and has remained dedicated to being available to his clients, both physically and emotionally during their times of grief. He is acutely aware that every family has different needs and strives to accommodate each family that he serves.

Throughout his career, Mr. Layne has been a supportive and gentle person, determined to do more for families than simply conduct a funeral. What makes Mr. Layne so extraordinary is his ability to empathize with each family. He puts himself in their position and works to ensure that arranging funerals for their loved ones goes smoothly as possible.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Layne; a man who has made a difference in each life that he has touched. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Austin Layne.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act.

The economic downturn is adversely affecting the budgets of local governments and threatening a range of emergency services that communities count on. As declining state and local revenues force local governments and city managers to make difficult choices, the budgets for programs that assist firefighters, first responders, and local communities nationwide with the equipment, training, and personnel have all been reduced.

To help ease some of the burden, the Recovery Act and the FY09 Supplemental Appropriations Act included provisions designed to enhance the existing resources of the SAFER and AFG programs by waiving the matching requirements and restrictions for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. But, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Antiterrorism Grant programs will expire in FY 2009 and FY 2010. We gather here today to reauthorize these programs until 2014.

Today, not only must fire departments fight fires, they must also handle emergency medical services, and serve as first responders in the case of terrorist attacks or natural disasters. As the array of tasks falling to local fire departments has grown, SAFER and AFG grants have helped local communities keep pace.

In addition to reauthorizing these two vital programs, H.R. 3791 permits the use of grant funds for volunteer and non-fire service emergency medical services organizations, increases funding for fire prevention and fire-fighter safety programs, and covers matching and maintenance requirements for fire departments facing economic hardship.

Mr. Chair, these programs are vital to the safety and welfare of the American people. They need to be reauthorized.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3791.

IN MEMORY OF TOMMY JACQUETTE

HON. MAXINE WATERS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Tommy Jacquette, my dear friend of over 40 years, who passed away this week. I know that the community of Watts and the greater Los Angeles area are grieving with me, because we’ve all lost a truly unique, larger-than-life friend and activist who had his finger on the pulse of the community.

Born in South Central Los Angeles in 1943, Tommy as a young man became part of the Black Power Movement of the 1960’s and sharpened his leadership skills during his studies at Cal-Poly Pomona. He was acutely aware of the problems and issues facing the African-American community, and he wanted to make a difference.

Tommy especially loved Watts, and he dedicated his life’s work to enriching the community. He was the founder of the Watts Summer Festival at Ted Watkins Memorial Park (formerly Will Rogers Park), which became an annual tradition in the community following the 1965 insurrection, which were riots that shook the Watts community and surrounding areas.

Tommy created the Festival to honor and celebrate our roots, our talents and our culture, and subsequently helped to spark African-American festivals across the country; today it’s known as the ‘Grandfather’ of all African-American cultural events.

Even in years when he struggled to get funding for the Festival, when traditional donors such as the business community and others wouldn’t contribute, he always came through and was able to put on a Festival, using the resources he had and his amazing life skills, largely stemming from being a self-made man. Just this year, I joked with him that if he had two dimes to rub together, there would be a Watts Summer Festival.

I have no doubt, however, that in making the Festival possible each and every year for almost a half-century, Tommy knocked a few heads together. This tall, handsome and fatigue-wearing man made his presence known, often using his penchant for colorful language to drive home the point! His confrontations with City Hall, L.A. County, and other elected officials and community leaders are legendary. He spoke his mind, and was bold and uncom-promising in his support of the Black community.

So when he was mad, you knew it. However when he was pleased and happy, you knew it too, because he had a smile that would light up a room and a hearty laugh that would resonate throughout an entire building. The Watts Summer Festival, appropriately, is named the Tommy Jacquet Festival, bringing people together and focusing both on local and national talent, always with an Afro-centric theme.
Tommy was an inspiration to me and to so many other people. He was daring, fearless and bold, helping us to gain the courage to openly discuss and deal with race, discrimination and inequality in a way that few had been able to before.

I will truly miss his presence and the long conversations we would often have, which would usually start when he’d say “Hey Mac, what do you think about that?” He was an incredibly deep thinker. He was especially an inspiration to young people in the community, often working at high schools, colleges and universities to encourage them to succeed, to give back, and to hold their heads up high.

There will never be another Tommy Jacquette, and I know that the legacy he has left behind is enshrined not only in the Watts Summer Festival, but in the larger community. I look forward to working with his family and the Board of Directors to make sure that the Festival continues, though there will be a big hole that can never be filled.

I thank him for all that he was and all that he was not, for all the lives he reached, and for his friendship. I will miss him dearly, but am comforted because I know Tommy Jacquette’s life was one of impact, purpose, and fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING JAY HARRINGTON FOR HIS 700TH CAREER VICTORY AS A MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jay Harrington, coach of the Southwestern Illinois College Blue Storm, who posted his 700th victory as a college men’s basketball coach on November 13, 2009.

Jay Harrington began his coaching career as an assistant at Western Kentucky University for one year followed by a year as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Jay’s first position as head coach was at Wabash Valley College where he coached for three years. He next took over as head coach at Southwestern Illinois College, then Belleville Area College, where he has been for the past 30 years. Last season, Coach Harrington posted his 600th victory as the coach of Southwestern Illinois College.

Coach Harrington entered the 2009–2010 season with a career total of 696 wins. He posted his 700th victory with a 64–49 win over Highland College before the home crowd at the Blue Storm Basketball Classic at Southwestern Illinois College. With typical modesty, Jay deflected accolades over this milestone, preferring instead to discuss the good performance of his players.

Jay Harrington’s name is enshrined in both the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, Basketball Coach’s Hall of Fame. He has been named the Junior College Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and Co-Coach of the Year by the Junior Colleges by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jay Harrington on his milestone 700th victory as a men’s college basketball coach.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK HALL

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, Norco, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. I rise today to recognize and honor one of those individuals: outgoing Norco City Council Member, and former Mayor, Frank Hall.

Frank started his public service career in 1993 as a member of the Streets and Trails Commission in Norco, California. With that experience he was elected as a Norco City Councilmember in 1997. As member of the Norco City Council, Frank also served as Mayor in 2008, 2004 and 2000. In 2000, Frank received the Norco Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year Award.

Over his accomplished career, Frank served on a number of special committees which addressed a wide range of issues. He worked on transportation issues as a member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Riverside Transit Authority Board of Directors and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Northwest Zone Committee. He promoted education and learning in the community as a member of the Riverside Community College, Norco Friends of the Library, Norco Historical Society and the Corona/Norco Family YMCA. He also was successful in rallying support for NSWC, Corona and joined a regional effort to keep the base from being realigned to Port Hueneme during the last round of Base Realignment and Closure.

Frank Hall will leave the Norco City Council with many accomplishments; his legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be a public servant. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. It has been an honor to work with him for the betterment of our community and I salute his service to the City of Norco.

GUISSEPPE TAORMINA

HON. MICHAEL E. McMahon
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMahon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Giuseppe Taormina. His powerful voice, passion and talent make him the true "King of High C."

Mr. Taormina was born in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. He started voice training at a very young age and began performing in Sicily. When he arrived in the United States, he immediately auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company, where he was accepted into the Young Artist Program. Because of his beautiful voice, he received internships as primo tenore while at Hunter College.

Most notably, Mr. Taormina is the only tenor in the United States who has received the prestigious honor of Necklace Knight, “Cavaliere di Colonna” and the noble title of Saint George in Carinizia Supreme Military Order.

Mr. Taormina has had the honor to perform for the Kings of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, as well as Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady of the Philippines. He has also traveled to the far corners of the world spreading his passion for music with the “Ambassadors of Opera.”

On November 1st, Mr. Taormina performed at the 48th Annual Mario Lanza Ball, where he was the evening’s special guest tenor. Mr. Taormina helped celebrate the life and career of Mario Lanza. His one of a kind tenor voice is a great tribute to a star that left us far too soon.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the talent and accomplishments of Giuseppe Taormina.

HONORING NORTON BUFFALO OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. Thompson of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Norton Buffalo, a man of enormous musical talent, who passed away October 30, 2009, after a short battle with lung cancer. Although he is no longer with us, his music and his virtuosity as a harmonica player are gifts that will live on for generations to come.

Born 58 years ago in Oakland, California and raised in the blue collar streets of Richmond, California, Norton developed an appreciation for music from his father, a harmonica player in his own right, his mother, a nightclub singer, and his great-uncle, an Academy Award winning composer. He won his first talent contest in 1963 while in the 6th grade and he never looked back.

For decades he called Sonoma County home. His first solo album and tribute to his adopted home, “Lovin’ in the Valley of the Moon,” was released in 1977. In addition to his own albums, he played on more than 180 albums by other artists and was a member of the Steve Miller Band for 30 years. He was a master of all genres, from jazz to rock to blues to honky tonk. He toured with such notables as the Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, Olivia Newton John, Commander Cody, Mickey Hart, Jerry Garcia and slide guitar player Roy Rogers, as well as his own bands.

I was honored and privileged to know Norton as a friend, long after I was a fan. I grew up on his music and sought out his performances at small clubs and venues throughout Northern California. When we became friends many years later, I was touched by his compassion and his dedication to making the world a better place. He was a man with a heart to match his talent.

Norton was a performer to the end. He was on tour with the Steve Miller Band in August when he received his diagnosis and was writing songs just days before his death.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Flores, his children, Aisah and Elias, his stepchildren, Siera Ruelas, and Bo Winterburn, his father, Ken Jackson, and five brothers and sisters.
Madam Speaker, Norton Buffalo touched millions of people with his music and his talent. It is therefore appropriate that we remember and honor him today.

EDUARDO PEÑA
HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to serving others. Mr. Eduardo Peña’s lifelong commitment to public service and the Hispanic American community are to be commended.

Peña, a native of Laredo, Texas, is a 1957 graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. He received his law degree in 1967 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., while working full time for the Department of Labor.

Peña has a long and distinguished career in public service, working for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Senate, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is a two-time recipient, 1968 and 1969, of the DOL’s award for meritorious achievement.

In 1979, he was elected president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), where he served for one year and used his expertise to ensure civil rights for Latinos. Today, Peña remains heavily involved in LULAC as a volunteer and his wife, Ada, serves as the State Director for the District of Columbia.

Earlier this year Eduardo Peña stepped down as General Counsel for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a pro bono post he held since March 1978. In this role he committed his own time and energy to providing pro bono expert legal counsel and guidance to an organization that has grown dramatically since he began his work.

His efforts have assisted thousands of young Latinos to achieve a college education and take the first steps towards launching a successful career in public service and many other fields.

CHCI’s growth and advancement as an organization has taken place thanks to the dedication Eduardo Peña has demonstrated for more than three decades.

Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude for more than 30 years of service to CHCI and a lifetime of contributions to the Hispanic American community and the nation.

RETIREE OF HERMOSA BEACH
CITY COUNCILMAN J.R. REVICZKY
HON. JANE HARMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of many abilities and talents, whose contributions to the City of Hermosa Beach enriched his community and contributed to the economic health of the region for the past 16 years.

A South Bay resident since childhood, my good friend and City Councilman J.R. Reviczky enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve after graduating from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance, California, also in my Congressional District. Following an honorable discharge from the Naval Reserve, he embarked on a career as an electrician. During his 37-year career, he worked his way up the ranks from apprentice to his current role as Training Director for one of the largest electrical contractors in the United States.

J.R. was first elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council in 1993, and has served four distinguished terms as Mayor. His lasting mark can be seen throughout the community. As a member of the Open Space People’s Action Committee, he was instrumental in the development of Hermosa Beach’s many acres of beautiful parks and recreation facilities, including the conversion of railways into a community treasure known as the Greenbelt. He was also one of the co-founders of the Beach Cities Holiday Toy Drive which, for the past 15 years, has collected and distributed thousands of toys to needy children throughout the 36th Congressional District and beyond.

I have personally benefited from J.R.’s counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of local issues and history. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Councilman J.R. Reviczky for his dedicated service to the people of Hermosa Beach and wish him continued success as he and his wife, Nancy, begin the next chapter of their life.

AARON THOMAS NEMELKA
HON. JIM MATHESON
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Utah has lost a venerated hero with the passing of PFC. Aaron Thomas Nemelka of West Jordan, Utah.

Private First Class Nemelka was killed while serving his country at Fort Hood, Texas. On November 5, 2009, a lone gunman opened fire and caused the death of 12 soldiers, 1 civilian, while 30 more Americans were wounded. Private First Class Nemelka was remembered for his dedication to both his family and his country. As a combat engineer in the 29th Infantry Battalion, 36th Engineering Brigade, he specialized in munitions diffusion.

Aaron was set to deploy on his first tour of the Middle East in January 2010. He will forever be remembered for having sacrificed his life in the defense of our great nation. His selfless devotion to those around him is a great tribute to his spirit.

Aaron grew up in West Jordan, Utah and was the youngest of four children. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and through his efforts was able to help better his community by always extending a hand of service. Aaron graduated from West Jordan High School in Utah in 2008 and enlisted in the military shortly thereafter.

Private First Class Aaron Nemelka was very young, and he served his country honorably and heroically. Please join me in taking a moment to honor this Utahn for his service to our country. My thoughts are with Aaron’s family during this difficult time.
Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan B. Perel, a dedicated physician, leader in the MS community and a true humanitarian. He is one of Staten Island’s “everyday heroes.”

Dr. Perel was educated in New York City schools, attending Brooklyn College, and obtaining his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. He completed his residency at Columbia University—Presbyterian Hospital and interned at Staten Island University Hospital.

Dr. Perel is a great physician, and he gives back to his community. His has gone above and beyond by providing unprecedented care to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis and other life altering conditions. He has served as the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Staten Island/Coaster Site NYCMS Society for the past 15 years.

He is also the Chairman of the Board of the Staten Island Heart Society for the past 5 years and was the only Neurologist to have served as President of the American Heart Association. Dr. Perel also founded and serves as the director of the Staten Island University Hospital—NYS Department of Health Certified Stroke Center.

Throughout his career, Dr. Perel provided educational materials to the community and supported legislation that benefited both doctors and patients. He helped coordinate the island-wide September 11 Memorial blood drive, and continuously supports charity walks for many causes.

Dr. Perel has been an active participant of the Richmond County Medical Society since 1989. In July of 2008, Dr. Perel was selected to be the organization’s president. On Saturday, November 14th, the Richmond County Medical Society honored Dr. Allan Perel for his tireless dedication to his profession and the people of his community. I wish to join this organization in praising the accomplishments of one of Staten Island’s finest physicians.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Allan B. Perel on his dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

SUPPORTING S. 4073, THE RURAL VETERANS REIMBURSEMENT ACT

HON. WALT MINNICK
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our Nation’s armed forces. As a former Army veteran, I understand how important it is that we keep our promises and thank them for their commitment to freedom.

I’m pleased to announce the introduction of the Rural Veterans Reimbursement Act. This bill enjoys bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the American Legion.

This legislation will allow rural veterans to receive reimbursement for their food and lodging any time they must travel to a VA medical facility to seek treatment for a service-connected injury. Many veterans living in backcountry Idaho and in other rural areas around the country must travel on narrow, winding roads for the better part of a day to reach the nearest Veterans Hospital or clinic. Their expenses should be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) TAX BENEFITS ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBAINES
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SARBAINES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, Tax Benefits Act. This legislation supports efforts by state and local governments to help homeowners and businesses install energy efficiency upgrades.

PACE projects are an innovative way to finance energy efficiency investments like insulation and home sealing projects, energy efficient appliances or renewable energy generation systems. These programs provide homeowners or businesses capital to pay for the improvements and allow them to finance repayment through the property assessment taxes they pay to state or local government.

Because PACE financing offers real savings immediately and in the long term, homeowners and businesses are much more likely to pursue energy efficiency improvements.

The legislation I am introducing will make it easier for state and local governments to raise capital for PACE programs by making the interest earned on PACE-related bonds tax free. For example, under current law, when government bodies issue bonds for the construction of roads, schools, or other infrastructure, their investors receive tax free interest payments. The PACE Tax Benefits Act will ensure that energy efficiency projects are treated in the same manner—allowing state and local governments to raise adequate capital and providing the low cost financing to property owners that will make PACE programs more widespread.

This is an innovative and cost-free mechanism to encourage energy efficiency. The potential for economic growth and energy savings is vast if we establish a framework that allows for them to expand more broadly. By doing so, we will create thousands of new jobs; save billions of dollars in energy costs for businesses; and make significant progress in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
most economically and ethnically diverse communities. During the years spanning Chief Poppelreiter’s career, the Fire Department grew to a full-time professional staff of over 100 that serve West Bloomfield and several of the surrounding communities. During his tenure, Chief Poppelreiter’s commitment to excellence has ensured that the residents of West Bloomfield have received outstanding fire safety protection.

Chief Poppelreiter’s career illustrates exemplary public service in its truest spirit and finest tradition. His absence in retirement will surely be felt by his colleagues and the residents of West Bloomfield. I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in honoring the courageous work and unwavering commitment of Chief Poppelreiter to the community and citizens of West Bloomfield.

HONORING JOSYF SLIPYJ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong service and dedication of a servant of God, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj to the Ukrainian Church and community.

He was born on February 17, 1892 in the village of Zazdrist, Ternopil region, Ukraine, into the Kobernytskyi-Slipyj and Anastasia Dychkovska families. He completed grammar school in his village and secondary school in Ternopil. He studied theology in Lviv, and completed his philosophical and theological studies in Innsbruck, Austria.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky on September 30, 1917.

He returned to Innsbruck to continue his postgraduate studies, attaining a doctorate in sacred theology. From there he traveled to Rome where he was bestowed with the title Magister Agregatus.

He began lecturing in 1922 on dogmatic theology at Lviv Theological Seminary. Toward the end of 1925 he was appointed rector of this institution, and in 1929 he was appointed rector of the newly created Theological Academy. In 1939 metropolitan Andrej consecrated him bishop with the right of succession. On November 1, 1944, he became head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

On April 11, 1945 he was arrested by the Bolsheviks and given an eight year sentence of hard labor in Siberia. After this ended and without any cause, he was imprisoned a second time for an unspecified term. In 1957 he was given a third term—seven years of hard labor. Due to the efforts of Pope John XXIII and U.S. President John F. Kennedy he was freed in 1963 to take part in the sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Chicago, Illinois was founded in 1968 by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. Among the reasons for establishing this distinct parish was the desire to preserve and more intensely nurture the traditions of the Ukrainian Church. The elements contributing to the Ukrainian Church’s distinctiveness within the Universal Catholic Church are the Julian Calendar, a traditional liturgy, as well as a unique spiritual heritage.

Members of the parish are proud of the fact that Patriarch Josyf Slipyj was involved in all significant events of the parish’s development. Besides establishing the parish, Patriarch Josyf blessed the cornerstone of the church and subsequently, in 1973, blessed the church itself. The reason for the parishioners’ pride had to do with the Patriarch’s position in the Catholic Church as a Confessor for the Faith. Taking the lead from his predecessor Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky (+1944), as well as the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, Josyf Slipyj worked to restore self-government to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the form of a Patriarchate. In 1968, he was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI.

He died on September 7, 1984. In 1992 his remains were brought to Lviv, where they, in the presence of more than one million faithful, were re-interred in the crypt of St. George’s Cathedral. Patriarch Josyf Slipyj has been proclaimed a Servant of God and the Ukrainian faithful pray for his beatification.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great sacrifices and contributions Patriarch Josyf Slipyj made in his lifetime. His monument will stand as a reminder to all of his great achievements to future generations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GRADUATION FOR ALL ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4122, the Graduation for All Act of 2009 (GFA). I would like to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER for introducing this comprehensive bill that creates a three-year grant to help turn around our nation’s lowest performing schools. This bill will help address some of the problems facing our schools and ensure that they are moving toward a goal of graduating all of our children.

For far too long, schools have not been held accountable for ensuring that students graduate on time with a high school diploma. As a result, some students leave high school without a meaningful education that provides quality academic experiences sufficient for success in college or the workplace. Additionally, high school students are dropping out at an alarming rate. A recent study found that only 53 percent of all young people in the nation’s 50 largest cities are graduating from high school on time. Regrettably, roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States produce approximately half of the nation’s secondary school dropouts. In these secondary schools, known as “dropout factories,” African American, Native American and Hispanic students have graduation rates that are 50 percent or below.

Recently, strong reform efforts have targeted dropout factories and other low performing high schools, but it is obvious we have to do more and start our efforts earlier. More of an emphasis must be placed on the lowest performing middle schools. Too many students leave middle school with significant deficiencies such as being behind on English and Math proficiency; this leaves them ill prepared for the rigors of high school.

Increasing graduation rates and improving academic achievement will enrich the lives of our children as well as strengthen our workforce and nation as a whole. A nation enjoys a competitive advantage in the global marketplace when it has a well educated and well trained workforce. If we expect to compete, we must ensure that all of our children receive a quality education.

The Graduation for All Act will make education a priority and invests significant funding to accomplish several goals. First, it provides funding for schools to increase teacher and leadership effectiveness, hire highly qualified teachers, restructure schools, and transition students out of low performing schools into higher achieving schools. Second, the bill will fund initiatives that increase college access and completion such as dual enrollment and early college programs. Finally, the legislation includes provisions from the Every Student Counts Act (ESCA, H.R. 1569), which I introduced on March 17, 2009, that will require consistent and accurate counting of high school dropouts, require the establishment of aggressive and attainable graduation rate goals, and provide incentives to meet these goals.

This bill will make significant strides toward improving student achievement, postsecondary readiness and graduation rates. It is my hope that Congress will move this legislation quickly and it will be signed into law. This will ensure that all of our nation’s students will receive the kind of help and support required for them to obtain a quality education. Thank you.