EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Congresswoman for 18th Congressional District of Texas, I rise with great pride to commemorate this recognition of Black History Month. African Americans from Texas like the pugilist Jack Johnson, the pioneer Bessie Coleman, Congresswoman Barbara C. Jordan, Congressman Mickey Leland, and African Americans from all across this nation have contributed greatly to the rich history of the United States; a country we love so dearly.

I am especially grateful to be among my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus as we do our best to honor those who came before us and strive to make this country a better place for all Americans through our work here in Congress, back home in our districts and all across this great nation. As we do so, we must remember that we are part of the great diversity of citizens that make up the fabric of this nation and we must, as African Americans, remember to reach out to all Americans from every race, creed, and color for the common purpose of leaving our country better than we found it for our children and their children's children.

This morning I had the privilege of speaking in Austin, Texas, before the Texas Legislative Black Caucus at its Legislative Summit. Being there in the Capitol built by slaves and speaking before that audience made me realize that we have a reason to celebrate our heritage and our contributions to this great nation. My speech was about African Americans remaining relevant in these changing times. Today as we bring Black History Month to a close, I would like to reflect on the many reasons to celebrate and I issue a call for all of my colleagues to be their best for our country as we continue our legislative work in this chamber.

We have reason to celebrate our heritage: We are relevant.

Barbara C. Jordan knew the importance of remaining relevant when she recited from the preamble to the Constitution and said: "'We the people.' It is a very eloquent beginning. But when the document was completed . . . I was not included in 'We the People.' I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision I have finally been included in "We, the people.'"

As redistricting hits full stride this year and the Texas legislature conducts the redrawing of congressional districts, we the people, Black and Brown Texans alike, must stand together and be represented! Our vote must count. Our candidates must be elected. For our cause is the same. A defeat for African Americans is a defeat for Hispanics and a defeat for Hispanics is a defeat for African Americans. This is a unique moment in time to make sure our voices are heard, that our votes count, and that we as African Americans and Hispanics remain relevant.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Immigration Policy and Enforcement Subcommittee, I see a barrage of immigration hearings that embody a shameless attempt to pit Hispanics against African Americans. This is an outrage! We must not take the bait. The vast majority of economists, and all of the most recent research in the area, confirm that immigrants actually improve the job prospects of U.S. workers. The truth is that, in general, African-Americans and other minorities actually benefit from Immigration. Comprehensive immigration reform that provides a fair path to citizenship combined with investments in our businesses, and investment in our education and job training programs are the only solution. Draconian spending cuts to these programs and dredging up racial scapegoats are not the solution.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I take pride in my work with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and serve as an enthusiastic liaison between the two caucuses. As I do so, I am reminded of how my predecessor Congressman Mickey Leland reached out to work with Cesar Chavez as he struggled for better working conditions and dignity for Hispanic workers. He saw the importance of our communities working together in his day and I see it now in mine. African Americans endured the injustice of slavery and servitude and we must remember that history repeats; sometimes it just visits another community in the process. We must cast our fate together.

To remain relevant, we must commit right here and right now to embracing and working with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Truth be told, our plight is the same and shared progress is our common cause. As Malcolm X said "We are not fighting for integration, nor are we fighting for separation. We are fighting for recognition as human beings. We are fighting for human rights."

In closing, I invoke the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., truly spoke of remaining relevant when he said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Today, we are closer to achieving that dream. We are relevant. We are "pertinent to the matter at hand." And it is by working together with our Hispanic brothers and sisters that we will remain relevant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 92 I inadvertently voted "no." I intended to vote "yes."

ALAMOSA HIGH SCHOOL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alamosa High School wrestling team and coach Gary Ramstetter. Alamosa's Mean Moose claimed their first Class 3A state wrestling title, with eight wrestlers placing in the top four and an individual title won by Darin Sisneros. It was Mr. Ramstetter's eighth state title with the school, and earned him Coach of the Year honors.

Alamosa finished the tournament with a commanding 178 points, the closest competitor scoring only 122½. The victory represents a true team effort with every wrestler fighting for every point. Mr. Sisneros' individual title is also the 48th won by a student during coach Ramstetter's 30 year tenure, a testament to the hard work and motivation of both men.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Alamosa's wrestling team and their legendary coach. Under his expert guidance, I have no doubt that Alamosa can win many more state titles and continue its legacy of success both in the classroom and on the mat.

TRIBUTE TO MAURA PAT KELLY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the long and distinguished career of a good friend and public servant of this House, Mrs. Maura "Pat" Kelly. Pat's roots in our home state of New York run as deep as the mark she leaves on this institution after fifty-three years of service. I was honored to attend Pat's retirement ceremony last month and at which our distinguished chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, delivered the following prayer that I proudly submit on his behalf.

PRAYER FOR PAT KELLY'S RECEPTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011, REV. DANIEL P. COUGHLIN

Holy Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with all the angels and saints we praise You, with all the Irish legends and leprechauns we stand before You.

As we celebrate the life and service of Maura "Pat" Kelly this day, we do so with honor and humor, memories and best wishes. To this noble institution throughout the years she has always brought a feminine touch, a New York touch, and a touch of the Irish.

We thank You, Lord, for giving her years of health and happiness, work and colleagues, bosses and crosses, as well as love of this institution of Congress inherited from her mother, ever changing through the years and never fully understood or appreciated by the American people she served.

May the daily public service hardly noticed, now be duly rewarded. Grant her energy and peace, friendship and satisfaction for years to come.

As she takes leave of us, may she find even greater love and faith around every bend in the road ahead. As long as she keeps smiling the world will smile back at her. And she shall never be forgotten or walk alone, Lord. For Your smile will forever call her upward and onward even though she has stolen from us all, Lord. As the old tune tells it: her Irish eyes have stolen our hearts away.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE WORLD WAR II MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently reintroduced H.R. 719, which will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

During World War II, the volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol—civilian men and women ranging in age from 19 to 81—provided extraordinary public and combat services at a critical time of need for the nation.

Civil Air Patrol members used their own aircraft to perform a myriad of essential tasks for the military and the entire country, including attacks on enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Civil Air Patrol was established on December 1, 1941, one week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After performing exemplary service in WWII, the Civil Air Patrol was chartered by Congress as a non-profit, public service organization and in 1948 as the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

The Civil Air Patrol was initially mobilized in response to a massive German Navy submarine offensive off the east coast of the United States that targeted oil tankers and other critical shipping.

As 52 tankers were sunk by enemy submarines between January and March 1942 alone, neither the Navy nor Army had sufficient resources to patrol and protect the coastline—threatening the entire war effort.

The Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol undertook the challenge of protecting our sea lanes and supporting the military's efforts at this critical time. From March 1942 until August 1943, more than 40,000 volunteers at 21 Civil Air Patrol bases stretching from Maine to Texas coordinated thousands of patrols, investigations, and convoy missions.

Heroic Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol aircrews were responsible for attacking 57 submarines—destroying or damaging two—as well as reporting nearly 200 submarine positions, 17 floating mines, and 91 vessels and 363 survivors in distress.

In addition to the work of its Coastal Patrol, the Civil Air Patrol also established itself as a vital wartime service to the military, states, and communities across the nation.

These brave volunteers engaged in an impressive array of missions including border patrol, forest fire patrol, courier flights for mail and urgent deliveries, emergency transportation of personnel, search and rescue, and various military support duties. Overall, during the war the Civil Air Patrol undertook tens of thousands of missions and logged hundreds of thousands of flight hours in defense of our country.

The Civil Air Patrol's WWII service came at the high cost of 64 fatalities and 150 aircraft lost. Indeed, the courage and sacrifice of the estimated 200,000 civilians in the Civil Air Patrol exemplifies the spirit and dedication of an entire generation who were willing to risk their lives for America and the cause of freedom.

In recognition of this remarkable volunteer service and commendable record, H.R. 719 will award a single gold medal collectively in honor of the WWII members of the Civil Air Patrol.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the valuable wartime service rendered by the civilian volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol by supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during last night's rollcall votes on H.R. 394, H.R. 347, and H.R. 368. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of each of those bills.

MOGOTE CHURCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Mogote Church, Margie Garcia and the committee responsible for the church's restoration. They were presented the Stephen H. Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society this year for their efforts to repair the historic landmark.

The Mogote Church was erected in 1895 by a group of Presbyterian missionaries and local Hispanic residents. Despite the risk of excommunication by the Catholic Church, they still founded a new congregation in Colorado's San Luis Valley. It fell into disrepair, however, and ceased to provide services by 1965. After years of increasing dilapidation, the campaign to restore the church began in 1999. With over a decade of work put into the project, it was completed, and once again became a functioning church. Hundreds of descendants of the original parishioners traveled to the church to attend the reopening and celebrate a historical Colorado landmark.

It is my hope that the efforts taken by this church's community inspire others to take the same initiative in their own. The Mogote church will represent the actions of a proud community for years to come and as such, Mr. Speaker, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes those who took charge in restoring a Colorado landmark.

HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE OF PAT KELLY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maura Patricia Kelly on her retirement as a congressional aide after an astounding 53 and 1/2 years of decorated service.

Patricia Kelly was born on June 5, 1934 in Brooklyn, New York. She is the daughter of Edward Kelly, a New York City Court Justice, and Edna F. Kelly, a former Member of the United States House of Representatives. "Pat" as she is affectionately known, describes her childhood as an exciting and loving time. As she made her way from the Marymount High School in New York City to Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, Pat learned the importance of receiving a quality education. She graduated with honors in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History.

Pat's family has a long history of public service that started with her grandfather, William E. Kelly, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to be Postmaster of Brooklyn, New York. After college, Pat quickly joined the family business, getting her feet wet in politics by helping her mother, Edna, get elected to the congressional district that represented Brooklyn, New York. Pat began her congressional career as a research analyst for the House Committee on Un-American Activities and shortly thereafter, began her service as a legislative assistant to Members of Congress Edna F. Kelly, Martha W. Griffiths, and Matthew F. McHugh. Pat then assumed the role of legislative assistant to the House Rules Committee. In 1979, Pat took the position of Editor of the House Daily Digest, in the Office of the Clerk, where she was required to interact regularly with it's 21 standing committees and two select committees. Pat held this position until her retirement on March 1, 2011—becoming one of the longest serving employees ever to work for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Pat cites her mother Edna as the catalyst behind her decision to devote her life to public service. When asked about her mother, Pat often uses words like: hard working, passionate, honest, dedicated, principled and always congenial. Pat says that many members and staff in the House often referred to her mother as "Madam Protocol." Everyone who knows Pat knows that "the apple did not fall far from the tree." Pat and her mother not only loved the House but they loved helping people in and outside it.

In 1976, Pat was named Roll Call's "Congressional Staffer of the Year." That same year she was chosen as the President of the Congressional Staff Club. More recently, she was honored for her years of outstanding service to the House. Over her career, Pat was fortunate to work on many pieces of landmark legislation including the Equal Pay Act and the Equal Rights Amendment.

We wish Pat well in retirement and will always remember her efforts to make this institution run more efficiently in the service of the American people.

IN CELEBRATION OF BEATRICE COHEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Beatrice Isabel Cohen, the pride of New York State.

Born on February 24, 1911, in Bronx, New York, Bee grew up with a deep love and appreciation for her family, community and country. Forced to obtain employment as a teenager due to the loss of her father, she secured a job with a women's coat manufacturer at the age of 16 to help support her family, while also excelling as a champion amateur handball player. Five years later, she married her boss, Max Cohen, and continued to work by his side for more than 50 years. Bee and Max raised two sons, Joseph and Ronald.

Friends and family of Bee would tell you that she always looks at the good in people. Her uplifting attitude is contagious, and has spread to her family, friends and neighbors—many of whom, and their parents, were not even born when Bee moved into her current apartment on the West Side of Manhattan shortly after World War II.

In Bee's 100 years, she has lived through some of the most precariously challenging, exultant and remarkable eras. Yet, she has always kept up with the culture of the times. As a child, she listened to a crystal radio; today she views international programming on a plasma television with stereo sound. She has been a pillar of reliability to her entire family by showing love, warmth and guidance to her two sons, two grandsons and their wives, five great-grandchildren, and her many nieces and nephews.

For her devotion to her family and her country, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please rise and join me in honoring Beatrice Isabel Cohen on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

BRETT BRUNNER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brett Brunner of Dolores, Colorado, for his exceptional performance as a cadet of the United States Air Force Academy. Mr. Brunner recently was named the Cadet Wing Outstanding 3rd Class Cadet of Fall Semester 2010, which is awarded to the most impressive cadet for each class. Academics, athletics and military duties are all considered before the recipient is selected from a list of about 1,200 cadets.

Mr. Brunner excelled in every category. He owns a 3.8 GPA as a civil engineering major at the Academy. In addition, he is on the skydiving team working towards a jump master position so that he can teach others how to skydive. Physically, he is also a top performer, missing out on a perfect score by mere points. As a high school baseball and wrestling star he showed the capacity for leadership at a young age. His ability to lead has clearly translated to his undergraduate pursuits as Mr. Brunner inspires those around him to achieve their best by striving towards perfection himself.

Mr. Speaker, I join the U.S. Air Force Academy in recognizing Brett Brunner for his outstanding achievements and quiet leadership at one of the country's top institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 148, 149, and 150, I missed the vote due to transportation delays. Flights out of Corpus Christi were delayed, causing me to miss my connect in Houston.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NEVER FORGET OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have just reintroduced legislation intended to honor the service and sacrifice of many of the members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act" (H.R. 540).

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam war but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service." No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall, Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for our newest veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with those of other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom!

RAY WRIGHT AND DOUG SHRIVER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ray Wright and Doug Shriver of Alamosa, Colorado, for their agricultural, educational and commercial efforts to conserve and protect the state of Colorado. Both men recently passed away due to a tragic accident, a loss for both my state and this country.

Doug Shriver served on a number of boards and committees while he simultaneously volunteered for other commissions. Among other pursuits, he was the vice chair of the Rio Grande Roundtable, the director and president of the Rio Grande Water Users Association as well as director of the Lariat Ditch Company. He also served as a board member for the Colorado Ground Water Commission.

Ray Wright was also integral in conservation in Colorado and an avid supporter of the State's agri-business. Mr. Wright was a longtime farmer and leader in the effort to protect water rights. One of his most important contributions was developing a locally controlled mechanism designed to protect water rights. It's success translated to much larger districts as well, and ensures Colorado's future water rights.

In memory of both men, their colleagues created The Shriver/Wright Agricultural Endowment, which supports the agri-business program at Adams State College in Alamosa. The endowment provides scholarships and other forms of support for the school. Water rights will continue to be a vital issue in the Southwest part of the country and the work done by Mr. Wright, Mr. Shriver and the young people who follow them will be of great importance.

Given the invaluable contributions Doug Shriver and Ray Wright made to the state of Colorado, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes them for their lifetime of service.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CONVERT THE FOURTH TEMPORARY JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII TO PERMANENT JUDGESHIP STATUS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a bill that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101–650. Although the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN BAHA'I COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international religious freedom and to voice my concern for the seven Baha'i leaders, known as the Yaran, who were unjustly convicted by the Iranian regime and sentenced to 10 years in prison for their religious beliefs.

As documented by years of reported abuse and discrimination by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, and other international organizations, government respect for religious freedom and human rights in Iran is steadily declining. According to the State Department's 2010 International Religious Freedom report, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution over 200 Baha'is have been killed, many have been imprisoned, and thousands more have faced regular discrimination and public admonishment by the Iranian government.

Government rhetoric and actions create an oppressive environment for religious minorities in Iran, particularly the Baha'i, and instances such as the incarceration of the Yaran provide ample evidence of this. As a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, my colleagues and I have worked to bring attention to these injustices and hold human rights violators accountable. The Iranian Baha'i are deeply devoted to peace and unity and their bravery in the face of injustice encourages others to work for universal human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. government and the international community must continue to speak out against these oppressive acts. I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in denouncing the imprisonment of the Yaran and partner with the international community to insist Iran release these individuals, strengthen the basic rights of their citizens, and provide an environment in which individuals can express their religion without fear of persecution or intimidation.

LUIS NAZARIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Luis Nazario of Pueblo, Colorado, for pioneering the use of technology in education. Mr. Nazario became a leader among Colorado's community colleges and online education programs before use of the internet for teaching purposes was popular.

As an English teacher, Mr. Nazario has been commended not only by his school, Pueblo Community College, but also by the Colorado Community College System at large. Students have broader access to educational tools both in the classroom and online in large part because of his efforts. Colorado stresses the importance of education for all of its citizens and Mr. Nazario is an example of innovation in that pursuit.

Mr. Nazario graduated from Inter American University in Puerto Rico with a degree in English Literature. He emigrated to the United States to receive his master's degree as a teacher of English to other languages from New York University. He then moved to Colorado to begin teaching in the state's community college system. Mr. Nazario continues to teach English and foster learning among students who speak English as a second language in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Luis Nazario for his exceptional commitment to the emerging presence of technology in education. I thank him for dedicating himself to education and reaching out to Colorado's youth.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MAYOR GERALDINE TOUSANT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant. Geraldine has served the city of Gary for many years and for her efforts, she was honored at an event celebrating her 50 years of service to the city on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the Gary City Hall. Her complete dedication and endless enthusiasm put forth toward her community have allowed her the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless people.

Geraldine was born in Ensley, Alabama, and moved to the city of Gary when she was three years old. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School in 1957, and soon after married the late Marshall Tousant. The couple was happily married for nearly 51 years. Geraldine has three children and is the proud grandmother of five. Amidst her time in office, Geraldine courageously battled breast cancer, and I am happy to report that she is a twenty-year cancer survivor.

Geraldine began her service to the city of Gary in 1960 at the age of twenty-one. She started out as a clerk-typist in the city's Department of Redevelopment. Working her way through the Department's ranks, Geraldine eventually became Director of the Department of Redevelopment. On February 14, 2003, Geraldine was recognized by former Mayor Scott King for her commitment to the people of Gary as he appointed her Deputy Mayor of the city of Gary.

Impressively, Geraldine has worked for seven mayors during her 50 years of service to the city: George Chacharis, my father John Visclosky, A. Martin Katz, Richard G. Hatcher, Thomas Barnes, Scott King, and current Mayor Rudy Clay. Throughout her many years of service, Geraldine has accomplished many impressive tasks, including handling the management and demolition of structures attained in other city agencies and computerizing the city's utility billings and payments.

Today, Geraldine is 71 years young and has no plans to retire anytime soon. Geraldine has said, ''I hope my 50 years with the city of Gary have been a role model for other employees.'' Without a doubt, she has been just that.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant has always given her time and efforts selflessly and has truly been an inspiration to so many people throughout the years. We have all been enriched because of her lifetime commitment serving others, particularly those most in need. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Geraldine on her 50 years of service to the city of Gary.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANNA MARIA PIER

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Anna Maria Pier in Florida's 13th Congressional District.

In 1911, Will Bean, the son of the first Anna Maria Island homesteader, George Emerson, had a 776 foot pier constructed by the Anna Maria Beach Development Company at the foot of Pine Avenue.

The pier has been in continuous use since then by hundreds of thousands of residents, fishermen, boaters and tourists. In fact, the pier has been named the number one tourist attraction in Manatee County by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In 1928, the pier was acquired by the City of Anna Maria, which provides for its maintenance.

In 2008, the Anna Maria City Commission designated the pier as an historic structure and added the pier to the Florida Master Site File.

This year, the Mayor of the City of Anna Maria proclaimed May 14, 2011, as the Centennial Celebration Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anna Maria City Pier's construction.

I join the City of Anna Maria in the centennial celebration of this important landmark.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed the rollcall vote on amendment 548 to "H.R. 1—Fiscal Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2011." Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Additionally, I inadvertently cast a "no" vote during the rollcall vote on amendment 94 to "H.R. 1—Fiscal Year Continuing Appropriations Act for FY2011." I would like to change my vote on the amendment to "yea."

NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT (NASPER)

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about legislation I have introduced that will reinforce our Nation's commitment to combating prescription drug abuse by reauthorizing the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act, NASPER, for three additional years.

On August 11, 2005, NASPER was signed into law to assist States in combating prescription drug abuse of controlled substances, through prescription drug monitoring programs, PDMPs. NASPER is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, and provides grants to States to establish and improve prescription drug monitoring programs.

Just last week, the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP, Gil Kerlikowske, embarked on a three-day visit to Kentucky where he saw firsthand the significant problems with prescription pill abuse, an issue many in my district struggle with. It's estimated that 82 Kentuckians die each month as a result of overdoses. Nationwide there were more than 27,000 deaths from prescription drug overdoses in 2007, a number that has risen five-fold since 1990. These statistics are unacceptable and a testament that more must be done.

While Kentucky has made great strides through its PDMP and collaboration between the public and private sector, illicit drugs continue to flow across our borders from States without PDMPs, such as Florida. Last Wednesday, law enforcement officials from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, conducted a massive raid in South Florida arresting 20, including five doctors, after a yearlong investigation involving trafficking of prescription pills. What's more concerning is the recent decision by the Governor of Florida to repeal funding for the creation of a PDMP approved by the State legislature in 2009.

By reauthorizing the NASPER program we will ensure States have the support they need to address prescription drug abuse by making NASPER grants available for planning purposes as well as for "establishing, improving, and maintaining" their programs. Through these grants, States will be given resources to help prevent patients from doctor shopping and abusing prescription drugs. This also will help to ensure that appropriate law enforcement, regulatory and State professional licensing authorities have access to prescription history information for the purposes of investigating drug diversion and errant prescriber/pharmacist prescribing and dispensing practices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital piece of legislation and to push for swift passage in the House.

INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER 9TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC will be celebrating its 9th anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Halls of Saint George, in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both youth and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala, which throughout the years has demonstrated the immense generosity of its attendees and organizers, will go to support the Carmelite Home for Girls. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, the American Red Cross, and tsunami relief, as well as to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHRC for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

HONORING TERRELL LIONS CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service that the Terrell Lions Club provides the communities in Kaufman County, Texas.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 in Chicago to aid the blind and visually impaired. The Terrell Lions Club was founded on February 28, 1921 and was one of the first chartered in Texas.

Since that time, the Terrell Lions Club created the Lions Club Park in 1948 on sixteen acres of land for the National Guard Armory, as well as two community tennis courts.

The Terrell Lions work to eradicate blindness by providing free vision screenings, eye examinations and glasses for the needy, as well as promoting the Lions Eye Bank.

Lions contribute time, talent and resources to the Texas Lions Club Camp in Kerrville, which provides free residential camping experiences for children with physical disabilities, Type 1 diabetes and cancer.

This organization provides an invaluable service to those in the community who truly need assistance. Over the years, thousands of individuals and families have been blessed by the men and women of the Terrell Lions Club.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize the Terrell Lions Club for their 90 years of service to Kaufman County. To all the men and women who give of their time and efforts so generously, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude.

HONORING ITASCA FIRE CHIEF JAMES D. MACARTHUR

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of James D. MacArthur on the occasion of his retirement. On March 31st of this year, Mr. MacArthur will conclude his loyal service as Fire Chief of the Itasca Fire Protection District.

Chief MacArthur has served the community for a total of 38 years, including 8 years as Fire Chief of the Itasca Fire Protection District No. 1 and 15 years as Fire Chief of the Elk Grove Village Fire Department.

Throughout his career, his extraordinary leadership has earned him great respect among colleagues and members of the community. He has held many noteworthy positions, including President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association. Along with other members of the Illinois fire service task force, Chief MacArthur assisted in the Louisiana response and relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Time and time again, Chief MacArthur has exhibited the characteristics this line of duty necessitates: enormous sacrifice and courage.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

CENTRAL RANKIN RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Rankin County, Mississippi advocates with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life will host their annual "Paint the Towns Purple" walk on April 1, 2011 at Shiloh Park in Brandon.

Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight back against cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2010, 14,330 individuals were diagnosed with cancer in my home State of Mississippi, and regrettably, this deadly disease claimed the lives of 6,060 Mississippians last year.

Today, I rise to recognize the Central Rankin Relay for Life in their efforts to rid America of this tragic illness. May their efforts of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays be an overwhelming success.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF BAHA'IS IN IRAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the treatment of Baha'is in Iran. Recent reports suggest that the seven Baha'i leaders convicted last August have been transferred to more dangerous areas of the prison in which they are being held. Additionally, a series of arrests of Baha'i adherents began in Isfahan on February 13th. The fate of those individuals is currently unknown, but these arrests suggest that the Iranian government is continuing its persecution of members of the Baha'i faith.

Freedom of religion is a basic human right. The United States has always been committed to defending religious freedom around the globe. The world must be vocal in its condemnation of the mistreatment of the Baha'i people at the hands of a brutal government.

I urge the Iranian government to release all those whom it has imprisoned solely because of their religious beliefs, and to treat all of its religious minorities with tolerance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency I unfortunately missed a series of votes on February 17, 2011, which included roll call votes number 67 through 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote number 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "no" or "nay" on rollcall vote number 71.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSENBERG FOUNDATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rosenberg Foundation on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

For three quarters of a century, the Rosenberg Foundation has committed itself to achieving social and economic justice for the people of California.

The Rosenberg Foundation was established in 1935 by a group of relatives and business associates who were designated as trustees in the will of Max L. Rosenberg, a San Francisco businessman and philanthropist.

Throughout its history, the Foundation has set forth on a mission of expanding opportunity to all Californians. It has distributed more than 2,800 grants totaling nearly $80 million to regional, statewide and national organizations advocating for social, economic and civic justice in the state.

These grants have focused on California's most vulnerable communities, from those in rural areas to women to minorities to children. Today, the Foundation is spearheading innovative solutions for tackling issues such as immigrant rights, justice for farm workers, sentencing reform and economic disparity.

For these efforts, the Rosenberg Foundation has been recognized with many prestigious awards. In 1997, it won the Outstanding Foundation Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2003, it was one of three foundations to receive the Paul Ylvisaker Award for Public Policy Engagement by the Council on Foundations.

As our nation emerges from this historic recession and inequality continues to rise, groups like the Rosenberg Foundation will play a critical role in helping all Californians realize their share of the American Dream. The Foundation understands that people aren't looking for a handout, but a hand up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rosenberg Foundation and its dedicated staff for their extraordinary contributions to the people of California during the last 75 years. I have no doubt we will be celebrating many more anniversaries in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RETIRED SENIOR AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and necessity of senior care programs such as the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP). Philadelphia's RSVP is based in the Jewish Community Center Klein Branch and currently enlists about 600 volunteers. The program offers much-needed community services as well as an opportunity for seniors to volunteer their time. RSVP provides important volunteer services such as tutoring, food for Meals on Wheels and assistance with tax preparation. The following article from the Philadelphia Daily News illustrates the importance of programs like RSVP and the need for our continued support of their worthy accomplishments.

[From the Philadelphia Daily News, Feb. 7, 2011]

SENIORS, LIFE'S CALLING YOU. SEND YOUR RSVP

(By Stu Bykofsky)

DON'T TRUST anyone under 30.

Maybe reversing the infamous (and bigoted) catchphrase from the '60s is overdoing it.

But while many cultures, equating experience with knowledge, revere elders, here in the U.S. of A. we lionize "youth" (even while watching the reading and math scores of our "youth" fall, like tokens into a fare box).

Baby Boomers who cranked up the social-revolution line are now in the Social Security line.

In addition to the vast financial wealth that the Boomers piled up, they (and their elders) also collected a warehouse of wisdom, which some of them like to share.

Motivated older adults—55 and up—form the backbone of RSVP—the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, a 40-year-old national agency which in Philly operates from the Klein JCC, in the Far Northeast.

Klein has about 600 RSVP volunteers. Some are way above 55, like Harold and Libby Yaffe, the 93-year-old married couple who come in to serve lunches.

"The only way we can do what we do is through volunteers," says Marcia Gross, RSVP project director, as she shows me around the lowslung Klein JCC at 10100 Jamison Ave. Gross is a woman of a certain age with no hard edges, a smiling round face framed by light-brown hair.

There are lots of underutilized or bored retirees, and a lot of programs that need help but can't afford to hire people, Gross says. You don't have to be Einstein to connect two dots.

When some people hear "volunteer," for free, they hit the exits. Better people see service to others as a benefit to society—and to themselves.

"I have to have something to do in the morning and I love every minute of it," says widowed Center City grandmother Laurette Feltoon, who admits to "65-plus."

For the last 13 years, she's been taking her master's in psychology (she had a private practice in marital and premarital counseling) and volunteering, every day, as a mediator in Municipal Court's Dispute Resolution Program.

The city and the warring parties get the benefit of her decades of experience, while Feltoon has a place to go and a mission to accomplish.

Dots connected. Win-win. Volunteers go only to nonprofit agencies, says Gross, ranging from the American Red Cross (bloodmobile aides) to WHYY–TV (special events, begathons).

Sure, there are expected needs for people who can do data entry and fill clerical roles, make weekly visits to the homebound, tutor students or prepare food for Meals on Wheels.

But there are less-conventional volunteer options, such as tax preparation, historical research, ushering at local theaters, guiding tours at Independence National Historical Park or the Philadelphia Zoo, and providing immigration assistance. For those better with their hands than their mouths, RSVP

uses people to drive vans, walk dogs at the PSPCA, stock food pantries, knit, garden and provide minor home repairs.

If you don't know whether you have a useful skill, Gross says, ''Come in and we may suggest something you hadn't thought of.'' Anyone with computer literacy is needed, and RSVP is looking for people to teach financial literacy.

Retiring after 42 years working on the railroad, Norm Feldman wanted a new challenge.

The Tacony resident, a volunteer at the Clean Air Council for 27 years, has become an expert in indoor air pollution and radon. The octogenarian volunteers Wednesdays, and takes emergency calls at home, goes out to talk to schools and community groups on other days.

He took some EPA training, but mostly learned on the job, and is so much an expert that he gets calls from county health departments. ''Even professional people have problems and they can't get answers from the city, state or federal government,'' Feldman says, because most law deals with outside air. He's the man on the inside.

After Sunny, his beloved wife of 51 years, died four years ago, Ike Silverberg was depressed, even suicidal. He tried some shrinks, but it didn't help. The 85-year-old still misses Sunny like hell, but RSVP gave him a new life.

Mondays and Fridays, mornings and afternoons, he's at the Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, pushing a beverage cart, making sure the vets are hydrated. He's happy doing it because the vets are appreciative.

His Tuesdays and Wednesdays are very different. He drives from his Rhawnhurst home to Mayfair Elementary, where he sits with eight first-graders at a round table. Everyone reads in turn and Ike challenges them on spelling. The great-grandfather of seven loves kids, so this is a treat for him.

Wednesdays the chatty former construction worker, salesman and bagel-baker reads with third-graders at the JCC. All the volunteering keeps him out of ''that house,'' as he refers to his formerly happy, now lonely home.

Getting out into the world is a benefit to volunteers, says Gross. According to a poll, she says, the No. 1 reason people give for not volunteering is: ''No one asks them.''

RSVP is asking.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present on February 28, 2011, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 394, H.R. 347, and H.R. 368.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SUMGAIT MASSACRES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 23rd anniversary of the vicious attacks against Armenians in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

Dozens of Armenians were killed. Hundreds were injured. Women, including young girls, were raped.

Apartments were robbed, cars were burned, and local businesses were destroyed.

According to testimony reviewed by the Supreme Court of the USSR: "Tenants were dragged from their apartments. If they tried to run and escape, the mob attacked them. The mob used metal rods, knives and hatchets, after which bodies were thrown into the fire."

But shockingly most of the Azeris who committed these horrific acts and their accomplices in government were not brought to justice.

The Sumgait Massacres are part of a long and disgraceful history of violence against the Armenian people.

It is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. This anniversary should serve as a reminder that we can stay silent no more.

Let's take this moment to remember all those who lost their lives at Sumgait and pledge to prevent ethnic cleansing from occurring anywhere in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. GABOR PAPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Gabor Papp, a man who was devoted to preserving and celebrating Hungarian culture and language.

In 1915, Mr. Papp was born in Maramarossziget, Hungary. He earned his law degree at the University of Debrecen before moving to Cleveland after World War II. In 1951, Mr. Papp began working as a draftsman at Lucas Machine Tool Co. and Acme-Cleveland Corp.

In 1958, Mr. Papp founded the Hungarian School at St. Emeric Catholic Church, serving as its principal and director for 27 years. The Hungarian school teaches both children and adults about Hungarian language and culture. He also served as an officer at the United Hungarian Fund, where he spearheaded philanthropic efforts for scholarships, disaster recovery, and many other programs. Mr. Papp was also a volunteer at the Senior Ethnic Find of Cleveland. As a result of his dedication to the community he was honored by numerous government officials throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Gabor Papp, a true leader. Mr. Papp's devotion to the Hungarian community of Cleveland was admirable and irreplaceable. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Katalin; his daughters, Eva, Klara, Gabrielle, and Susan; and his many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Shingles Prevention Act.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are housebound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utilization rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented. The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RUTH GRUBER, AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER AND HUMANITARIAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ruth Gruber, an extraordinary woman whose life's work has made her an icon and a role model. Over the course of her long and active life, she has been a groundbreaking journalist and photographer, a brilliant scholar, an exceptional writer and a compassionate government official. Most of all, she is a humanitarian whose leadership and intellect helped save thousands of lives.

Ms. Gruber received the American Spirit Award from The Common Good (TCG) on February 3, 2011. In addition, TCG will be screening Ahead of Time, a 2009 documentary about Ms. Gruber's life. Under the leadership of the dynamic Patricia Duff, TCG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that strives to inspire broad participation in our democracy through the free exchange of ideas and civil dialogue.

Born in Brooklyn in 1911, Ruth Gruber studied at the University of Cologne in Germany where, at the age of twenty, she received her Ph.D. Her dissertation on Virginia Woolf made her the youngest Ph.D. in the world, earning her international headlines and a movie star's welcome when she returned to the United States.

Ms. Gruber returned to the United States where she became a journalist. In 1935, she won a fellowship to write a study of women under fascism, communism, and democracy. The first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic, she published her experiences in the book, I Went to the Soviet Arctic. In 1941, after reading her book, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes sent Ms. Gruber as his field representative to make a social and economic study of Alaska. Her reports were forwarded to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and played a major role in shaping American policies in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, which were then on the frontlines of World War II. Among other things, her reports documented the strong work ethic of African-American soldiers.

When Ms. Gruber returned to Washington, Ickes appointed her his special assistant, a position she held for five years. When President Roosevelt decided to accept a thousand European immigrants in the midst of World War II and the Holocaust, Secretary Harold Ickes asked her to escort the refugees to the United States. Largely but not entirely Jewish, the 984 refugees who were chosen to make the journey came from all over Europe. The refugees were permitted into the country with the idea that they would return home following the war's end. Following their arrival in New York harbor on August 3, 1944, they were kept segregated on an old army base in Oswego, New York. Ms. Gruber served as their liaison with the outside world. When the end of the war came, Ms. Gruber lobbied the President and Congress, with the help of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergy and other advocates, and convinced them to allow the refugees to stay in America.

Following the war, Ms. Gruber became a foreign correspondent for the Herald Tribune. In 1947, the New York Post asked her to cover the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, which was formed to consider what to do with the Jewish Holocaust survivors who could not return home. She traveled to the displaced persons camps, covered the Nuremberg trials, and met with Zionist leaders in the Middle East. In 1947, while covering the Middle East for the Herald Tribune, she learned of the British refusal to allow the Exodus, a former cruise ship crammed with 4,500 refugees, to land in Haifa. The British loaded the survivors onto several boats and sent them first to Marseilles and then to Germany. Ms. Gruber was permitted to travel with the refugees from Marseilles to Germany as the pool reporter. Her dispatches, later collected in the book, Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation, introduced the world to desperation and determination of the survivors. Her iconic photograph of refugees on board the ship under a flag bearing the British Union Jack overlaid with a Nazi swastika became Life Magazine's photo of the week and was reproduced around the world.

Ms. Gruber continued to work as a foreign correspondent until 1966, and has continued to write books up to the present day. In 1985, Ms. Gruber witnessed another exodus—she traveled to isolated Jewish villages to aid in the rescue of the Ethiopian Jews. She chronicled her experiences in Rescue: The Exodus of the Ethiopian Jews. In 1998, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from her peers in the American Society of Journalists and Authors as ''a pioneering journalist and author whose books chronicle the most important events of the twentieth century.'' When asked the secret of her success, she said: ''Have dreams, have visions and let no obstacle stop you.''

Ms. Gruber was married twice, first to Philip H. Michaels and, after his death, to Henry Rosner. In 1952, at age forty-one, she gave birth to her first child, Celia; her son, David, was born in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable career and achievements of Ruth Gruber, an indefatigable journalist, activist and humanitarian.

SAMIL MOVEMENT ANNIVERSARY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 92nd anniversary of the March 1st Movement also known as the Samil Movement. Today commemorates the start of Korea's independence movement from Japanese colonization and on March 1, 1919, the people of Korea united to fight for their freedom. For 35 years, the people of Korea were denied their identity as they were violently discriminated against by the Japanese government and were forced to repress its culture on their own land.

March 1 is a day of great proclamation as it was the first step to Korea gaining its independence and liberty. Although the Korean Peninsula remains divided, today we recognize the Koreans who fought courageously to defend their land, people and heritage.

Today, the Republic of Korea is one of America's closest economic and military allies in Northeast Asia. South Korea is our 7th largest trading partner and our close relations are signified by our ongoing military cooperation in the region. South Korea remains a dynamic technological inspiration and a vital partner of the international community. As United States and South Korea continue our partnership and friendship, we must also continue to strive for the independence of the people of North Korea and look at ways to address the ongoing security threats from North Korea.

As the Congresswoman of the 47th District of California, I represent one of the most vibrant Korean-American communities in the United States. And I would like to celebrate with them and the people of Korea on this honorable day of Korea's independence.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church of Cleveland, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Known as ''the Church with the Upward Look and the Forward Step,'' this church has served the surrounding community since 1961.

The congregation of Holy Trinity Baptist Church had humble beginnings; for the first four years of its existence it was housed at the Old Crown Theater on Cleveland's east side. In 1965, it moved to its current location on East 131st Street. Throughout its history, Holy Trinity has provided numerous services to its members and the surrounding community. The congregation has an active connection with Haiti, where they built a church and have fostered children. Closer to home, they have hosted nutritional, tutoring, and Head Start programs for their community. Holy Trinity Baptist Church was the first church in Cleveland to offer certified classes in Bible Study.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognition and celebration of Holy Trinity Baptist Church's 50th anniversary. Holy Trinity Baptist Church has been a vibrant part of the Cleveland community for fifty years, and through its service and outreach programs, has touched many lives. I send my congratulations to Reverend Chelton C. Flanagan and Reverend Dr. Henry J. Payden, Sr., along with the 700 members of the church on this joyous occasion.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, just yesterday I stood with parents of young children in Davie Florida who attend early education classes at Crayons Child Care Center.

We spoke about how vital early education is in the development of children.

How early education increases high school graduation rates, and how 50 years of solid research has shown that early education is shown to reduce crime and delinquency.

We spoke about how early education in minority and lower income communities helps to narrow the achievement gap and lifts future generations out of poverty.

And how, for every dollar spent in early education, our communities yield up to a $7 return on our investment.

Unfortunately, though, we weren't there to highlight the success of early education, we were there to highlight something that borders on insanity.

Insanity because just over a week ago, this body made the largest cut to education in our Nation's history.

Now, we all understand that our Nation needs to cut spending.

But the society that balances its budget on the backs of its children should not be surprised when the spine of its future is broken.

Davie is a long way from where we stand here today in Washington.

And sometimes it is easy for Members to overlook, or to not understand how what happens here in the Capitol means out in the real world.

That is why I stand here today.

I stand here because the parents I met with cannot stand here and tell you, Mr. Chair, what these cuts will mean to their children.

Should the cuts to early education funding that were passed in H.R. 1 stand, some of the children at Crayons Child Care will no longer be able to attend early education.

And if students are forced to leave their early education classes there will be teachers at Crayons Child Care that will lose their job.

Laying off teachers and dimming the future of America's children is no way to balance the budget.

These children are 2, 3, 4 years old.

They didn't run up the debt and deficit of our country, but the response from Republicans in the House of Representatives was that they would pay for it.

Republicans preserved tax credits for oil, gas, and chemical companies; they cut Head Start funding.

They preserved tax credits for the coal industry, but they cut Early Education funding.

The parents I met with yesterday in Davie are just a handful of the 9,148 children in Florida that will lose their early education classes if these cuts are to stand.

That just doesn't make sense.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAVERNE SING, THE FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Laverne Sing, the State of Mississippi's first African-American female firefighter. Captain Sing not only broke down years of historical barriers, but also provided safety and security for the citizens of the City of Greenville, Mississippi, for many selfless years.

Known as a Delta Pioneer, Captain Sing was born January 16, 1944, in Washington County, Mississippi, to a family of five sisters and four brothers. She worked numerous occupations leading up to her heroic role as a firefighter including telecommunications operator, medical service driver and dispatcher, and as Greenville's first female security officer for the Greenville Public School District.

Captain Sing reported for duty in June 1979 to her community as the first African-American female firefighter in Greenville without allowing prejudice to get in her way. Her selfless acts in fire prevention and safety have resulted in the preservation of countless lives and incalculable amounts of property. Captain Sing's goals as a firefighter were to save lives, save property, and protect the environment. She met these objectives every day not only in the firehouse and on the scene but in her daily life. Her hard work and expert knowledge led to her rapid promotion from a recruit to Captain of the Greenville Firehouse. Putting herself in harm's way to save precious lives, Captain Sing courageously ran into burning buildings and structures when others were running out. Once inside a burning building, Captain Sing used the right hand search pattern technique and immediately began scouring for and removing trapped occupants by following closely along the room's walls and performing the search until everyone in the structure was safely out.

Captain Sing has always displayed a commitment to excellence even in the face of unthinkable danger. Her acts of gallantry, perseverance and pride exemplify a character that has allowed her to grow and prosper. As Captain for the Greenville Fire Department, she was a leader in the firehouse and at times performed dispatch services for both the fire and police department. She volunteered her time as a public relations officer for the fire department where she presented programs in community schools, daycare centers and nursing homes that educated numerous persons both on escaping a fire and what actions to take when faced with safety hazards.

In 1990 and 1991, Captain Sing served the community as a volunteer for the Salvation Army and the Mississippi Firefighters Memorial Burn Center. A decorated firefighter, Captain Sing has received many honors including the Department's Outstanding Performance Award and the Flame Award from the Greenville Chamber of Commerce. As a firefighter, Captain Sing worked through many grueling academic courses including her national certification in level Fire Fighter One, numerous safety programs and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, CPR, training through the American Red Cross.

Captain Sing's exceptional performance of her duties and her barrier-breaking accomplishments has been recognized at events during Black History Month, by churches, associations and community groups. In 1992, upon the passing of the brother committed to her care for 18 years, Captain Sing, felt the call to be close to her family and resigned after over a decade of gallant service to the Greenville Fire Department.

Captain Sing is a proud member of Serene Lodge 20th Century Temple Daughters of Elks and a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Grace Outreach Church pastored by Rev. Ruben Lewis. She is the proud mother of three children, Remelda, Demetria and Lawrence Sing. Currently, she devotes her time to children in the Greenville Public School System.

Captain Sing is recognized by the Black Women in Fire Service as the State of Mississippi's first African-American firefighter and as a leader of the African-American women firefighters in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Captain Laverne Sing, the first female African-American Firefighter in the State of Mississippi for your dedicated service in fire safety and prevention.

TRUE COST OF H.R. 1

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, by recklessly slashing more than $60 billion from the budget, the majority is trying to assume the mantle of fiscal responsibility. They claim that $60 billion in cuts creates $60 billion in savings and deficit reduction. But this claim is simply untrue, for many of the underfunded or eliminated programs actually save the government far more money than they cost. These cuts are penny wise but pound foolish. By eliminating funding for these cost saving programs, the majority is not reducing spending; they are increasing it.

As New York Times columnist Paul Krugman said, the majority's cuts are designed to eat the future by cutting spending in a way that undermines the nation's health and long-term prospects. Nowhere is this failure in fiscal policy more apparent than when it comes to the physical health of the American people. H.R. 1 cuts $60 billion in Fiscal Year 2011 spending, but it increases the deficit dramatically as a result of unseen healthcare costs associated with the degradation of the food we eat, water we drink, and air we breathe. Moreover, H.R. 1 slashes the National Institute of Health's funding for research to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and cancer.

I believe that it is morally objectionable to leverage our physical health for perceived short-term fiscal and political health. But that is exactly what H.R. 1 does. It allows the majority to fulfill a political promise made during the last campaign. But in doing so, the majority is undermining the long-term health of our citizens and our country by:

Cutting funds for the Food and Drug Administration by $241 million below 2010 and $400 million below the Administration's 2011 budget request.

Cutting funds for the Food Safety and Inspection Service by $88 million below 2010 funding levels and $107 million below the Administration's 2011 budget request.

Cutting appropriations for the National Institutes of Health by $1.6 billion below FY 2010 and $2.5 billion below the President's budget.

Cutting funds for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent.

Cutting funds for the Environmental Protection Agency by $3 billion, a nearly 30 percent cut from spending in 2010 and the largest percentage cut in EPA's overall budget in 30 years.

Cutting appropriations for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by $458 million below FY 2010 and $634 million below the President's budget request.

These fiscal cuts have severe physical impacts on the American people and jeopardize the health and well-being of our children. H.R. 1 cuts funding for the Food and Drug Administration's ability to test and regulate medical drugs. It is counterintuitive to think that drugs that people take to cure illnesses may actually create more health problems than they solve. But that is an unfortunate experience that many Americans know all too well. For instance, thousands of Americans took the weight loss drug Fen-phen only to find out years later that it caused severe heart problems and had killed people who had taken the drug for only a short period. The sad truth is that Fen-phen is only one example of a drug that did not undergo the necessary FDA testing and scrutiny, and H.R. 1 will ensure that many more medical drugs receive similar inadequate levels of review. Cutting spending for testing and regulating drugs does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

I believe it is important for parents to be confident that the food they feed their children is making them healthier and not killing them. Unfortunately that is not the case. In the last year alone, we have had food recalls for spinach, peanuts, chicken, eggs, and dozens of other foods. It was not long ago that millions of Americans were combing through their pantries throwing away anything containing peanut butter. This feverish action was a result of a salmonella contamination that claimed the lives of 8 individuals and poisoned more than 500 Americans in 43 states, half of which were children. And it was only a few years ago that E. coli in spinach was responsible for 5 deaths and more than 200 hospitalizations.

The American people deserve better. They deserve the peace of mind of knowing the food they eat and feed their children is safe. But by slashing millions of dollars for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, H.R. 1 denies the American people that peace of mind. In 2010 alone, an estimated 76 million people got sick with foodborne illness and 5,000 individuals died because of the food they ate, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cutting spending that would prevent many of these deaths and illnesses is not fiscally or physically responsible. It is eating our future.

The irony of H.R. 1 is that not only does it make the American people sicker, but it dramatically cuts funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop cures for diseases, instances of which will increase as a result of H.R. 1's attack on safe food, water, and air. The NIH conducts cutting edge research to cure the diseases that plague millions of Americans, from infants to seniors. Nearly every American has watched a friend or loved one fight Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or cancer or has fought one of these life-threatening battles first-hand. For years, Congress has provided NIH the necessary tools to help people win these battles. But H.R. 1 stops NIH in its tracks by cutting funding for research that would save American lives. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

Although more than 70 percent of the earth is covered in water, only about 1 percent of all the water on the planet is safe to drink. H.R. 1 would reduce that 1 percent by allowing major corporations and developers to pump toxins into our water and by failing to invest in the necessary infrastructure to maintain, treat, and deliver safe drinking water. H.R. 1 reduces the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent, a program that provides low and no-interest loans to states to fund drinking water infrastructure improvement projects. Already too many Americans are suffering from lead poisoning and chronic diarrhea as a result of antiquated infrastructure. We cannot afford to exacerbate the rate of these serious health threats by cutting funding to maintain and repair our water infrastructure. Doing so, does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

H.R. 1 eliminates several million dollars of funding for EPA to implement revised standards for the amount of mercury, lead, and other toxic air pollutants that cement plants across the country can emit into the air we breathe. These revised standards will safeguard the American people from breathing air that will harm their brains, hearts, lungs, and livers. But H.R. 1 strips EPA of any funding to implement this life-saving standard.

Mercury and lead target the developing brains of children and can cause devastating brain damage and death. Millions of American children already suffer from debilitating asthma and brain damage as a result of the dirty air they breathe. H.R. 1 does not try to clean the air; it makes the air even dirtier and exposes more children to air that will impact their health for the rest of their life or in some cases kill them.

According to EPA, these standards will save more than 2,500 lives a year and prevent 50,000 new cases of asthma and respiratory symptoms. But H.R. 1 cuts these funds. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

H.R. 1 will also increase the number of individuals in hospitals and doctors' offices as a result of illnesses related to polluted air, dirty water, and bacteria-filled food. And the kicker is that H.R. 1 will make these medical trips more expensive for these individuals and for the government. By eliminating funding for critical components of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans will not have access to affordable insurance to cover their respiratory medications to remedy the polluted air they breathe. Parents will have to pay out of pocket—if they can pay at all—for the treatment their children receive thanks to the E. coli in the hamburger they had for dinner. And seniors will no longer have access to free preventative care visits, which are imperative to detect possible ailments caused by inhaling harmful toxins with every breath.

Worse than any of these medical costs is the heartache associated with the tens of thousands of deaths that will occur as a result of the dirtier air, water, and food every American will be consuming thanks to H.R. 1. It is clear that the American people will not be able to afford these costs, so this financial burden will continue to increase our deficit. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy. It is eating our future.

The Republican majority is touting H.R. 1 as a fiscally responsible budget. Sure it looks nice on paper when you take the $60 billion dollars in cuts as $60 billions in savings. But by looking a bit deeper into the programs being cut, one can recognize that many of these cuts will end up costing the federal government billions of dollars. Not to mention that H.R. 1 will reduce the physical health and wellness of millions of Americans.

I urge the majority to go back to the drawing board and create a truly cost-saving budget that looks at cost holistically. I encourage them to create a budget that not only restores the fiscal health of this nation but the physical health as well. And I strongly recommend that we develop a budget that wins the future rather than eats it.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. BILL KELLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Bill Kelley, the former director of the Cleveland Aquarium who was known for his ingenuity and creativity.

Bill Kelley was born in 1917 in Elyria, Ohio. From a very early age, he had a deep interest in science, and enjoyed building telescopes and crystal radios. In 1954, after serving as an interpreter for the Army in World War II, he worked to convert a small bathhouse in Gordon Park into Cleveland's first aquarium.

Mr. Kelley was well-known for his innovation. He invented special filters and developed an additive that could be added to tap water to make it habitable for salt-water fish. He travelled to Chicago and the Amazon to secure unique specimens for Cleveland's collection. He went on to head aquariums in Niagara Falls and Mystic, Connecticut.

A true renaissance man, Mr. Kelley's expertise was far from limited to sea life. He was also a fellow of Great Britain's Gemological Society and was known for developing a method to strengthen fragile opals and for founding Opals, Inc. He also served as associate director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise with me today in honor and remembrance of a passionate and unwavering individual. Mr. Kelley will be remembered for his many contributions to the sciences and for his hard work and dedication. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Lois; his brother, Carl; and his sister, Jean.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN MEDICAID COVERAGE ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Native Hawaiian Medicaid Coverage Act of 2011. This legislation is a companion to S. 36, which was introduced earlier this year by Senator DANIEL K. INOUYE.

This legislation would allow for 100 percent coverage under the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percent, FMAP, formula for Native Hawaiians who are Medicaid eligible and access

care from Federally Qualified Health Centers or through the Native Hawaiian Health Care System.

Native Hawaiians, like American Indians and Alaska Natives, are an indigenous, native people. Currently, states receive a 100 percent FMAP reimbursement for health care services provided through Indian Health Services facilities. The bill I am introducing today would bring parity in the treatment of our country's Native peoples.

Congress has previously recognized the unique and historical relationship between the United States and the indigenous people of Hawaii. I ask for my colleagues continued support for the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo (thank you).

MILITARY HONORS FOR VETERANS' FUNERALS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill that I have just reintroduced, "Providing Military Honors for our Nation's Heroes Act" (H.R. 545), to reimburse expenses of volunteers who provide military funeral honors at veterans' funerals.

Because thousands of service members are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan while thousands of World War II and Korean War veterans die each day, there is simply not enough military to provide a proper seven-person honors detail for these funerals. Some families of veterans have had to "make do" with a CD playing "Taps." I am saddened by this outrageous situation and determined to provide proper military funeral honors for all families who request them.

This bill will allow reimbursement to volunteers from members of veterans' service organizations (VSOs) and other organizations approved by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Transportation costs and other expenses, such as cleaning uniforms, incurred in providing funeral honors details will be reimbursed. A second change will allow reimbursement to details that are requested by funeral homes and the VA, as well as the Department of Defense, the current practice.

Currently, members of VSOs and other volunteers can assist the military by providing a color guard, pallbearers, a bugler or firing party, but the law does not address ceremonies in which VSOs render honors without military representation. My bill will allow volunteers to be reimbursed even when no military person is a part of the honor guard. This change will increase the number of honors details available to families. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

REGARDING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to honor the memory of its founder Sargent Shriver.

The Peace Corps was created in 1961 to encourage Americans to travel abroad as ambassadors of good will and to engage other cultures in pursuit of world peace and mutual understanding. For 50 years, Peace Corps volunteers have helped to sow the seeds of friendship around the globe through their industry and enthusiastic service. Today, the Peace Corps endures as a living reminder of the spirit and dedication of Sargent Shriver, who was a tireless crusader for peace and justice, willing to lend a hand wherever one was needed, and building institutions like the Peace Corps that will carry on well into the future.