

reinstating them in their jobs. During the period of mobilization, many of you did more than was required by law by voluntarily offering continued benefits, pay differentials, and additional, creative forms of family support which made the period of separation so much easier to bear. I know of no other time in our nation's history when so many employers have voluntarily offered this level of support and benefits.

I recognize that these generous actions have not been without sacrifice. Each of you has earned the deepest appreciation of this Department and the United States Government for your unswerving support of our nation's military. Without this continued support, we could not maintain a strong military or sustain the current effort to overcome the international terrorist threat directed at our country, our citizens, and all who love freedom.

You have my deepest thanks. Your direct contributions and support are another illustration of America's greatness as a nation.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD,
Secretary of Defense.

DEDICATED TO THE "COWBELLES"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ramona Snow, of Bakersfield, California. Ramona has been designated the Kern County "Cattlemom of the Year" by Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlemom Associations.

Ramona was born into a family of nine siblings and attended schools in Bakersfield until her senior year in high school when she transferred to Ventura. Shortly thereafter the family returned to Bakersfield, Ramona married Robert Snow, and began her life as a cattlemom.

She became adept at pulling calves and doctoring ailing stock, as well as everyday ranch chores. Between raising her four children and ranch chores, Ramona found time to become active in 4-H as a sewing and cooking leader. In 1964 Ramona was asked to become a member of CowBelles, which led to a long and active career within what is now known as the Cattlemoms's Association.

Upon joining, Ramona became highly involved and chaired many committees. Such committees included, "Beef for Father's Day," and "Beef for Mother's Day." Ramona served as Vice President in 1976 and was elected President the following year. She was elected as President again in 1991.

Mrs. Snow has been an inventive member of CowBelles. She came up with the idea of a children's cookbook to be handed out at the Kern County Museum. Ramona was responsible for prize winning fair booths including the "Best Dressed Table" that promoted beef at the Kern County Fair for over 30 years. In the 1950s the CowBelles started awarding leather halters and now silver buckles to the winners of the Reserve Champion Steers at the Fair. Ramona designs these buckles each year so they are always different. While Ramona was vice president she introduced the idea of a

Beef Cook-Off and with the help of fellow members the Cook-Off was held in Kern County that year.

Ramona's efforts have been exhaustive. Throughout her tenure as a member and officer of the Cattlemoms's Association she has been instrumental in nearly every aspect of the organization. This award is reflective of her dedication.

IWG 2-YEAR EXTENSION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with 12 of my bipartisan colleagues, including Chairmen DAVIS and HOEKSTRA and Ranking Members WAXMAN, HARMAN, and CONYERS, introduce a bill that will extend the term of the Nazi War Crimes Interagency Working Group by 2 years. This is the companion bill of S. 384, a bill introduced by Senator DEWINE and passed in the Senate today. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the history and the impact of this legislation. I would like to thank Senator DEWINE and his staff for their tireless work and for the energy they have put forth to ensure that we know as much as we can about our Government's past involvement with Nazi War criminals.

In 1998, Congress passed the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a law that was enacted to explain the relationship between the U.S. Government and former Nazis. The act required the release of all previously classified information on the topic to the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes, IWG. The documents provided thus far to the IWG have revealed that there was a closer relationship between the U.S. Government and Nazi war criminals than previously known, a revelation that is crucial to the understanding of history. This significant knowledge would not have been possible without the cooperation of many agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Until recently, the CIA had not complied with the law and did not release the documents needed to complete the IWG's task, as defined by law. Fortunately, after discussions with Senator DEWINE and myself and under the leadership of Director Porter Goss, the CIA agreed to release the requisite documents. With the term of the IWG set to expire at the end of March 2005, we are now at a critical juncture.

This bill is simple. It extends the term of the IWG so that it can complete its work, write a comprehensive report, and send it to Congress. We hope to move this quickly in the House, as they did in the Senate, to avoid a lapse in this important work. History, and the memory of the millions who perished in the Holocaust, deserve nothing less than full disclosure.

CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of a living legend here in the United States Congress and a man who is revered and respected throughout this country, my predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes.

Born February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes was educated in the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Central High School. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Army during the Second World War. After 3 years of service he returned to Cleveland where he attended Western Reserve University and later earned his doctor of laws degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1953.

On November 6, 1968, Louis Stokes was elected to the United States Congress, becoming the first African American Member of Congress from the State of Ohio. He served 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, ranking 11th overall in House seniority. Louis Stokes played a pivotal role in the quest for civil rights, equality and social and economic justice throughout his tenure in the United States Congress. He served on numerous committees throughout his tenure including the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Ethics Committee, and the House Intelligence Committee.

He was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. His resume in its entirety is too lengthy to be recorded in this resolution as it is adequately recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 80th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many who have followed in your footsteps. I thank you for your continued support and guidance throughout my career. May you have many, many more.

DEDICATED RANCHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Fred David Lavers II, of Glennville, California. Mr. Lavers is being recognized by the Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlemoms Association as the "Cattlemom of the Year."

Born in Bakersfield, Mr. Lavers has lived on the ranch at Glennville nearly his whole life. David attended North High School, upon graduation he continued his education at California State University, San Luis Obispo where he majored in agricultural business management. After he received his degree, David pursued his dream to study law and attended California Pacific School of Law and graduated with his juris doctorate degree.

While David pursued his goals away from home, he never forgot his family and the ranch. He came home every other weekend to work the ranch and once he graduated from Cal Poly he became employed by Tejon Ranch Feedlot. While at Tejon, David drove the water truck, ran the feed mill, cowboied, and worked as a bookkeeper. Since then David has worked as a landscaper, a brakeman for Southern Pacific Railroad, and at various cattle ranches. Besides being a rancher, he currently works as a HIPAA and corporate compliance consultant.

Despite his active work schedule, David has a long history of community involvement. He has been president of the Poso Creek Cattleman's Association, a committee member of Ad Hoc Committee for the Kern County Board of Supervisors, a board member of the Linns Valley School District, director California Cattleman's Association, vice president of the Kern county Cattleman's Association, and is current director for the Kern County Cattleman's Association.

David not only dedicates himself to the community, and to his work, but he also puts his family first. He married his college sweetheart, Cynthia Sanchez in 1978 and their son Jack Justin was born in 1983. David and Cynthia's dream is that Jack can continue the long tradition of ranching from which David hails.

Mr. Lavers has contributed to the community in many ways and this award is recognition of such contributions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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| | | MARCH 9 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. | SH-216 |
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| | | MARCH 10 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans. | 345 CHOB |
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| | | MARCH 15 | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Armed Services | |
| | | To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006. | SH-106 |
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| | | MARCH 17 | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Armed Services | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219. | SH-106 |
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| | | APRIL 14 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America. | 345 CHOB |
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| | | APRIL 21 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America. | 345 CHOB |
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| | | SEPTEMBER 20 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion. | 345 CHOB |
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| | | MARCH 1 | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Armed Services | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006. | SH-216 |
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| | | Judiciary | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations. | SD-226 |
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| | 10 a.m. | Energy and Natural Resources | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior. | SD-366 |
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| | | MARCH 2 | |
| | 10 a.m. | Energy and Natural Resources | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service. | SD-366 |
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| | | MARCH 3 | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Armed Services | |
| | | To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program. | SH-216 |
| | | | |
| | 10 a.m. | Energy and Natural Resources | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy. | SD-366 |
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| | | MARCH 8 | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Armed Services | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006. | SH-216 |
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| | 10 a.m. | Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry | |
| | | To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. | SD-106 |
| | | | |
| | 2 p.m. | Veterans' Affairs | |
| | | To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans. | 345 CHOB |