processing that scene, we found a piece of cloth at that site where she was buried. It was decomposing, and it decomposed to the point where if you were to try and lift it with your fingers, it would crumble between your fingertips and onto the ground. We collected that, put it together, and we saved it.

In 2002, when the science again was to the point where they could find those microscopic spheres and compare them to the paint at a trucking company where this suspect worked as a truck painter for 31 years, we were able to take that paint from that decomposing piece of cloth and the paint spheres from a ligature that was on a victim who was floating in the river. One might assume that the evidence on the victim had been washed away, but it still had microscopic paint spheres. We were able to collect those, have them examined by the scientists.

Those microscopic paint spheres in 1987 were also discovered in his locker. So we have a connection between three victims who had microscopic paint spheres attached to them, and we also had microscopic paint spheres that were found in his locker at work, which connected him back.

Once we had seven cases on him, his attorneys quickly came to us and said we want to talk to you. We were hoping for that, and I will tell you why. Most people might say this man, if anyone, and I would agree with this, if anyone deserved the death penalty, this man deserved the death penalty. But one of the things that had happened over the years as we worked with the families is we had become friends with the family members. We were their link to their loved ones.

They had questions: Where is my daughter? Is she alive? People were still hoping their daughter could be found. If my daughter is dead, who killed her and why? And, Mr. Speaker, I would say that every one of us in this room today would say I want to know. I would want to know. I would want someone to talk to the guy and find out; find out why and where my daughter is buried. So we did.

We had choices of going forward with seven cases and following that through the court system. We had seven strong cases. But what if he was found not guilty? Stranger things have happened. What if he was found guilty and we went to the penalty phase and the jury decided to give him life in prison without parole. We only had seven cases solved.

We decided to take a chance and interview this monster, and we spent 6 months, as I said before, 6 months interviewing him and pulling out every piece of information and fact that we could about every one of these cases. The last day that I talked to him was on December 31, 2003, before he was sent to prison. I spoke to him for about an hour, and I will never forget what he said to me, the last thing he said. He said, I have killed 71 and you are too stupid to find the others. And it is my belief, as I said earlier, he has probably killed near 80.

So now you have an idea of the difficulty of this case. I have really only scratched the surface of how tough this case was. But the importance of bringing this case to the floor today, Mr. Speaker, is that we must never forget the victims. We must never forget the families whose pain still is being endured today, and we must always be able to say thank you to the men and women in law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and those who are in the forensic science field coming up with new and innovative ways every day to help law enforcement solve these cases, cases like the BTK case.

And then, as a reminder, we need to stop and think about why these young ladies are on the street? I mentioned earlier some of the reasons, but what can we do about it? Are we willing to do anything about it? Yes, there are people out there working with young people on the street, working with young people who are on drugs and alcohol, and we are trying to make a difference there, but it has to start earlier.

One of the places that does that in Seattle, just south of Seattle in a small town called Kent, where I grew up, is a place called the Pediatric Intensive Care Center. This facility takes in babies who have been born to drug-addicted mothers, some of these mothers who have been on the street. These babies are placed into homes where they have a chance to live a life, a real life, the life that I talked about earlier: A life of hope, a life with dreams for those little girls who have dreams.

And you know what, it is our duty, Mr. Speaker, every one of us in this Nation, to protect those dreams, to make sure that the hopes and dreams of our children are not stolen away by something we might do at home and not stolen away by someone who lures them out of our homes with the promise of a better life somewhere else. It is our responsibility to step up and act.

People talk about human trafficking, and it is an international problem. Human trafficking is a problem right here in this country. It happens on our Nation's streets every day. I hope to join with my colleagues here in Congress to begin to make a difference in the lives of our children so that we can protect them and they can enjoy a life of freedom and safety.

I want to end, Mr. Speaker, by reading a list of each of the victims whose lives were taken by this monster in the northwest:

Marcia Fay Chapman; Cynthia Jean Hinds; and Opal Charmaine Mills. She's the one I found on the river bank.

Carol Ann Christensen, Wendy Lee Coffield, Gisele Ann Lovvorn, Debra Lynn Bonner, Marcia Fay Chapman, Cynthia Jean Hinds, Opal Charmaine Mills, Terry Rene Milligan, and Mary Bridget Meehan. She was the one 9 months pregnant.

Debra Lorraine Estes, Linda Jane Rule, Denise Darcel Bush, Shawnda Leea Summers, Shirley Marie Sherrill, Colleen Renee Brockman, Alma Ann Smith, Dolores Williams, Gail Lynn Mathews, Andrea Childers, Sandra Kay Gabbert, Kimi-Kai Pitsor, Marie Malvar, Carol Christensen, Martina Authorlee, Cheryl Wims, Yvonne Antosh, Carrie Rois, Constance Elizabeth Naon, Kelly Marie Ware, Tina Thompson, April Buttram, Debbie Abernathy, Tracy Winston, Maureen Sue Feeney, Mary Sue Bello, Pammy Avent, Delise Plager, Kimberly Nelson, Lisa Yates, Mary West, Cindy Smith, Patricia Barczak, Roberta Hayes, Marta Reeves, Patricia Yellow Robe.

And then there are four others who have not been identified: Unidentified victim number ten, unidentified victim number sixteen, unidentified victim number seventeen, and unidentified victim number twenty.

□ 1545

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 88b-3, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House of Representatives Page Board:

Mr. SHIMKUS, Illinois,

Mrs. CAPITO, West Virginia.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FORD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. HARRIS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for February 28 and the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

Mr. LEACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHIFF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.