

the body's immune system—a leading cause of sickness and death from irradiation. Unfortunately, no such radioprotectants are stockpiled in amounts adequate enough to be effective against large-scale nuclear or radiological attacks.

In 2004, President George W. Bush signed into law the Project Bioshield Act of 2004, authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research and development of effective countermeasures. The Radioprotectant Procurement Act seeks to accelerate these efforts, as every day that passes without progress in obtaining a needed countermeasure is another day that we remain vulnerable against that threat.

If we can give people a drug that will keep them alive and healthy after being exposed to high levels of radiation, then I think we should do everything we reasonably can to get that drug purchased and distributed as quickly as possible.

The bill I am introducing today calls upon the Federal Government to do just that, and to move as expeditiously as possible in this regard. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration and my colleagues in this body to make sure that these new and innovative medical countermeasures continue to be responsibly but quickly developed, tested, and stockpiled. The American people deserve nothing less.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring and enacting this important bill.

---

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION  
AGAINST THE CANADIAN SEAL  
HUNT**

---

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join many of my colleagues and 8.5 million members of the Humane Society of the United States in designating March 15 as the International Day of Action Against the Canadian Seal Hunt. Across the world in 50 cities, citizens will be coming together at Canadian Embassies and Consulates to call for an end to the horrific slaughter of harp and hooded seals.

The Canadian seal hunt season runs from November 15 to May 15 and occurs off the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Anyone with a commercial sealing license or provincial hunting license can take part in the seal hunt.

The Canadian Government has authorized the killing of over 300,000 seals this year alone, and 975,000 from 2003–2005. They have also helped to pay for this hunt with \$20 million in subsidies provided to the sealing industry between 1995 and 2001. While there are quotas in place, they are not enforced by the government. According to the Humane Society of the United States the number of seals killed in 2002 surpassed the quota by more than 37,000 seals, and in 2004, by nearly 16,000. These numbers do not take into account the number of seals who were wounded and perished later.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

While this season's seal hunt opened on November 15, 2004, the bulk of the killings will begin taking place in the next few weeks as new seal pups are born. These new seal pups are called "beaters" by the hunters. While hunters do kill adult seals, an estimated 95 percent of those killed are 12 days to 12 months old. These seals, who are either clubbed or shot to death, are killed primarily for their skins.

In 1991, an independent team of veterinarians found that the seal hunt did not adhere to Canada's animal welfare regulations. Most disturbing of their findings is that 42 percent of the seals they studied had likely been skinned alive while conscious. This high percentage of live skinnings alone is a disturbing number, but combined with the other details of the seal hunt it is clear that it is time for an end to this practice.

The Canadian fishing industry claims that the seal hunt needs to continue because they eat too many cod and adversely impact the fish population. However, two Canadian Government marine scientists have stated clearly that the true cause of cod depletion was over fishing. They also noted that, "the consensus among the international community is that seals are not responsible for the collapse in cod stocks."

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister hailed the seal hunt by saying it will harvest "a valuable natural resource." Harp and hooded seals are not a natural resource, but animals that should not have to endure the suffering inflicted through the government authorized seal hunt.

I join with not only the Humane Society of the United States, but also with Greenpeace, Nova Scotia Humane Society and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, among many other organizations, in calling for the Canadian Government to end this barbaric and inhumane practice.

---

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

---

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 14, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 66, 67, and 68. The votes I missed include rollcall No. 66 on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 135, providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies; rollcall No. 67 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 101, urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations; and on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 384, to extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for two years.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 66, 67, and 68.

*March 16, 2005*

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ROBERT PUENTE**

---

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Puente for his distinguished career in public service.

Robert Puente is currently serving his eighth term in the Texas Legislature. He is Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and serves on the Local Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Puente is especially involved in ensuring that Texas always has an adequate water supply; he is cochair of the Study Commission for Water on Environmental Flows, and is a member of the Texas Water Advisory Council.

Mr. Puente is a proud product of the Texas higher educational system. He graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio with a bachelor's degree in political science, and he received his doctorate in jurisprudence from the University of Texas Law School in 1982.

Included among Mr. Puente's many legislative accomplishments are his work on the passage of the Edwards Aquifer Authority legislation and the establishment of the Aquifer Authority's elected board, and his support for SB1, which implemented a comprehensive water plan for the state.

Representative Puente continues to live in San Antonio with his wife, Carmen Puente, and his three children. In addition to his legislative activities, he finds the time to participate in a number of different community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Robert Puente's farsighted legislative work has helped secure the future of San Antonio and our great state of Texas, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize him here.

---

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

---

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Monday, March 14, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 135 (rollcall No. 66), H. Res. 101 (rollcall No. 67), and S. 384 (rollcall No. 68). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three measures considered before the House.

---

**TRIBUTE TO WING KAI FAT**

---

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to an old friend and a wonderful man, Wing Kai Fat. He passed away on

Friday, February 25 after a full, rich life, at the age of 79. We should all be so lucky as to have the many close friends and the large and loving family that he did.

Wing Fat was born in Canton, China, in 1925. When he was 10 years old, along with his father he emigrated to America, settling in Sacramento. As a young adult, he served in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from Sacramento State University. For 66 years, Wing Fat worked in "Frank Fat's," his legendary father's restaurant, until his retirement just a few years ago. Before his retirement, the very successful Fat family restaurant business grew to include 10 restaurants.

Wing Fat and "Frank Fat's" were mainstays in the Sacramento political and cultural communities. A well-known location for political deal-making, the restaurant was renowned as much for Wing Fat's personality as it was for the great food. Wing Fat was a truly warm man, whose affectionate laugh and inviting presence always made those around him feel welcome and comfortable. Although he had much to boast, he was remembered as "one of the humblest men you could ever meet." His warmth and humility were matched only by his tact; his motto was "You listen, but you never tell." When he passed away he took decades of private political information with him, gleaned from years of being a trusted host to the Sacramento political community. It is no surprise that Wing Fat became such a successful restaurateur and that his business became a trusted venue for those involved in Sacramento politics.

Mr. Fat generously shared his successes with his friends and his community. In addition to the counsel he offered countless mayors and council members, Mr. Fat founded a number of local cultural and civic organizations that will contribute to the Sacramento area for years to come. In November 2004, Mr. Fat culminated his truly generous philanthropic career with a \$1 million donation to the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation to build a new sports center in Laguna.

Mr. Speaker, Sacramento has lost a civic treasure and a wonderful man. Although it will never be the same without Wing Fat, he leaves behind a wonderful family, friends whose lives he touched, restaurants that continue to provide a warm place for people to gather, and charitable work and donations that will enrich Sacramento for years to come. I am honored to have an opportunity here to say not only "goodbye" to Mr. Fat, but also to say "thank you."

RECOGNIZING BENNETT COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT JOHNNETTA B. COLE'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE TIDEWATER ALUMNAE CHAPTER, MARCH 18-19, 2005

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bennett College and its president, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, on the occasion

of her appearance before the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter for its annual White Breakfast on March 19, 2005.

Bennett College is an historically black college and university founded in 1873 in Greensboro, North Carolina, through the inspiration of newly emancipated slaves. Instruction was first held in the basement of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church until the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for support of the school in 1874. Through a \$10,000 gift from philanthropist Lyman Bennett the school was able to prosper and grow, and the school was renamed in his honor. In 1926, the school was reorganized as a college for women, a role that it continues to serve today. In 1989, Bennett College had the distinction of having First Lady Barbara Bush as its commencement speaker.

For over 130 years, Bennett College has served the needs of the African American community in North Carolina and its surrounding area. Since 1930, Bennett College has graduated over 5,000 women, many serving in the education profession. My home city of Chesapeake, Virginia, has been particularly reliant on the service of Bennett College alumnae as career teachers in the Chesapeake Public School System. I am grateful to Bennett College for this contribution to my congressional district.

In 2002, the esteemed Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole became the 14th president of Bennett College. Her career as a college university professor and administrator spans over three decades. In 1987, she made history as the first African American woman to serve as president of Spelman College. In 2004, she made history again as the first African American woman to serve as chair of the board of the United Way of America. I am proud to have her visit my district and applaud the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College for bringing her to Virginia on the occasion of their annual White Breakfast.

The Tidewater Alumnae Chapter has distinguished itself in southeastern Virginia through its contribution to the community. Among their members are many present and former teachers of the Chesapeake Public School System. Their professional contribution to my district is significant, and I thank them for their accomplishments on the occasion of their annual White Breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Bennett College, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, and the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College for their record of service and contribution to our Nation and to my district. It is truly my honor and privilege to recognize Bennett College, Dr. Cole and the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter in the United States House of Representatives on this day.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE SENATOR KEN ARMBRISTER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Senator Ken Armbrister, of my Congressional District.

Ken Armbrister began his public service career in law enforcement. After graduating from Sam Houston State University, he attended the FBI National Academy. He served as a police officer for 14 years, and rose to the rank of captain and director of the Victoria Regional Police Academy. He was honored with the Defender of the Peace award by the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice, and was twice named a Top Ten Crime Fighter by the Greater Dallas Crime Commission.

Mr. Armbrister was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1983, and to the Texas Senate in 1987. He served as President Pro Tempore, as acting Governor, and was honored as one of the best legislators in Texas. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Business and Commerce, Government Organization, and State Affairs, and is chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. He continues to work at the forefront of critical legislation, and authored the landmark legislation that established the Edwards Aquifer Authority that provided for the water needs of a 26 county area of south Texas.

Ken Armbrister repaid the trust of the people of Texas with a lifetime of dedicated and effective public service. He is an inspiration to the people of the community, of what and show's man's commitment and energy can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize State Senator Ken Armbrister.

RECOGNIZING NEW JERSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association. Since 1938, the New Jersey Law Enforcement Officers Association and its members have worked to keep New Jersey safe from criminals and have sought to recognize those officers who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Our law enforcement officers risk their lives daily by placing the safety of others before themselves. We must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen officers who have given all to protect our families and communities.

Our local law enforcement officers are now a part of the front line in the battle to keep