

commissioner, 3 years as a congressional assistant, and 3 years as an Army counterintelligence officer.

He served five years in the Texas House of Representatives, and was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1992. He is currently the Senate President Pro Tempore, and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He chairs the Texas Legislative Tourism Caucus, and remains a practicing lawyer, with the firm of Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal, LLP.

Senator Wentworth is now in his fifth term, and continues to work tirelessly for the more than 700,000 constituents in his district. Jeff Wentworth is a genuine American success story, and a tremendous advocate for the people of San Antonio and for all the people of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of State Senator Jeff Wentworth.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE L.  
BLUMENBERG

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Anne L. Blumenberg, founder of the Community Law Center in Baltimore. Anne, who recently retired as the Law Center's long-time executive director, has been instrumental in developing legal strategies to empower neighborhoods and communities.

Anne is a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to improving our community. Over the years, she has performed groundbreaking work in the areas of low-income housing acquisition, community-based planning, coalition building and community advocacy. Through her efforts, the Community Law Center has become a leading advocacy organization for community and economic development in distressed neighborhoods. She has led the way in fighting predatory real estate practices that have been so destructive to many Baltimore neighborhoods.

A graduate of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, Anne founded the Community Law Center in 1983, becoming its executive director in 1986. The Community Law Center's philosophy has been that access to lawyers could help revitalize neighborhoods. Initially, most of the work focused on public safety. In recent years, that focus has shifted to real estate and economic development. The Center's successes include: enactment of legislation giving community groups legal standing in drug nuisance cases and legal action against owners of vacant properties.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Anne L. Blumenberg for her work in helping neighborhoods and communities maintain some degree of control over their destinies.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER  
GRODSKY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jennifer Grodsky, a dedicated, intelligent and compassionate woman whom I have been very fortunate to have as my Legislative Director for the past 4 years.

Jennifer joined my office shortly after I was elected to Congress in 2000. Having received excellent training as a Legislative Assistant for former Congressman Julian Dixon of California, Jennifer quickly assumed her role as Legislative Director with great ease and competence. She played an instrumental part in establishing my office protocol and creating a strong legislative staff.

As Legislative Director, Jennifer has coordinated my legislative agenda with much success. She has overseen my introduction of numerous bills, including two which have become law. Her extensive knowledge of the legislative process and a wide array of public policy issues has proved invaluable to my office. Since Jennifer's first day in the office, she has approached each and every task I have given her with the utmost professionalism and dedication.

Jennifer's keen understanding of the health care challenges facing my district and the nation has been particularly important to me as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health. Jennifer has organized numerous briefings and events to heighten awareness about accessing affordable health care and persisting racial and ethnic health disparities, including spearheading very successful events sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic, Black, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses in Los Angeles, California, and Miami, Florida. Jennifer played a lead role in developing the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act, the Democratic Caucus' comprehensive bill to address racial and ethnic health disparities, and shares my strong concern for the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. Her passion for improving our nation's health care system, particularly for the Latino and other minority communities, is one of Jennifer's strongest attributes.

As my appropriations staffer for the past four years, Jennifer has helped me to secure millions of dollars in federal assistance for important projects in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley, including the expansion of the Azusa Health Clinic and the development of computer training classes at Project Amiga in South El Monte. These projects have, and will continue to make, an enormous difference in the lives of families living in the 32nd Congressional District of California.

Jennifer's intelligence, kindness, and professionalism have earned her the trust and respect of her colleagues. She has served as a mentor to all of the staff, teaching them about the legislative process and various public policy issues with patience and understanding, earning the nickname "Mama Grodsky" among my staff.

Jennifer's departure from my office will be a tremendous loss to my staff and me. While I am sad to see Jennifer leave my office, I am proud of her new career advancement as the Director of Federal Affairs for the University of Southern California. As a Magna Cum Laude graduate and proud alumnus of this renowned university, Jennifer will be an invaluable asset to her new office. The University of Southern California will be very fortunate to have such a talented and bright young woman to lead its new Washington, DC, office. I join my staff in Washington, DC, and district offices in El Monte and East Los Angeles in wishing Jennifer the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTION  
OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, last year, using the 9/11 Commission Report as a guide, we passed the National Intelligence Reform Act. In addition to reorganizing our nation's intelligence system, it created a Civil Liberties Board. Unfortunately, this newly created Civil Liberties Board is only a shell of what is needed in order to be effective. Therefore we are introducing "The Protection of Civil Liberties Act" to amend the current board. With the exception of making the Board an independent agency, this bill would reinstate the provisions that were taken out in conference. These commonsense provisions give the Board the authority it needs. Specifically the bill:

1. Gives the Board subpoena power. Currently the board needs the permission of the Attorney General to issue a subpoena. Also, the Board lacks access to the private contractors who currently perform many critical intelligence functions.

2. Creates the Board as an independent agency in the executive branch. Currently the board is in the Executive Office of the President.

3. Requires that all 5 members of the Board be confirmed by the Senate. Currently only the Chair and the Vice Chair will be confirmed.

4. Requires that no more than 3 members can be from the same political party. Currently there is no provision that ensures a bipartisan Board.

5. Sets a term for Board members at 6 years. Currently members will serve at the pleasure of the President.

6. Creates the chairman as a full-time member of the Board. This increases the likelihood that the Board will meet regularly.

7. Restores the qualifications of Board members that were originally included in the Senate bill. This would require that members have prior experience with protecting civil liberties, among other things. Currently there are no such requirements.

8. Restores reporting requirements to Congress. One of the main recommendations of the 9/11 Commission was the need for more Congressional Oversight. Restoring the reporting requirement language requiring semi-annual reports helps achieve this goal.

9. Requires each executive department or agency with law enforcement or antiterrorism functions should designate a privacy and civil liberties officer. Currently the law only expresses a sense of Congress that a privacy and civil liberties officer be established.

This is important legislation and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE RADIOPROTECTANT DRUG

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a pressing national need. The resolution I present here is a recognition of our responsibility to protect the American people from the horrors of radiation exposure as best we can.

In this era of terrorism, the ultimate fear has always been the detonation of either a nuclear or radiological device in an American city by terrorists. Even a low-yield nuclear device is capable of causing large-scale damage.

After a blast occurs the radiation that follows is also an enormous concern.

We cannot counter the effects of a thermonuclear explosion. However, science is developing countermeasures to the medical effects of radiation exposure. These whole-body drugs, known as radioprotectants, represent a great step forward in protecting American citizens from the horrors of terrorism in the nuclear age.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that these drugs, if proven safe and effective, should be purchased and stockpiled by the federal government at the earliest possible opportunity under Project Bioshield.

This resolution recognizes the potential these drugs stand for, and is the first step toward appropriating the first effective medical countermeasures to radiation sickness. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution as part of our responsibility to safeguard American lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of March 10 until the morning of March 15, I was part of an official congressional delegation to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The delegation also had official events in Guam and Hawaii. Due to my absence I was not able to make the following votes and would like the record to indicate that I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 62. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68.

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, AN OUTSTANDING HBCU AND A TRULY GREAT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Florida Memorial College, which will become Florida Memorial University during campus ceremonies to be held on Friday, March 18, 2005.

Founded in 1879 as the Florida Baptist Institute in Live Oak, Florida under the aegis of the Baptist Church and the leadership of the Rev. Matthew Gilbert, Florida Memorial is one of the oldest academic centers in Florida. It was later transferred to Jacksonville in 1892 as the Florida Baptist Academy. It was on this campus that faculty member J. Rosamond Johnson and his brother James Weldon Johnson co-wrote "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," which is now known as the Negro National Anthem.

In 1968 the college moved to Miami, Florida where it has grown to include a student body of 1,378 students from all over Florida, the Nation and the Caribbean. President Dr. Albert E. Smith has provided inspired leadership of the institution and its 66-member faculty. Dr. Smith has been very effective in attracting talented professors and students, and in shaping one of Florida's most beautiful college campuses.

Florida Memorial offers 38 degree programs through its seven academic divisions. It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and is recognized by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSB) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Throughout its glorious history, Florida Memorial has graduated thousands of professionals who have made history and are making productive, innovative contributions to this Nation and the world. It is for this reason that this transformation from Florida Memorial College to Florida Memorial University is genuinely deserved, for it manifests in no small measure the excellence of its programs and its significance in our community.

My best wishes to President Smith, his staff, faculty, student body and alumni on this great achievement. It is thrilling to imagine what this great institution will achieve in the next 124 years.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM LAMANTIA, JR.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Sam Lamantia Jr., a man with a heart of gold who has spent 27 years raising money to help abused children.

Sam is a master barber in Baltimore, and in 1978 he almost single-handedly started the Ed Block Courage Awards.

Sam Lamantia conceived of the award as a way to help abused children in Baltimore. Named for Ed Block, the athletic trainer for the Baltimore Colts, the award was first designed to honor one Baltimore Colt player a year. Since then, 17 Ed Block Courage Houses have opened in NFL cities around the Nation, helping abused children and their families.

Sam moved with his family from Italy to Baltimore as a young child. In Baltimore, he grew up playing and loving sports. As an adult, Sam and his boyhood friends from the Eastside Athletic Club began sponsoring sports teams and giving back to local charities. Eventually, they conceived of the Ed Block Courage Award, and Sam talked many of his clients who were members of the Baltimore Colts into helping. Sam's vision of giving back to the community has now grown to include 28 NFL teams and their players.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Sam Lamantia Jr., a true hero who has found a way to help bring hope back into the lives of abused children.

RECOGNIZING VERIZON'S HISPANIC SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the California Chapter of Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization for hosting the 7th Annual Hispanic Support Organization National Conference. Since its establishment in 1988, the Hispanic Support Organization, a Verizon employee resource group, has been working to advance the professional needs of Hispanic employees, improve the communities where Hispanics live in, and support Verizon's initiatives in the Hispanic community.

It is my pleasure to recognize groups like Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization for their service to the professional development of our Latino community. This year's theme for the conference is called: "Construyendo Nuestro Futuro y Destino/Building Our Future and Our Destiny." The Hispanic Support Organization has been doing this kind of investment in our community for more than 16 years. With the growth of the Hispanic community in the United States, it is important that organizations keep providing opportunities for the personal and professional development of Hispanics.

Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization has done an outstanding job with their mentorship program and scholarship program, while at the same time providing financial assistance to organizations that serve the needs of the Hispanic community. The intellectual and social benefit that the Hispanic Support Organization provides to its members fosters an environment of support and encourages the creation of leaders in our community. I wish the Hispanic Support Organization much success at its conference in Los Angeles this week and in the future.