

my hometown the incredible community that it is today.

Born and raised in Saint Helena, Ken's appreciation, love, and devotion to protecting and preserving this small, unique community are obvious from his many years of dedicated service. With an innate knowledge of his community and unyielding compassion, Ken was elected to the office of City Council in 1994. His energy, drive, and undeniable hard work are only a few of the many reasons that he was appointed as Vice Mayor in 1997. Shortly thereafter in 1999, Ken was elected Mayor of Saint Helena.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure on the City Council and as Mayor, Ken has been a strong advocate for Saint Helena on numerous boards throughout Napa County and California. These include the Long Range Water Task Force, Napa County Cities Mayors Council, the Association of Bay Area Government, and the North Bay League of California Cities just to name a few. As Mayor, he tackled important and complicated issues ranging from job training and employment for the disadvantaged, to flood control and improving local water supplies. He also worked arduously with the Napa County Flood Control District to protect Saint Helena from dangerous and destructive winter flooding. He is also recognized for spearheading the creation of the new Saint Helena First Station.

Mr. Speaker, Ken has even risked his own life on multiple occasions in order to protect his fellow citizens. From 1976 to 1978 he served as Captain of the Saint Helena Police Reserves. After his time with the Police Department, he selflessly devoted the next seven years to the Saint Helena Volunteer Fire Department. During his time there, his passion for protecting and serving the community earned him overwhelming respect and praise from his fellow fire fighters. As a result, he has been recognized as an Honorary Member of the Fire Department.

When not working with the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Sierra Club, or other local organizations Ken and his wife Barbie look forward to cruising through the Napa Valley on their Screaming Eagle Harley Davidson.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we thank and honor Ken Slavens for his passion, dedication, and numerous contributions to this community. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of Mrs. Terri Schiavo.

On March 21, 2005, S. 686 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 203-58. This was rollcall vote number 90. Unfortunately, I was out of the country on official Congressional business and unable to return for this emergency session. However, had I been present I would have voted in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE LATE MR. JAMES McDOWELL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. James McDowell.

Mr. McDowell was a World War II B-17 pilot who flew 31 missions over Germany. On January 13, 1945, on his second mission over Mannheim, Germany, Mr. McDowell's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The heavy flak hit the cockpit floor and sent a piece of shrapnel through his clothing into his right calf.

The severely damaged plane was unable to return to the base, and was forced to land at Manston England Air Base. Mr. McDowell was taken by the medics to the hospital, treated and released with a cane. The B-17 was so damaged that it never returned to action.

Last year, Mr. McDowell and his family approached me about getting his long overdue Purple Heart. Unfortunately, before I was able to present the Purple Heart to him, Mr. McDowell passed away.

Mr. Speaker, while it is unfortunate that Mr. McDowell is not alive to receive his Purple Heart, I know that his family will cherish the medal and his memory for the rest of their lives. Mr. McDowell's story is emblematic of many who served in World War II and surely places him as a member of the "greatest generation."

HONORING UNDERSHERIFF CURTIS L. WATSON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. STARK and I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Undersheriff Curtis L. Watson to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department over the past 34 years. Curtis joined the department in 1970 and steadily climbed its ranks to become the undersheriff in 1993, providing excellent service throughout his tenure.

In 1970, Curtis had just completed a tour in the United States Air Force. On the advice of his brother, he applied for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, where he was hired as a sheriff's deputy and assigned to work at Santa Rita Jail.

Curtis had worked his way up to the position of lieutenant at Santa Rita when he first made the acquaintance of Charles Plummer, the Alameda County Sheriff, in 1987. Curtis's competence and confidence made a positive impression on the sheriff, who would remember him when their paths crossed again a few years later.

After advancing to captain and becoming the commanding officer of the North County Jail in Oakland, Curtis took the commander's examination in April 1992, finishing with the highest score of any candidate and again catching the attention of Sheriff Plummer. By

that time, Curtis had made such an impression that when the undersheriff position came open in 1993, Sheriff Plummer tapped him to fill it.

With his promotion to undersheriff, Curtis became not only the highest-ranking African American in the Alameda County Sheriff Department's 152-year history but also the highest-ranking black sheriff's official in the state of California.

Curtis served as undersheriff from 1993 until his retirement on March 24, 2005. Only one other undersheriff in the entire history of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department served longer than Curtis's 12 years in the position.

On the occasion of Curtis Watson's retirement, we would like to honor his contributions to law and order in Alameda County over the past 34 years. He has served with distinction and dedication, breaking down barriers and forging new paths. We salute him for his commitment to justice and equality in our society, and we are certain that others will draw inspiration from his accomplishments for generations to come.

THE INVESTMENT TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, our position as the world's leading economy is founded on the principle of entrepreneurship. This spirit inspires us to seek new and innovative products and services which enhance Americans' lives by exploring bold business ventures.

After two failed attempts to start an automobile manufacturing company, in 1903, Henry Ford and 11 business associates raised \$28,000 (nearly \$600,000 in today's dollars) to establish the Ford Motor Company, ushering in the age of modern transportation. This venture not only enhanced the free flow of products and people across the nation, but also spawned a revolutionary assembly-line production process, increasing manufacturing productivity and lowering prices for commercial and consumer goods for the American people. In the process, millions of new jobs were created in other new fields, such as part manufacturers, service repair technicians, salesmen, and customer service representatives.

Venture capital also played a significant role in the boom of entrepreneurship that contributed to the unprecedented economic growth of the 1990s. According to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), venture capitalists raised over \$250 billion between 1994 and 2000 for investment in start-up companies. This frenzied business activity helped spur Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) over the same period worth over \$84 billion, boosting the value of financial markets. One major product of this tremendous financing activity was the commercialization of the Internet, which continues to have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. The Internet allows people to connect from all over the world, enhancing the free flow of products, services and most importantly, information. This technological revolution also created hundreds of thousands of