

support, encouragement, and education of today's youth. On July 23rd the Lodge will present scholarships to four high school students at their annual banquet in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The theme of this year's banquet is "Investing in Our Youth to Guarantee Our Future." The 53 members of the Lodge work throughout the year to raise money for the College Scholarship Fund. Their goal is to help as many young people as possible achieve their dreams of a better life. The Lodge members have established the cornerstones of high morals, good character, and sound education for a solid foundation in life. They view the scholarship fund as a means to assist young people in building upon that foundation.

The members distribute the applications throughout Genesee County and students are awarded the scholarships based upon several factors including greatest financial need. This year the recipients are all graduating seniors but the program is also open to students working for advanced degrees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the members of the John W. Stevenson Lodge No. 56 for their exemplary work on behalf of the young men and women of the greater Flint area. Since the Lodge was founded in 1968, the men of the John W. Stevenson Lodge have dedicated themselves to ensuring all youth are able to fulfill their potential.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF  
IRENE L. JAMES, ESQ.

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to honor the memory and legacy of Irene L. James who passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2006. Her death leaves a deep void in the Greater Newark community.

Irene was known for her caring spirit and her service to others. She was creative, passionate and intelligent. Her intellect led her to Rutgers University in Newark where she earned both her under-graduate and law degrees. Over the years, she would hold several roles that allowed her to utilize her talents to enrich the lives of others. A prolific writer, Irene was able to secure grants and/or technological enhancements for many programs and institutions. In fact, Irene is credited with procuring a three million dollar grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to create a "fighting back" sight in Newark. This program's mission was to help decrease the demand for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for women and children. Irene served with distinction in administrative positions at Essex County College, CHOICES, Inc., Newark Welfare and Newark Fighting Back.

During her life, Irene touched many lives with her kindness, thoughtfulness and humor. She will be remembered for making a difference in the lives of those fortunate enough to benefit from her years of public service. Irene was a profound believer in social justice and was able to associate with many others who felt likewise.

As Irene's life was celebrated during her "Home going" service on Wednesday, July 12, 2006, many recalled the impact she made in the community, her competency and professionalism. They remembered that she came from a family of achievers, including my Chief of Staff, Maxine James, her father, Mack James, sister, Jeanette Parham and her brother, Michael James.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Irene L. James' family, friends and associates know that her memory will always be honored and cherished.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, due to delays on Amtrak, I regretfully missed rollcall votes 375-377. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 375—"Yea", rollcall No. 376—"Yea", rollcall No. 377—"Yea".

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND  
RODEO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one of the most successful scholarship programs in the country. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been known as the largest Rodeo in the world.

It attracts the best of the best in the rodeo and livestock industries but it also raises millions of dollars for Houston area children to go to college.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awarded 315 scholarships totaling \$3.78 million this year, and every year, the rodeo increases the number of awards given.

Forty students in our Congressional District received a \$12,000 Rodeo scholarship bringing in almost \$500,000 in scholarship money collectively.

Since 1957, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been helping students that demonstrate academic success, leadership, and need achieve their dream of going to college.

Next year will mark 50 years since the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awarded their first scholarship and 75 years since the rodeo started.

In that time, over 20,000 students have received over \$100 million.

I was pleased to learn that students in our Congressional District have received almost \$5.9 million in scholarship money since the Rodeo Scholarship Program has been in existence.

The area I represent has a large percentage of first-generation college students. I was especially pleased to learn that Milby High

School, a school that is 90 percent Hispanic has received more Rodeo Scholarships than any other High School in the State.

Milby High School students have received 222 scholarships totaling \$1.4 million. That's impressive for Milby and it's a statement to the commitment of the Rodeo to serve all communities in Texas.

I'm sure hundreds of more students will enjoy benefiting from this amazing program as it grows in the future.

I am proud to be a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and thank the thousands of volunteers that dedicate well over a million hours of service each year to make the rodeo and its scholarship program operate as smoothly as they do.

Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my fellow Members to come down to Houston sometime to enjoy all the entertainment the Rodeo has to offer, and then join me in visiting some of our neediest schools so you can meet the students that benefit from the world's largest rodeo.

IN SUPPORT OF LIFTING THE BAN  
ON FEDERALLY FUNDED STEM  
CELL RESEARCH

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it isn't every day that we get to come to the House Floor with the opportunity to save lives. When we voted on H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, we were given that very chance. With the Senate voting on the bill in the coming days, we must respond to 72 percent of Americans, scientists, researchers, and Nobel laureates and vote to continue our support for lifting the ban on which stem cell lines can be federally funded.

Right now, only 22 of the 78 stem cell lines approved by President Bush are left. Many of these lines have been contaminated and are no longer useful, but more than 400,000 frozen embryos exist in the United States. With further research, these cells may be used as "replacement" cells and tissues to treat many diseases including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and others. Stem cell research holds hope of one day being able to treat brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke for which there is currently no treatment available. And they may solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions, such as burns and kidney failure, for which transplantation is currently used.

As a co-chair on the Working Group for Parkinson's Disease and as someone who has lost a very close family member to Parkinson's disease, I know firsthand just how important this legislation is and how important it is to open up the stem cell lines. Parkinson's disease is a progressive degenerative brain disease which kills a specialized and vital type of brain cell, a cell which produces the substance