

credit challenges such as low-income and first-time homebuyers.

Further, about 90 percent of the independent credit reporting agencies will be unable to meet the additional contractual requirements being dictated by E&E. These credit reporting agencies will be unable to access the credit data from E&E and therefore unable to provide the mandatory three-file merged credit reports. They will quickly be forced out of businesses due to these changes.

There is no new legislation, court case, regulatory decision or other external event to justify such action except to increase the revenues of these large companies at the expense of the consumer and to the detriment of small credit reporting companies.

The other repositories, TransUnion and Innovis, have not chosen to drastically alter the joint use procedure. TransUnion is evaluating its position and CBC Companies, the parent of Innovis, is challenging E&E's proposed new guidelines in federal court as a violation of U.S. antitrust laws.

The end-user disclosure (joint use) requirements have been working well since they were enacted as part of the FCRA in 1997. The recent actions by E&E do little to combat the incidence of identity theft and increase data security. The main reason for these policies is to raise revenue and decrease competition. The effort to implement these new reissue/joint use procedures and fees needs to be stopped in order to maintain a level playing field, continue effective competition in the marketplace and provide fair and equitable access to capital for all Americans.

Any efforts by the major credit repositories to change the reissue process should not restrict competition. In order to protect both consumers and small, independent credit reporting agencies, E&E should make the following changes to their proposed reissue policies.

Continue to classify the GSEs, HUD and any other ancillary technology system that is part of the mortgage origination process as joint use, not the new created "reissue" or "secondary use" classification.

Allow credit-reporting agencies, at the direction of the end-user of record, to reissue to any firm on one of the approved mortgage seller or servicer lists of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or HUD without end-user documentation and site inspections.

Designate a reasonable flat fee for reissue. Note: The changes to the 2003 FACT Act which included a free credit report to every American on an annual basis only required an \$11 per file price increase while E&E's proposed policy changes attempt to justify the charge of \$1.05 to \$3.50 per file.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this important topic. I strongly suggest that E&E reconsider the policies they plan to implement on January 1. Such policies will ultimately hurt the consumer and will have a disproportionate effect on low-income individuals. All Americans deserve the right to pursue the American dream of homeownership and should not be restricted to access to loans because of a policy intended solely to raise revenue for two large credit repositories.

HONORING MARIANNE McGUIRE OF ST. RENE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Marianne McGuire, who has been nominated for entry into the 2007 edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers. For over 20 years, Mrs. McGuire has tirelessly served her students and the community at-large.

Currently, Marianne McGuire teaches the fourth and fifth grades at St. Rene Goupil, a Catholic elementary school in Chicago's Clearing neighborhood. A graduate of Quincy University and a veteran teacher, Marianne brings valuable insight and perspective to the classroom. She has the reputation of being an excellent academic instructor who is involved in the lives of her students before and after school—tutoring, assisting with the TerraNova tests, and coordinating the Geography Bee.

Who's Who Among America's Teachers, first published in 1990, gives exceptional students an opportunity to honor the teachers who have positively contributed to their lives and invested in their futures. It is a great privilege to be included in this publication, which is meant to let teachers know that they truly make a difference. Mrs. McGuire's impact has given her a nomination to be included in this publication.

It is my honor today to recognize Marianne McGuire for her achievements as an outstanding teacher. She and countless other educators serve to enhance our overall education system, while impacting one student at a time. I thank Marianne, along with all of our Nation's teachers, for their hard work, dedication, and noble service.

HONORING MONTEREY HIGH SCHOOL AS A NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and staff of Monterey High School for earning a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for academic superiority.

No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon schools are selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a way to recognize schools across the country that show either high achievement or dramatic improvement.

Monterey High School is a rural high school with only 18 full-time teachers. Forty percent of the school's 373 students come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Despite this, the students consistently rank in the top 10 percent on state achievement tests.

This award is evidence of the hard work put forth by the faculty, students and staff at Monterey High School. I am truly proud of them for

their efforts, and I commend them on this achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Saint Cecilia's School, located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, as it celebrates 100 years of academic excellence. This institution has served the educational needs of countless students in the community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize its strident efforts on this momentous occasion.

Since its inception, Saint Cecilia's has fostered both the intellectual and spiritual development of local students, providing them with the resources they need for success in the classroom. Through the leadership and dedication of its first rate faculty, this institution boasts a commendable record of academic achievement, thereby enriching the lives of school age children throughout our community.

St. Cecilia's School has a longstanding tradition of promoting a culture of community-oriented citizens that are devoted to the interests of Brooklyn, as well as our Nation. Its comprehensive approach to education has contributed to the ongoing revitalization of our neighborhoods, inspiring a new generation of informed, engaged activists committed to real change and, ultimately, a more prosperous future.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students, faculty and parents of Saint Cecilia's School as they celebrate 100 years of educational distinction in the Greenpoint community and extending best wishes for further success in the years that lie ahead.

USNS COMFORT

### HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

In an effort to save both U.S. and Iraqi lives by adhering to International War and common decency, I sent the following letter to the Captain of the Navy's top hospital ship. Thomas J. Nagy, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow in Public Health, Johns Hopkins, '77-'79.

NOVEMBER 12, 2006.

TO THE CAPTAIN, USNS COMFORT: Would it not be to the benefit of all if the USS Comfort were to return immediately to the Persian Gulf to provide life-saving health care to Iraqi infants and children who are dying in huge numbers for the lack of medical services and supplies.

Further, does not the Geneva Convention on the Responsibilities of Occupying Powers

require that the U.S., as the de facto if not de jure Occupying Power in Iraq furnish life-saving health care to Iraqis?

Finally, please forward my note to the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General as well as the captain of the USN HOPE and the captains of any other USN Hospital Ships.

I request a written reply.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. NAGY.

From: Shimkus, Albert J CAPT

To: Thomas J. Nagy

CC: Herden, Mary J CAPT

Subject: Your Email of 12 November

Date: 14 Nov 2006

DR. NAGY: Thank you for your email note of 12 November.

I will forward your email note as you have requested.

Sincerely,

A. SHIMKUS,  
Commanding Officer,  
Medical Treatment  
Facility, USNS  
COMFORT (T-AH  
20).

**HONORING ROBERT "BOB"  
LAYHER OF HAYS, KANSAS**

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my admiration of a Kansan's life—a life filled with honor and service to country, community and family. Mr. Robert "Bob" Layher of Hays, Kansas, a member of the Greatest Generation, lived life with integrity, passion and enthusiasm.

Like so many young Americans of his generation, Bob put country before self and joined the U.S. military. Bob proudly fought for freedom during World War II, though he began serving prior to the start of the war. He was among those who resigned their U.S. military positions in order to volunteer for a covert operation with the Chinese Air Force before the U.S. entered the war. For his service in China as a member of The Flying Tigers, Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bob's dedication to those he served with and his preservation of their memories was unsurpassed. While the history and service of The Flying Tigers is well known in China, few in our country know about the courage and heroism of these men. Bob took a lead role in making certain that his community knew about The Flying Tiger's mission of protecting China's important Burma Road from Japanese attacks.

He was also involved in national education of The Flying Tigers. Appearing in stories and presenting at schools, he shared the history of this brave group of volunteers. During trips back to the area where they were stationed, members of The Flying Tigers found the need for education about their group was much less necessary in China. The idea that Americans would volunteer to defend another country all for the sake of freedom made a great impression on the Chinese.

While Bob was born and raised outside of Kansas, our state was lucky to have him settle

here and begin farming after his military service. Bob was born in Dallas, Oregon, on September 3, 1916. He graduated from the University of Colorado where he also met his wife, Marian. In 1941, 4 days before he left for China, he and Marian were secretly married. This was also the same day as his birthday, so this way Bob would never forget their anniversary.

A very involved member of his community, Bob participated in several civic groups. After he moved to Hays in 1952, Bob became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the ISIS Shrine and the Masonic Lodge in Salina.

Most important to Bob was his family. Over the course of their 65 years of marriage, he and his wife were committed parents and grandparents. Bob's son, R.F. "Bobby" Layher Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and served as a pilot in Vietnam. Even though Bobby went on to be a civilian pilot, Bob and his son were still able to fulfill their dream of farming together.

In the many important roles Bob filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty and not out of selfish ambition. He helped make his community better and his nation safer. I join his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marian and her family during this time of loss.

**CONGRATULATING ALABAMA  
STATE SENATOR HARRY E.  
"HAP" MYERS FOR 12 YEARS OF  
DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICE**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Alabama State Senator Harry E. "Hap" Myers for 12 years of leadership and service to the citizens of Mobile and the entire state of Alabama.

Hap is a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama. During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, he worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama and served as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Local Legislation Number Three, and the Senate Veterans Military Affairs Committee.

Hap has been a professional consulting engineer since 1961 and is presently vice president of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., a national firm with over 50 offices, where he concentrates on municipal long range planning, finance, and operations.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Hap Myers has aided in an immeasurable way to the well being of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations for his many personal and professional achievements. I know his wife, Toni, his 3 children, his grandchildren and other family and many friends join with me in honoring his

accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the people of Mobile and the entire state of Alabama.

**WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY**

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weyerhaeuser Corporation and its wonderful community service in assisting in the relief efforts and the rebuilding of the gulf coast that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This outstanding company has gone well beyond the call of duty, truly exemplifying what community service is.

The Weyerhaeuser Company was incorporated in 1900 and is one of the world's largest integrated forest product companies, headquartered in Federal Way, Washington, employing 5,000 people in over 40 locations in 18 countries. In 2005, they recorded sales of \$22.6 billion and the company manages more than 2.4 million acres of timberlands in three States. I am pleased to note that of the many locations of the Weyerhaeuser Company, two are in the Fifth District of North Carolina.

In recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to helping those who need it most, Weyerhaeuser Corporation has been recognized with the Ron Brown Award. This is the only Presidential award to honor companies "for their exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities." This award is presented to companies that have set forth strong initiatives to strengthen their employees and the community that surrounds them as well as promote pioneering business initiatives. The Ron Brown Award was originally established by President Bill Clinton after the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who believed that "businesses do well by doing good." In my opinion, there is no better choice for this award than the Weyerhaeuser Company for its outstanding work and dedication to our country.

On December 4, 2006, the chairman, president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser accepted the Ron Brown Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a ceremony in the White House. Mr. Rogel accepted the award and dedicated it to Weyerhaeuser's Disaster Relief Coordinator Katy Taylor, along with the partners and volunteers who attended the ceremony.

Also recognized in the White House ceremony was the North Carolina Baptist Builders, with whom Weyerhaeuser teamed up in the gulf coast relief efforts. The North Carolina Baptist Builders is a faith-based organization that set forth a large mission to rebuild 600 homes along the coast. To the credit of the Baptist Builders, the Weyerhaeuser Company recognized their "smoothly-run rebuilding operation to keep projects moving." It is this kind of forward thinking and teamwork that makes the Weyerhaeuser Company so deserving of the Ron Brown Award.

I am honored to have such a wonderful and dedicated company that operates in North