

Achievement recognition programs—have made a difference to countless young people.

For many years, I have welcomed the opportunity to attend the Montgomery County Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast program. This event, the success of which is evident in the consistent growth in the number of attendees and the county-wide praise it receives, is a service to Montgomery County. This gathering provides an opportunity for our community to rededicate itself to achieving equality and justice for all.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's impressive list of members includes Justice Thurgood Marshall and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The important and productive work of Alpha Phi Alpha and other organizations began decades ago, yet there is still much work to be done. We must redouble our efforts to provide the African American community, and all of our communities, with the tools needed to ensure that each individual has the opportunity to achieve his or her full God-given potential. During Black History Month, we must recommit ourselves to supporting the ideals of Alpha Phi Alpha and other great institutions as we continue to strive for a better America."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 12 and 13. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 12 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 13.

NATIONAL DISABILITY DAY RECOGNITION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, recently we recognized National Disability Day. I'd like to share with my colleagues the many barriers to employment that people with disabilities face, such as transportation, environment, and stereotyping, though 11 years have passed since the landmark passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

People with disabilities continue to battle a 50 percent nationwide unemployment rate, and for those with severe disabilities, the rate is a shocking 70 percent. The key to changing this statistic is to focus on the ability of an individual, rather than the disability.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability is not a charity. It's a smart economic decision. When a person with a disability is employed, they are transformed from a welfare recipient to a tax payer, and that positive economic benefit ripples out to all tax-paying citizens.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program in particular has been a critical force in assist-

ing people with disabilities and creating self-sufficient, independent productive members of society. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. The people employed on JWOD contracts acquire valuable job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Last year it generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, approximately 1,000 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

This is a program that truly makes a difference in the nation and in Georgia. I'm proud to recognize its impact on National Disability Day.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON JOINT RESOLUTION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week I stood at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the largest container port complex in the nation, with my good friend Senator SUSAN COLLINS, the chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

We both have championed the fight to strengthen security at our ports. As of last week, neither of us had been briefed on the review conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, into the sale of stevedoring and terminal operations of many major eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast ports to a state-owned firm from Dubai. This sale would not only affect the six major US port terminal facility leases that have been reported, but additional operations in 15 other locations, including ports shipping military materiel.

Last week, we stated our concerns about the announced sale and our plan to issue a Joint Resolution of Disapproval.

Today, I am introducing in the House the Joint Resolution which Senator COLLINS introduced yesterday, S.J. Res. 32. This resolution would do three things. First, it officially disapproves of CFIUS's initial review of the Dubai Ports World deal. Second, it requires CFIUS to rescind its previous decision and conduct a formal 45-day investigation. Third, it requires that CFIUS brief the Congress before allowing the deal to proceed, if in fact that is the decision after a full, complete and proper evaluation of the national security risks posed by this arrangement.

Since Senator COLLINS and I announced our intentions last week, there has been some progress. Dubai Ports World has agreed to a secondary review, the Administration has agreed to a 45-day assessment of the sale, and, beginning this week, some committees of Congress will now be briefed.

But the bad news is that this process got as far as it did, and that it took deep bipartisan concern to have Congress brought into the loop. When our country considers these important deals, Congress should be on the front lines, not the back bench.

And as we heard yesterday from a Senate briefing, the U.S. Coast Guard cited their concerns over the deal at the time. The U.S. Coast Guard plays a critical role in ensuring the security of our ports, and their reservations make me question why this deal was approved as quickly as it was.

This issue has also served to highlight the fact that our Nation's ports remain inadequately protected.

As a member of both the House Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees, I have consistently worked to improve our national security, and believe much remains to be done. When we focus 9 out of 10 transportation security dollars on aviation security, we fall into the trap of fighting the last war instead of the next one. Fighting terror requires that we look forward, and what keeps me up at night is the possibility of a radiological bomb or human terrorist entering our ports in an uninspected container.

When it comes to port security, we should have solid answers, not lingering questions. In this Era of Terror, there remains a constant threat to our homeland. We don't have the luxury of waiting to harden the obvious vulnerable targets.

I have visited the Los Angeles/Long Beach port complex many times. I have authored and co-authored bipartisan port security legislation. Representative DAN LUNGREN and I will introduce a comprehensive bill soon to ensure a coordinated approach to maritime and cargo security through the authorization of key security programs and initiatives, as well as a dedicated funding grant program to shore up security gaps that exist at our Nation's ports. Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, and COLEMAN have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, and both bills will be the subject of hearings in this Congress.

This resolution on CFIUS is prudent; so are our efforts to legislate enhanced port security. I urge its support.

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVES NEVA WALKER AND KEITH ELLISON

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate Black History Month by recognizing distinguished Minnesota legislators who are civil and human rights leaders: Minnesota State Representatives Neva Walker and Keith Ellison.

Representative Neva Walker was born and raised in Minneapolis, and attended the University of Minnesota. A "community baby," as referred to by elders, Walker comes from a family deeply involved in the community, especially the Sabathani Community Center which is a pillar of the community and a source of

assistance to many. Walker grew up with this sort of activism, and she now embodies it herself.

Representative Walker was encouraged to run for office when lobbying Minneapolis City Hall on housing issues. When she learned that no African American woman had served in the Minnesota Legislature, this firming her resolve to run for office. In 2000, Neva Walker was elected to the Minnesota House where she continues to address disparities of all kinds: health, poverty, racial profiling and out-of-home placement.

Representative Walker has a son, and is the youngest of seven children herself. In addition to her service in the State House, Rep. Walker contributes with many community involvements such as the Blaisdell YMCA board, the "GirlsBEST" initiative through the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board. She takes every opportunity reach out to people, speaking to groups that range from children in daycare to college students.

"I consider myself a seed planter," Walker said about her efforts. "I'm always trying to educate and bring useful information to people, especially youth, people of color and women."

Representative Walker believes it critical to get civil rights issues back into the public's eye. Disparities in poverty and the justice system are too great to stand idly by, she said.

Representative Keith Ellison was born in Detroit, attended Wayne State University and then came to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota Law School. As a student, he first got involved in the anti-Apartheid movement. He and his wife have four children.

"I was raised in a household where I was encouraged to question things," he said. His grandfather had worked for voting rights, and Ellison grew up listening to stories of those experiences. Ellison's activism continued, and evolved into his profession as a trial lawyer, working on death penalty cases in Louisiana, as well as indigent defense work. Today at the Ellison Law Office, his legal work consists of criminal cases, civil rights cases and family law.

Ellison was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002. He said that instead of cajoling and persuading government leaders to pursue worthy programs, he was determined to work for change from inside the system.

"When you're a community activist, you propose change," he said. "But when you're in office as a public official, you make the change." As one of two black Representatives in Minnesota, Ellison believes he helps to improve the level of engagement for people of color in the state. "I think all people need to have equal access to their government."

He continues to work on issues of environmental justice, equal justice in the courts, voting rights, and public safety. He is also a co-founder of the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, which deals with environmental hazards posed by pollution.

Ellison believes that the civil rights movement forever changed America, but that Americans must still work for economic, health, educational and social equality for all people.

Mr. Speaker, Neva Walker and Keith Ellison are dedicated public servants who are making

unique contributions to their communities, working for all people, but especially African Americans and other people of color, women, and the poor. They are committed to bringing the promise of America to all its people, and work day in and day out to achieve that ideal. I commend them for their activism and their service in the Minnesota Legislature, and their dedication to making their communities, our State, and our world a better place.

IN MEMORIAM THEODORE R.
"TED" SWEM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on February 7th, America lost one of its conservation leaders with the passing of Theodore R. Swem—known to everyone as "Ted"—whose long career was marked by the highest standards of dedication to the public interest.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 6, 1917, he attended Coe College, in Iowa and received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Iowa State University in Ames. After completing one year of graduate work at the Biology School at Harvard University, he went to work for the Colorado State Game and Fish Department, and eventually became the Coordinator for the Federal Aid to the Wildlife Restoration Program.

In 1946, he went to work at the Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, where he was responsible for wildlife, recreation, and land use planning in reclamation projects in a four state region.

During the 1950s, Ted worked with other conservationists to encourage Colorado legislators to enact legislation to establish a state park system. Thanks to the efforts of Ted and this group, today all Coloradans—and our visitors as well—can enjoy State Parks throughout Colorado.

In 1957, Ted joined the National Park Service and steadily ascended to various planning positions, eventually becoming the Assistant Director for Cooperative Activities in 1964. In this capacity, he was responsible for studying potential areas, and master planning existing areas of the National Park System, Wilderness, Federal Agency and State Assistance, Park Practice and the International Affairs Programs of the Service.

The large number of additions to the National Park System during the middle and late 1960s reflect the magnitude of this activity.

In September 1969, Ted became Superintendent of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. In March 1971, he became the Assistant Director to the Director.

From 1972 to 1976, Ted was responsible for the National Park Service program activity in Alaska as related to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and was key to development of National Park areas in Alaska.

During this period, he became Chairman of the Alaska Planning Group for the Department of Interior and coordinated the multi-agency effort that produced the 28 "Four System" leg-

islative proposals and related Environmental Impact Statements as submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, in December 1973. In February 1976, Ted retired from the National Park Service.

Ted's work thus set the stage for enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which was signed into law by President Carter on December 2, 1980. This Act is often called the most significant land conservation measure in the history of our nation. The statute protected over 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, doubling the size of the country's national park and refuge system and tripling the amount of land designated as wilderness.

While with the National Park Service Ted was Chairman of the United States Section, Joint Japan-United States Panel on National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. He was also a member of the Canadian-United States Committee on National Parks; a Board Member of the Wilderness Society Governing Council; a member of the International Union Conservation of Nature; and Chairman of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas.

After his retirement he was president of the Wilderness Society Governing Council from 1978 to 1980; a Board Member of American Rivers, Inc.; and Management Consultant to Silvertip Consulting and the Defenders of Wildlife.

He was the recipient of the Meritorious and Distinguished Service Award of the Department of Interior, was recognized in 1981 by the Japanese Government by receiving the 50th Anniversary Award for his distinctive work in their behalf, and received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society on their 50th Anniversary—the Society's highest award presented to a private citizen.

Ted also received the Alaska National Parks Conservation Leadership Award and recognition for his initial work on the making of the Klondike Goldrush an International Park between the United States and Canada.

At the time of his death, he was living in Colorado, where he had served on the Bureau of Land Management Land Disposal Committee for Clear Creek County, and performed work on the Task Force for Evergreen Lake, as well as on some of the Open Space areas in Jefferson County.

Ted and his wife Helen were married 57 years. Their four children now live in Denver, Alaska, and Brazil. I hope the sadness of their loss is tempered by pride in their father's record of achievement and the many lasting gifts he has left to our country and the world.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of February as National Marfan Awareness Month and to pay tribute the thousands of