

Wills on the occasion of his promotion to Rear Admiral of the Colombian National Navy.

The following excerpts from Colombian Ambassador Carolina Barco's remarks highlight the significance that Rear Admiral Wills' promotion holds for the U.S.-Colombia relationship.

The relations between the United States and Colombia are not only their oldest in this continent, they also reflect a great understanding between our nations. Our relations encompass important historical events, such as the deployment in 1951 of the frigate *Almirante Padilla* and the Batallón Colombia to fight for democracy in Korea alongside U.S. Forces. Colombia was the only Latin American country to deploy troops in that multinational force, which cost the lives of 146 countrymen, with 69 missing and 448 wounded in combat. The participation of our soldiers in the peace keeping forces at the Suez Canal in 1956, the deployment of the Batallón Colombia since 1982 with the peace forces in the Sinai Peninsula, and innumerable episodes, give faith to the integration of our peoples under the flags of democracy and respect for human dignity.

I want to highlight this year as particularly fruitful for the joint work of the Navies of Colombia and the United States: their participation in important exercises such as UNITAS and PANAMAX, the first focused on standardizing procedures among the navies of the hemisphere and to maintain a level of training that will permit a joint defense of this continent, and the second with the purpose of organizing a defense of the Panama Canal.

Because of the nature of our peoples, military action goes beyond defense, successfully engaging in humanitarian endeavors, such as the deployment of the U.S. Navy's hospital ship *Comfort* to the Colombian coast providing medical attention to thousands of beneficiaries, and the joint participation of Colombia in the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South in Key West, and the engagement of Colombian river operations' experts training U.S. Navy personnel for their future responsibilities in Afghanistan.

For all the aforementioned, the decision of the Colombian Government to promote Captain Hernando Wills to the rank of Rear Admiral is not an isolated event: it complements the experiences of an injured sailor with the doctrine of National Defense University to defeat narco-terrorism, strengthen democracy, and return to Colombians the possibilities of development in peace, under the mandate of profound respect for human dignity clearly stated in the National Constitution.

#### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the chairman and ranking member and my colleagues for their efforts on behalf of H.R. 4040. This hard work and dedicated service has produced a strong, bipartisan Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act. Congress and the American people can be proud of this significant and needed accomplishment.

While this legislation includes many important reforms of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and I strongly support its passage, the bill does not address one important issue that I think deserves further attention in any House-Senate Conference Committee deliberations. That issue involved the labeling or packaging of a product which may reference a product safety standard. It is important we address this issue for the well-being and safety of our citizens.

In some cases a product may bear a label or packaging material referencing a safety standard, when the product was not tested or certified to meet the standard listed on the label or packaging. This deceptive labeling can be a grave threat to the safety of many consumer products on the market, and must be addressed as part of this comprehensive legislation.

I hope that as this important piece of legislation moves its way through the Conference Committee process we will further examine and address this labeling and packaging issue.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on January 16, 2008, on Rollcall vote No. 8, during consideration of H.R. 2768, Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007, I incorrectly voted "aye," when I intended to vote "no."

#### HONORING DR. NANCY J. NIELSEN

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to the newly elected President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen, who hails from the Mountain State.

Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen is the first West Virginia native and second female to hold the prestigious post. She is originally a native of Elkins, WV, located in Randolph County and completed her undergraduate education in pre-medicine at West Virginia University.

She has a doctorate in microbiology from Catholic University of America and received her medical degree from University of Buffalo where she currently serves as senior associate dean for medical education for the school of medicine.

Dr. Nielsen is always proud to mention her West Virginia roots to her friends and colleagues. She maintains her ties to the State by serving on the Board of Advisers to the WVU School of Medicine.

She always makes time for family despite her busy teaching and travel schedule. Her mother, Anne Harshbarger, lives in Elkins and her children, Kristen Bartnik, Robin, David,

Kevin Nielsen lives in New York and her son, Mark Nielsen, lives in Washington, DC. She is the proud grandmother of 7 grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen as a trailblazer among women for her accomplished career and leadership roles in the medical profession. West Virginia is proud to call her one of our own.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE NEWLY RETIRED ARTHUR BARNES, A PROUD SON OF HARLEM

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as we approach his retirement, to recognize the exemplary career of Arthur Barnes, who culminates a career marked by glowing accomplishment and triumph. He, this year, ends an illustrious 15-year stint as the Health Insurance Plan of New York's senior vice president for external affairs and corporate contributions—there, successfully pursuing with great energy and imagination the promoting of the health and well-being of the diverse New York community. Under his direction, the HIP generously doled out aid—in the form of grants, scholarships, contributions, sponsorships, and in-kind services—to those nonprofit organizations actively working to improve the quality of life for New York City residents. Through his efforts, Arthur Barnes empowered community organizations to make a substantive contribution to the education of people who were previously unaware of how they could positively affect their well-being through preventative behavior. This working partnership stands as Arthur's perhaps greatest legacy. It is that legacy of selfless service to the greater good that Arthur leaves behind for all to emulate.

He ably served in an array of influential posts before arriving at HIP: Presiding over the New York Urban Coalition as its leader and CEO for 20 years, becoming a vice president at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and rising from file clerk to vice president of administration over a 21-year period at Consolidated Mutual Insurance Companies. His commitment to philanthropy remains a pillar of his public work, serving on the volunteer boards of Black Agency Executives, Associated Black Charities, and New York City Partnership, which he helped found.

A native son of Harlem, he has remained loyal and true to his home. But the benefits of his efforts are far-reaching and innumerable.

#### HONORING THOR HESLA

### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, America has lost a great public servant. Thor Hesla died in Kabul, Afghanistan last night, a victim of the Taliban.

That Thor should pass at the hands of religious extremists is perhaps one of the great