

link systems, and command and control systems. From its development of telemetry methods in the 1960's to its recent work on the integration and development testing of Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS), MITRE has spent the last 50 years providing essential services to the defense community of the United States.

Today, the MITRE Eglin-Hurlburt Site consists of 18 engineers, scientists, researchers, analysts, and support staff providing a wide range of development and engineering expertise to the United States Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Armament Center, and 505th Command and Control Wing. MITRE has earned an international reputation for technical excellence and innovation. Their local employees devote themselves to serving the public interest as well as contributing incalculable hours of community service throughout the Florida Panhandle.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true corporate leaders, the MITRE Corporation and its Eglin-Hurlburt Site, for their 50 years of service to the defense community of Northwest Florida and across the United States. I wish everyone at MITRE the best for continued success.

HONORING DAVE WELDON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE WELDON, who is retiring from the House of Representatives after serving the people of the 15th district of Florida for 14 years. He has always served his constituents with dignity, class, and integrity.

He has been a great example of a true citizen legislator. He put aside successful careers in our Nation's Armed Forces and in private practice as a physician to devote many years of his life to public service.

DAVE has been a leading national supporter of NASA and other space issues. He has been a strong leader in Florida advocating the need to invest in NASA and the many benefits it provides our Nation. From his service on the Science and Appropriations Committees, he has kept a close eye on the space program and ensured Florida's Space Coast plays an integral role in national space policy.

It has been an honor serving with him, and it is a privilege to call him a good friend. I wish DAVE and his wonderful wife Nancy much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DR. DAVE WELDON FOR
HIS MANY YEARS OF OUT-
STANDING CONGRESSIONAL
SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about one of my colleagues from the great State of Florida who is retiring this year. Dr. DAVE WELDON from Indialantic has served in this body for many years with honor and distinction and will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues.

Following his arrival in Congress in 1995, Dr. WELDON quickly made a name for himself as someone who cared deeply for his constituents. As someone who had built his career prior to Congress as a physician, Dr. WELDON was perfectly suited to a second career as a public servant.

His legislative efforts in the House have brought tens of millions of federal funds back to Florida, restoring our infrastructure, building roads and bridges, preserving precious wetlands, and helping his friends and neighbors live a better life.

Perhaps his signature achievement in Congress has been his continued fight for the unborn. Using his position as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Dr. WELDON continually sought to protect those who do not have a voice.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I help send my good friend Dr. WELDON off into the next stage of his career. After so many years of making sacrifices in his family life and professional career, now is the time when he can devote his time and energy to his wife Nancy and his two children. I wish him the best of luck and hope that he will continue to give back to his local community and the State of Florida.

HONORING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS VARSITY X-COUNTRY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Baldwin High School Boys Varsity Cross-Country team for their first place finish in the McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont, Virginia. The team finished 25 seconds ahead of the second place team in the silver division. With their decisive victory the boys of Baldwin are now recognized among to top cross-country teams in Pennsylvania this year.

The McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont draws over 3,000 of the best high school athletes from 15 different States. The Baldwin team put in long, hard hours of training to place among the elite teams in the State. I would like to recognize the dedication of T.J. Hobart, Matt Cecala, Dennis Logan, Michael Cain, Paul Degregorio, George

Crompton and my grandson, David Wainwright. I congratulate their fine performance in Maymont.

I recently spoke with Baldwin's cross-country coach Wright and he highlighted the special comradery and commitment of everyone on the team. The Baldwin team has attended the meet for the last 3 years; however, the dedicated young men I have mentioned are the first to emerge victorious. The coach spoke of his pride with the boys' accomplishment and I share his pride today.

It is my honor to recognize the victory of the Baldwin Boys Varsity Cross-Country team, especially my grandson David. I commend their hard work and commitment to teamwork as they head into "championship month" in Pennsylvania. I wish the boys the best of luck in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League State Championship in Hershey later this month.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
CORPORAL KODY WILSON

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CPL Kody Wilson of Erie, Kansas. Corporal Wilson was serving in our armed forces in our efforts abroad and was injured. Upon his injuries he was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While at Walter Reed, Corporal Wilson was an inspiration to others. One individual was truly moved by his story and wrote a poem to honor this soldier. I would like to share this poem with you:

FROM OUT OF THE WEST

(By Bert Caswell)

From Out of The West . . .
As over the years, as have come from so here
. . . all of our best . . .
Fine Women and Men, of honor so then . . .
sons and daughters who our nation
have blessed . . .
As over the years . . .
Have been shed many a tear, for all those
lost and injured loved ones . . . so very
dear . . .
Who are but all our finest daughters and
sons, who so bring us to tears . . .
Who but live by a code . . .
Who but carry that burden, who but teach us
all so . . . as they carry that load . . .
As now once again, such a very fine man . . .
by the name of Kody, so shows us the
way . . .
What the word hero so means!
Like Bob Dole of Kansas, they are both one
and the same . . .
Who from this great heartland the word hero
can claim!
Without his one leg . . .
He lives by a code of honor and faith so
strode . . . that would make any heart
beg . . .
For there in his darkest of pain, in what God
has so left to him . . . so remains . . .
the greatest I say . . .
As we so watch him and learn . . .
As Kody so teaches us all to discern . . . how
a heart full of courage can burn . . .

As the leg he has lost, but like all our great heroes of the past he accepts that great cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . . And so much more to this our world to so give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch in wonder, as his most magnificent heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . . This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as taller than most he now so stands . . . And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this one . . . who runs with his heart all the way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . . Once, again . . . as here has so come one of our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recognize his courage, commitment and patriotism to serving the United States and the people of Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his future endeavors and will remain grateful for his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Representative HENRY WAXMAN, Representative ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON, Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representative XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA SANCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's army of fans in recognizing her decades of service to the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in celebrating the dedication of the Ramona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of friendship, we have admired Ramona's work and sought her advice, as she guided the ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one of the Nation's premier and most distinguished advocates for civil rights and against violence and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or more years and have been fortunate to work with her on a whole host of issues ranging from immigration reform to the Voting Rights Act, the Constitution and the first amendment. It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace and dedication she brings to everything she does. Whether working with corporate leaders in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill, and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she has always brought something extra and very special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies action more than words. She is a frequent visitor in the poorest parts of our communities where she meets with the homeless and destitute of Los Angeles, serving them by making them aware of what a civil liberties organization is and how it can help them know and ex-

ercise their basic rights. She does this not only from compassion and empathy, but because she is more comfortable there than sitting in her office. Because of this propensity, the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate an economic Bill of Rights. She simply succeeded in making economic rights a civil liberties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought thousands of refugees to America, Ramona could be found where immigrants gathered. She was seeking information about how the INS and our social service and educational entities dealt with them, carrying on the decades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advocating for the rights of all people, including racial and ethnic minorities and the newly-arrived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of educational opportunity a priority—not just by reading scores and statistics, but by going out to schools in poor areas and meeting with students. She made her office a part of those communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramona's accomplishments and the legion of honors awarded her by prominent community and national leaders and by numerous organizations dedicated to human rights demonstrates the extent of her work: her assertive and articulate voice constantly advancing the causes dear to her and vital to the protection of our liberties—from the right to free speech to the ability to organize as workers, the protection of antiwar demonstrators, the fights against censorship and the defense of civil rights. The ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held controversial positions and done so in the face of vociferous attacks. It is with profound appreciation for their courage, foresight, and tenacity that we salute both her and the organization she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also been all about the clients themselves. It is a joy to honor her and to congratulate her for the high esteem in which she is held and for the width and breadth of her humanitarian and democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ramona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona, and to the ACLU of Southern California for decades of work in defense of liberty and justice for all. The fight is never over and we are grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem, written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our late great colleague, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .
The moments which count, the ones all the
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .

Which all in the end, are what our souls are really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout . . .

Are all those things which really matter . . . Are but the ones, which so make The Angels hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .

By which we overcome all the odds, all in our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make our Lord's heart so shine and gleam . . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .

A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that which so caressed all . . . all the while . . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .

And it's how we lead, all in this world which so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed . . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Matter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . . what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is aimed at making America a safer place. The bill under consideration addresses health and safety issues for children. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the protection and safety of our children in a learning environment. Violence at our schools have increased at an alarming rate in States such as California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin over the last few years. H.R. 2352 seeks to curb that stem of violence.

H.R. 2352 increases authorized annual funding from \$30 million to \$50 million for FY 2008–2009 for the Secure Our Schools grant program, and decreases the non-Federal grant participation percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. It requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual campus safety assessments and develop and implement campus emergency response plans.