

may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 13, 2008—12,805 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

HONORING RETIRING MARILLA
TOWN SUPERVISOR JOHN FOSS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the years of faithful public service of John Foss, retiring Supervisor of the Town of Marilla.

Madam Speaker, John Foss is a lot of things, and a lot of adjectives describe him well. Intelligent, committed and focused on the continued growth and improvement of his hometown, John Foss labored hard on behalf of his constituents, and he has the results to show for it.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John way back to the mid-1990s, when as a candidate for the New York State Assembly, John welcomed me to Marilla and introduced me to dozens of his neighbors—local residents and farmers with concerns about the agricultural industry in Erie County and New York State. John's friendship was critical to me in those days and his steadfast support for our efforts to revitalize the economy of Erie County and Western New York remain important to this very day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the public service career of retiring Marilla Town Supervisor John Foss, and join me in wishing John and his entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed as they embark upon this new chapter of their lives, active in the public affairs of the town of Marilla, but outside the formal role of Supervisor. Congratulations, John, on a job very well done.

CONGRATULATING ROCK THE
BOAT ON HIS SUCCESS AT THE
WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB
DOG SHOW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ch. Pinecrest Orchard Hill Rock the Boat at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Rock the Boat, better known as Rocky, earned the "Best-in-Breed" title among the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, for the second consecutive year.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are a part of the toy group, which encompasses twenty-three breeds. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs, limits entry to 2,500 dogs. Rocky won best-in-breed in his category after going up against a field of thirty-five entrants, and was one of only 169 dogs to receive this honor for 2008.

This triumph is the most recent in a string of successes for Rocky and his owners. In his brief show career, Rocky has accumulated six all-breed Best in Show wins, over thirty Toy Group wins, seven Specialty Best of Breed wins and eight Best in Show wins at the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, USA Specialties, making him the American Kennel Club's #1 Cavalier. His list of achievements is only made more impressive by the fact that he is not yet three years old.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Rocky, as well as his breeder, owners, and trainer, for his many impressive accomplishments. It is an honor to have such a celebrated canine reside in the 26th District of Texas. I look forward to seeing what the future brings for the talented Rocky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. I would like to make a correction to my earlier explanation of my missed votes on January 23, 2008.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 21: "yes." On Ordering the Previous Question.

(2) Rollcall No. 22: "yes." On Motion to Pass H.R. 3963, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

RECOGNITION OF CATHY TRAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the contributions of a great public servant, Cathy Travis, on the occasion of her retirement from the staff of Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ and the House of Representatives. On January 1, 2008, after more than 25 years on the Hill, Cathy retired from her position as the senior advisor to Congressman ORTIZ.

Through her dedication and diligence, Cathy also enabled me to maximize my efficiency as the chairwoman of the Texas Democratic congressional delegation. For that, I am grateful.

A native of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Cathy graduated from Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and an

emphasis in political science. Politics always fascinated her, and after graduation, she went to work for former Congressman Bill Alexander (D-Arkansas) as a press assistant. She also worked on the floor of the House of Representatives, for the Office of the House Majority Whip, and on numerous political campaigns. She performed all assignments with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism.

Since the early 1990s, Cathy Travis saw a need for more educational tools to give the American people a better understanding of how our Government works and the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution. Thus was born her book, *Constitution Translated for Kids*, an accessible translation of the document that serves as the foundation of the United States Government. The original text is paired side-by-side with a kid-friendly interpretation to pique interest and stimulate further discussion of American liberties. It also includes a discussion of proposed amendments to the Constitution that have been strongly debated, and a detailed explanation on the separation of powers.

Cathy Travis is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE HOWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a father, husband, and soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the Nation. U.S. Army PFC George Howell was from the small rural central California community of Prunedale. He was a humble man who devoted his life to his family.

George enlisted into the Army in June 2007, and was deployed to Iraq in September 2007, where he fought valiantly as an infantry soldier in the 10th Mountain Division. He fought not only to give freedom to the people of Iraq, but to offer a better life to his family. He was a soldier who rose to defend his country and a young father who rose to provide for his young children. He dedicated his life so that others can live in a future filled with hope.

On December 21, 2007, George was fatally wounded when his unit was attacked while on patrol in northern Iraq. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 25, 2008. George was awarded a Purple Heart and the Army Service Ribbon for his courageous service. These awards depict the greatness of this fine soldier and symbolize the sincere gratitude of this country. Moreover, George's life has inspired the lives of others and has united a community. This soldier, father, and husband shall he remembered for his caring, altruistic life.

Held closest to George's heart is the love and support of his wife and partner, Kristen, and his two young children, Niya, Raiden, and his yet to be born child. His dream and lifework was his family, and he fought to offer them a life filled with limitless opportunity. In the future, his family will experience the dream their father has waiting for them.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending our deepest sympathies to PFC George Howell's family. While we praise his service and sacrifice for his country, we must never forget the deep personal tragedy of a wife losing her husband and of children losing their father. They are all great American heroes who deserve this Nation's recognition, gratitude, and support.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 66th anniversary of the National "Day of Remembrance."

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus and to represent a large number of individuals of Japanese descent in the 32nd District.

The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of our government's most shameful actions. Families were ripped from their homes and communities, even while many Japanese citizens served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II.

We cannot sit back and allow similar civil and human rights violations unfold before our eyes. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.

We must remember, and more importantly, we must learn from our past.

SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act to reinforce 160 years of consistent Smithsonian policy, admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. That policy is embodied in the original intent of the founder's gift to the Federal Government that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public. The first bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would "preserve and exhibit with no fee all" works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted by the Board of Regents with the casual comment that this would be the first time admission fees would be charged and was done without notice to anyone when the Regents voted, on January 29, 2007, to institute the first fees in the history of the Smithsonian. The Congress and not the Regents should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from longstanding public policy. The admission fee sets a precedent for future permanent exhibits and makes it impossible to deny the other Smithsonian entities the same privi-

lege and may encourage other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Butterfly Pavilion model.

Legislation, therefore, has become necessary and urgent as the Butterfly Pavilion is set to open on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian has previously charged fees for films and shows, such as IMAX films, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Light special, the Butterfly Pavilion marks the first time admission fees are charged for a permanent exhibit.

The Smithsonian Institution had an estimated 24.2 million visitors in 2007. The huge number of visitors who come to the Smithsonian's 17 museums and art galleries shows that there are untapped sources of revenue from appreciative Americans and others if the Smithsonian had a first-rate private fundraising effort similar to that of the great museums in this country and worldwide. Our previously introduced bill, H.R. 4098, The Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2007, addresses the Smithsonian's shallow fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian Board of Regents from a board almost half of whom are public officials to a board consisting solely of private sector citizens with greater fundraising capacity and experience.

Today the Smithsonian's traditional free access to exhibits is under attack, chiefly because of the \$2 billion dollar infrastructure backlog. However, the fundraising capability of the Smithsonian infrastructure is clear in the recent opening of the National Portrait Gallery, according to Congressional Research Service (CRS) RL 33560, donors contributed funds for the new auditorium and roof over the courtyard.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, not admission fees, provides the most realistic vehicle to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. The Smithsonian has long prided itself on "free access" according to the CRS. Admission fees can bring only a token amount. Admission fees are not the answer for American taxpayers, who have already paid through the 70 percent that the Federal Government already contributes to this public institution. Federal taxpayers don't expect to pay again through a admission fee to a federally financed institution.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5268, TO
PROVIDE A TEMPORARY IN-
CREASE IN FEDERAL MEDICAID
ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE
UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM
TO STATES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, last week I, with my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and PETER KING, introduced H.R. 5268, legislation that would provide immediate fiscal relief to States through Medicaid. The States of our Nation and the healthcare safety net are simultaneously facing a crisis. This is

not the time for the Federal Government to turn its back. In addition to the broader economic stimulus package that we have approved, it is urgent that we provide States with resources to meet growing healthcare demands.

In 2003, during the last economic downturn, the Federal Government provided fiscal relief to States by increasing Federal Medicaid payments during five quarters. The increased Federal Medicaid payments helped States meet increased demand for Medicaid coverage and successfully fought off many additional and more extensive reductions in healthcare for poor children, the disabled, pregnant women and the elderly who depend on Medicaid health coverage. If the economic downturn continues, States will once again be forced to deny people Medicaid coverage and or reduce Medicaid payments to healthcare providers unless some relief is provided.

If we do not act, the decreased ability to provide health care could mean even more job losses, further exacerbating the economy. According to a 2005 study, for every \$1 million of State funds invested in Medicaid, 33 new jobs and \$1.23 million in new wages are generated in a year. In 2003, a Republican Congress and President agreed to the temporary increase in Medicaid payments. It was enacted through a number of bipartisan votes. We must once again come together to deliver as we did before. We need to move quickly to strengthen Medicaid, before the effects of a slowing economy cause people who need health care to be turned away.

HONORING **ROB COGORNO**

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Cogorno on his 25 years of service to this body.

Rob, I am one of the new folks around here, but in my relatively brief tenure, I have come to appreciate and have great respect for all the floor staff who keep this place running as smoothly as possible . . . especially in a room filled with wall-to-wall politicians.

You've been a great quarterback for the floor staff, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for your service.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN-
ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CHRIS-
TOPHER OSMANSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Christopher Osmanski, retiring councilman from the great town of West Seneca.

I have known Chris and his family for many years and I am proud to honor his dedication to effective public service for the residents of the Town of West Seneca. Few public officials