

H.R. 1544 fulfills the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission by providing priority assistance to first responders facing the greatest threat; by streamlining terrorism preparedness grants; and by requiring specific, flexible, and measurable goals for State and local government terrorism preparedness.

As a member of the Congressional Rural Caucus, I am especially interested in how rural areas will be treated under this legislation.

Currently, rural America does not receive its fair share when it comes to the distribution of homeland security funds. H.R. 1544 will ensure that rural Americans have a seat at the table when federal spending decisions are made. For the first time, tax dollars will be distributed to first responders based on risk, regardless of whether the potential dangers are in urban, suburban, or rural communities.

Under this legislation, each State shall develop a 3-year Homeland Security Plan. The State must solicit comments from local and county governments—including those in rural areas—and evaluate risk factors, threats, populations, and all critical infrastructure. Risks to Missouri's Fourth Congressional District might include agriculture and agribusiness, natural gas pipelines, Bagnell Dam, Truman Dam, the Lake of the Ozarks, and the Missouri River, among others.

H.R. 1544 allows for rural Missourians to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future terrorist attacks under a risk-based formula. Additionally, this measure maintains a State minimum for funding to ensure that each State can reach at least a minimal level of preparedness.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1544 is supported by every major first responder organization and by the State of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important, risk-based legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 16, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes No. 171, No. 172, and No. 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 171, H.R. 627, to designate the Linda White-Epps Post Office; "yea" on rollcall No. 172, H. Res. 266, supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day; and "yea" on rollcall No. 173, H.R. 2107, modifying the authorities for the use of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund.

MARKING THE 50TH YEAR OF ST. ANTHONY'S "FREE FISHERMAN'S BREAKFAST"

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated group of sportsmen, merchants and citizens who have reached an

important milestone as they celebrate the 50th year of the Free Fisherman's Breakfast. On May 27, 2005, from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., volunteers will serve pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs, hash browns, coffee, milk and juice to more than 5,000 people at Clyde Keefer Memorial Park in St. Anthony, Idaho.

Volunteers join together each year to continue the tradition which began near the opening of fishing season in May of 1955. The St. Anthony Chamber of Commerce and the Sportsmen's Association came up with the idea to try to draw fishermen into town on their way to their favorite fishing hole. The idea grew from just coffee and doughnuts to a full free breakfast, served faithfully each year despite rain, wind, snow and floods.

Informational booths were added in the park for guests to enjoy as they wait in line to be served. Many local, state, and national elected officials take advantage of the opportunity to visit with friends and supporters. Each year fishermen come from all over the state, as well as adjoining states, to renew old friendships and make new ones. An outstanding community member is honored each year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been involved in the "Free Fisherman's Breakfast" over the years and join them this month as they commemorate its 50th anniversary. I have enjoyed socializing at this event in the past and will be looking forward to it in the future. I wish the City of St. Anthony well as they continue this great hometown tradition.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE AMALIE HIGH SCHOOL ON REGAINING THEIR ACCREDITATION FROM THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the principal, Ms. Jeanette Smith-Barry, and her team of dedicated individuals at the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on the occasion of their re-accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Their tireless efforts, hard work, dedication and faith have paid off and will truly make a difference in the future of our youth and of our Territory.

At a time when school districts around the country are faced with budget cuts and higher standards, our schools have to do more with less. The school's accreditation team comprised of administrators, parents, community and business leaders set a goal of obtaining re-accreditation by graduation date 2005 and achieved it.

Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) is the first of four public high schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands to regain the accreditation that was lost in 2002. Now their students will be able to compete as equals for college and university entrance as well as entry into the U.S. Air Force which will not consider any student from an unaccredited school.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduation which will take place on June 5, 2005 will be a dou-

bly joyous and celebratory occasion for the CAHS Class of 2005 who will receive their diplomas and also be able to finally and proudly say once again that they received them from an accredited high school.

It is in appreciation of their efforts that I use this opportunity to commend the CAHS students, faculty, parents, administration, and their private sector supporters for their successful efforts in developing and executing a successful strategy for regaining accreditation. They are an example to all of us who strive to improve our community.

I am proud of their success and wish the entire CAHS family and the Class of 2005 continued success as they continue to "Excel Always."

IN MEMORY OF SENIOR BORDER PATROL AGENT TRAVIS W. ATTAWAY

#### HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero—senior Border Patrol Agent, Travis W. Attaway of D'Hanis, Texas. Travis met an untimely death while serving our country and securing our Texas borders in the McAllen sector.

On September 19, 2004, days of harsh rain and a rising Rio Grande tragically interrupted what otherwise was a routine three-man patrol operation near Free Trade Bridge in Los Indios. When rushing waters capsized the 19-foot patrol boat, Travis and two other agents were ejected into the river's strong current.

At the young age of 31, Travis has marked history as a true American hero. He sacrificed his life to protect the citizens of this great nation. Today, we honor his memory and the memory of all our Fallen Law Enforcement Officers for National Police Week 2005.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CITY LAS VEGAS, NV

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, while all Americans have heard of Las Vegas, many may not be aware of the rich history we have in Southern Nevada. For instance, the City was named by Spanish traders traveling from New Mexico to California. These traders dubbed the area "Las Vegas" which means "the meadows".

The first settlement in the Las Vegas valley by Westerners was a fortified mission colonized by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Over the last century, Las Vegas has become the entertainment capital of the world, with world class hotels, gaming, entertainment, and outdoor activities for visitors of all ages.

In the 1990s, the population of Las Vegas boomed, making it the fastest growing metropolitan area in the country. A record-setting 40

million tourists visited Las Vegas in 2004 to enjoy our hospitality and entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, Las Vegas has much more to offer tourists than "the Strip" alone. Visitors from around the world appreciate such attractions as Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, and the Hoover Dam.

On May 15, 2005, and throughout all of 2005, Las Vegas is hosting a Centennial Celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city. Las Vegas visitors and residents will join in the Centennial Celebration by participating in a variety of commemorative events including a centennial time capsule, an attempt to bake the world's largest birthday cake, a return of Hellsdorado Days (a Las Vegas tradition honoring the roots of the city in the Wild West), and a wedding ceremony with 100 couples.

Mr. Speaker, I moved to Nevada in 1978, and have seen Las Vegas change from a desert hideaway to a burgeoning metropolis where between five and seven thousand people move per month. However, what never ceases to amaze me is that despite the explosive growth that Las Vegas has experienced, it has never lost the small town appeal in which we Nevadans take so much pride. I am also constantly struck by the genuinely American nature of our community. We come from all over the world and all over the country to make up our community, and for that I am particularly proud to be here today.

When most people think of Las Vegas, visions of big hotels, casinos, and bad Elvis impersonators may come to mind. I conjure a different image—an image of the thousands of wonderful individuals who are Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the City of Las Vegas on its 100th Anniversary.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KEN AND CAROLE MARKSTEIN

#### HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding couple in the 50th Congressional District for their commitment to public higher education in general, and for business education in particular.

Ken and Carole Markstein have pledged \$5 million to the College of Business Administration at Cal State San Marcos. Their gift will be used to complete the new business college building by providing upgrades, furnishings, and technology; to assist in faculty recruitment and retention efforts; to provide scholarships for students; and to fund future program development. Their gift will greatly enhance the University's ability to serve the students and the local business community by enabling the College to provide the highest quality education possible and develop future programs responsive to the needs of the region. The College of Business Administration houses the largest number of students at Cal State San Marcos.

In 1974, Ken Markstein graduated from Cal State University at San Jose with a B.S. degree in Finance. After completing his degree, he joined Markstein Beverage Company as the Accounting/Computer Manager. In 1975, Ken became Vice President of Markstein Beverage Company Union City, and in 1976, he

was promoted to Vice President/General Manager. In 1978 he moved to Markstein Beverage Company in Oakland as President and General Manager. In 1987, Ken and his brother purchased Mission Distributing in San Marcos, California, where he became President and CEO. Markstein Beverage Company is a wholesale beverage distributor, employing more than 120 employees, with 120 fleet vehicles and sales of approximately \$50 million per year.

The Marksteins have been engaged with Cal State San Marcos for a large part of its short history. In 1991, they established one of the first scholarships for business students. In 1996, Ken agreed to serve on the Business College advisory board, and in 2002, agreed to become part of the university's Trust Board.

With the beginning of construction of the new business building and with the arrival of a permanent dean of the college, Ken and Carole began to see the importance of a strong program for business students being developed in their own backyard. In particular, they saw the need to recruit and retain outstanding business faculty, and began to talk to the university about ways in which they could make a significant difference to the business community in the region. When Ken's father, who had started the family business, died in 2004, Ken decided to use part of the inheritance in this way—to honor his father by helping the future of business professionals in North San Diego County.

Ken is not only a product of the Cal State System, but a believer—calling it "the backbone of California's higher education." He believes in the goals of the university and in doing what he can to make those goals a reality.

Ken married his childhood sweetheart, Carole, in 1975, and they have two college-aged children. Like her husband, Carole is also part of the community and gives her time and talent to the establishment of the San Pasqual Academy—a residential campus for high school foster care adolescents.

On May 11, 2005, the California State University Board of Trustees unanimously voted approval of the recommendation,

*Resolved*, By the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the business building (Building 13) at Cal State University San Marcos, be named Markstein Hall.

It is an honor for the business college to carry the family name of this outstanding, civic-minded couple, as it is for the 50th district to honor them today with these remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### ADOPTION OF MR. FÉLIX NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2005*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform our colleagues about a very important bipartisan initiative to highlight the problem of Cuban political prisoners held by the totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro. To bring worldwide attention to this critical matter, many of my colleagues and I are adopting an individual Cuban political prisoner jailed by Castro.

Sadly, on this small island nation there are thousands of pro-democracy activists currently imprisoned in Cuba for exercising their most basic human rights. They have been jailed for speaking freely, worshiping freely, and assembling peacefully.

The Cuban prisoner I am adopting is Mr. Félix Navarro Rodríguez. Mr. Rodríguez is a 49-year-old member of the Partido por la Democracia Pedro Luis Boitel, the Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy. On the evening of Tuesday, March 18, 2003 Félix was detained on his way home in the city of Perico in Matanzas. He was taken by more than a dozen State Security agents (Castro's political police) to his home where they subjected Mr. Rodríguez and his family to an exhaustive search that lasted late into the night. The agents seized a large amount of equipment, objects, and supplies. Everything from a computer to 12 plastic chairs including books, rope, videos, typewriters, blank paper, pencils and pens, and all the documents pertaining to the Party were taken. Félix was brought to the State Security compound in Matanzas where he was detained under charges of having "received, among other things, leaflets and literature; the latter was proved by the confiscation of aggressive and corrosive writings and printed material from his house."

The Cuban prosecution requested a 30-year prison sentence. On Thursday, April 4, 2003, Mr. Rodríguez—together with independent journalist and PDLB's secretary for International Relations Iván Hernández Carrillo—were subjected to an arbitrary and illegal summary trial, in the city of Matanzas and condemned to a 25-year prison sentence.

Félix Navarro Rodríguez was a Cuban educator for over twenty years. He taught both elementary and middle school. At the same time he was teaching he was also studying Physics and Astronomy. Because he refused to indoctrinate his students with communist rhetoric he was fired from his job. According to the official document released by the Municipal Board of Education, he was accused of "treason against the revolution." As a result, he was detained and later sentenced to three years in prison for "enemy propaganda" of which he served 20 grueling months. As further punishment he was prohibited from completing his studies in Physics and Astronomy. Mr. Speaker, I too am a former teacher and believe that one of the most important jobs in my life, besides being a father, was teaching my students to think independently and express their views without fear of prosecution. I sympathize with Mr. Rodríguez's efforts to teach his students to think instead of teaching them the oppressive lessons of communism, and I commend him for his efforts.

Mr. Rodríguez's story is not uncommon in Cuba; in fact, political imprisonment has been a fact of life in Castro's Cuba for over four decades. Mr. Speaker, this has become a personal issue for me, as Fabio Freyre, the grandfather of a member of my staff, was imprisoned in solitary confinement for over one year for fighting against the revolution and the Castro Regime in the early 1960's. While this imprisonment took place over forty years ago, the conditions are the same as today. There are many Cubans fighting for their fundamental human rights who are being punished harshly on a daily basis. Like the others, it is clear that Félix Navarro Rodríguez does not belong in jail. He is a political prisoner being