

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OF MERIBAH MANSFIELD FOR HER 38 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OHIO'S LIBRARIES

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Meribah Mansfield for nearly four decades of service to Ohio's libraries and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Meribah has spent the last 38 years working in central Ohio's libraries and has served as the Director of the Worthington Libraries for the last nineteen years. An outstanding leader, Meribah is a past president of the Ohio Library Association and a past chair of the Ohio Library Council Board of Trustees. Over the course of her career, she has made countless and lasting contributions to Ohio's libraries including her involvement with the construction and renovation of the Columbus Main Library, the Worthington Northwest Library, and the Old Worthington Library. Meribah also has directed the creation of a Web site that commemorated the City of Worthington's bicentennial.

Public libraries play a crucial role in our communities, and we are indebted to all librarians, especially Meribah, for the indispensable service they perform.

Following her July 23rd retirement, Meribah plans to pursue her dream of becoming a deacon in the Episcopal Church. She also looks forward to spending time with her husband Bruce, children Matthew and Jessica, and grandchildren Owen and Connor. It is with great pride that I rise to honor Ms. Mansfield for her contributions to Ohio's libraries. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY TENNESSEE CHAPTER, NATIONAL SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Jackson-Madison County Tennessee Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, chartered in 1901. This chapter is one of the oldest chapters in the great state of Tennessee.

It is fitting that the members of this body should salute those estimable organizations that strive to promote love of country, preserve American history, and support better education for our Nation's children.

The members of the Jackson-Madison Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution are descended from the

men and women who won American independence during the Revolutionary War.

On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. After being rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown by two associates, Paul Revere borrowed a horse from his friend Deacon John Larkin. While in Charlestown, he verified that the local "Sons of Liberty" committee had seen his pre-arranged signals. (Two lanterns had been hung briefly in the bell-tower of Christ Church in Boston, indicating that troops would row "by sea" across the Charles River to Cambridge, rather than marching "by land" out Boston Neck. Revere had arranged for these signals the previous weekend, as he was afraid that he might be prevented from leaving Boston); on the way to Lexington, Revere "alarmed" the countryside, stopping at each house, and arrived in Lexington about midnight. As he approached the house where Adams and Hancock were staying, a sentry asked that he not make so much noise. "Noise!" cried Revere, "You'll have noise enough before long. The regulars are coming out!"

To celebrate the anniversary of Paul Revere's Midnight Ride, the Jackson-Madison Chapter, NSDAR will sponsor a reenactment of the famous ride around the Madison County, Tennessee Courthouse on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

This Chapter is located in Jackson—named after President Andrew Jackson of Tennessee—and Madison County—named after President James Madison of Tennessee—both of which I am honored to represent in this chamber. Nationally the NSDAR has more than 165,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide and is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in commending the Jackson-Madison County Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution on its 109 years of outstanding service and its ongoing commitment to the preservation of our country's history.

HONORING MR. DENNIS LEWIS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Dennis Lewis. Mr. Lewis served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Charlotte Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Lewis served his term with his head held high

and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Lewis is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED RULE REGARDING UNION ELECTIONS UNDER THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following testimony on the National Mediation Board's proposed rule regarding union elections under the Railway Labor Act.

CHANGED TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFY AMENDING NMB REPRESENTATION VOTE PROCEDURES

(by Frank N. Wilner)

By Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) dated Nov. 3, 2009, the National Mediation Board (NMB) proposes to amend its rules interpreting and administering the Railway Labor Act (RLA) "to provide that, in representation disputes [determinations as to who will be the bargaining agent for airline and railroad and commuter railroad employees], a majority of valid ballots cast will determine the craft or class representatives."

The long-standing procedure of the NMB requires a majority of eligible voters (as opposed to those actually voting) to vote affirmatively in favor of representation, meaning a failure or refusal of an eligible voter to participate is the equivalent of a "no union" vote.

The NMB proposes to change its procedure so that, in the future, only ballots of those actually voting will be counted, and each voter will make a choice between representation by a specified union or "no union." This will comport with the long-standing procedures of the National Labor Relations Board, which interprets and administers the National Labor Relations Act.

The NMB has authority to make this change in policy. As the Supreme Court observed:

[N]ot only does the statute [RLA] fail to spell out the form of any ballot that might be used but it does not even require selection by ballot. It leaves the details to the broad discretion of the [National Mediation] Board with only the caveat that it 'insure' freedom from carrier interference.

Says the NMB in its NPRM:

The Board's current policy requires that a majority of eligible voters in the craft or class must cast valid ballots in favor of representation. This policy is based on the Board's original construction of Section 2, Fourth of the RLA, which provides that,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

[t]he majority of any craft or class of employees shall have the right to determine who shall be the representative of the craft or class . . .

This interpretation was made in the NMB's first annual report in 1935 ". . . not on the basis of legal opinion and precedents, but on what seemed to the Board best from an administrative point of view."

In its November 2009 NPRM, the NMB says: ". . . under its broad statutory authority, [the board] may also reasonably interpret Section 2, Fourth to allow the Board to certify as collective bargaining representative any organization which receives a majority of votes cast in an election."

And the NMB has done just that in the past, although infrequently. As the NMB said in its first annual report in 1935 that, "Where, however, the parties to a dispute agreed among themselves that they would be bound by a majority of the votes cast, the Board took the position that it would certify on this basis . . ."

The Supreme Court has held that while the words of Section 2, Fourth "confer the right of determination upon a majority of those eligible to vote," the statute "is silent as to the manner in which that right shall be exercised."

The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals held, in 1936:

The universal rule as to elections of officers and representatives is that a majority of the votes cast elects, and that those not voting are presumed to acquiesce in the choice of the majority who do vote.

And Chief Justice Morrison Waite held, in 1877:

All qualified voters who absent themselves from an election duly called are presumed to assent to the expressed will of the majority of those voting, unless the law providing for the election otherwise declares. Any other rule would be productive of the greatest inconvenience and ought not to be adopted, unless the legislative will to that effect is clearly expressed.

Moreover, courts give the decisions of expert federal agencies great deference; and are, in the words of the Supreme Court (Chevron doctrine), "reluctant to preclude any federal agency's deliberations of policy because a federal agency, which is controlled by the political branches of the federal government, is constitutionally better suited than a federal court to render policy decisions."

The NMB enjoys even greater insulation from second-guessing by the courts. The Supreme Court observed in 1943 that Congress left to the discretionary authority of the NMB the determination of certifying bargaining representatives.

Perhaps a more pregnant question is why the NMB for so long has permitted its voting procedures in representation elections to be out of sync with the standard for all other democratic elections, where a majority of those voting makes the determination. This is especially relevant where the result of such a procedure is that the failure or refusal of an eligible voter to participate is the equivalent of a "no union" vote.

It makes for sound administrative procedure, however, to provide reasonable justification—rather than willy-nilly desire—for changing a long-standing public policy.

Determining a reasonable justification logically begins with the NMB's observation, in its November 2009 NPRM, that Section 2, Fourth "was adopted in a much earlier era, under circumstances that differ markedly from those prevailing today."

THE EARLIER ERA

Time and circumstances have, indeed, changed since the NMB adopted, during the

1930s, its current policy—not always followed, as will be explained—that requires a majority of eligible voters in the craft or class must cast valid ballots in favor of representation.

Consider:

In 1930, there were 156 major (Class I) railroad systems. In 2008, the number of major (Class I) railroad systems was just 7, a 96 percent reduction since 1930.

In 1930, there were 1.5 million employees in the railroad industry. In 2007, employment in the railroad industry had declined to just 236,000, an 84 percent reduction since 1930.

In 1930, there were 249,000 miles of railroad line in the United States. In 2007, the miles of railroad line in the United States had declined to just 94,440, a 62 percent reduction since 1930.

While it is instructive that there has been a significant decline in the number of major railroads, railroad employees and miles of railroad trackage, those considerations alone are not enough to justify a change in the NMB's long-standing voting procedures for representation elections, except to demonstrate that the environment in which the NMB made its initial determination to require a majority of eligible voters was much different than today's environment.

However—and this is crucial—as the NMB conducted representation elections during the 1930s, the Interstate Commerce Commission was wrestling with a congressional directive in the Transportation Act, 1920, to formulate a plan of merging the nation's railroads into just 19 systems.

Thus, lurking in the shadows of each representation election during the 1930s was, "What is the mood of employees on the other railroads that might become a merger partner of the railroad on which employees were voting for representation?" This concern likely steered the NMB toward seeking a demonstration in each representation election that the outcome was a result of votes from a majority of those eligible to vote.

There are more important facts of changed circumstances:

COMPANY UNIONS

Among amendments to the Railway Labor Act in 1934 was one outlawing company unions—a change intended better to protect employee rights to organize. Company unions were under the control of carrier officers, with the carriers paying the wages of the employee representatives.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce observed at the time (1934) that "a prolific source of dispute" between management and employees was "the denial by railway management of the authority of representatives chosen by their employees."

So substantial was this conflict that then-NMB Chairman William M. Leiserson subsequently testified that, were there a strike occasioned by a dispute over wages and hours, "we usually find we can settle those by arbitration or otherwise . . . But if the issues involved were discrimination or discharge of men because they had joined the organization, or the question would be the right of the organization to represent them, we could not have settled those strikes."

Between 1933 (the year prior to an RLA amendment that outlawed company unions) and 1935, some 550 company unions on 77 Class I railroads were replaced by independent national unions. Indeed, two-thirds of the work of the NMB from 1934 until the start of World War II involved investigations and purging of company unions.

This was no simple task, as railroads were not anxious to cede negotiating power to an independent labor union. The New York Times observed as early as 1922.

When the railroads were handed back to their owners by the Government (following federal takeover during World War I) they were working under national agreements made with union representatives. That was a yoke from which the roads constantly tried to escape.

Moreover, employees, fortunate to be working during the Great Depression were frightened—if not terrified—over the prospect of angering management by not supporting a company union and, as a result, losing their jobs.

As the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals observed in 1936.

. . . any sort of influence exerted by an employer upon an employee, dependent upon his employment for means of livelihood, may very easily become undue, in that it will coerce the employee's will in favor of what the employer desires against his better judgment as to what is really in the best interest of himself and his fellow employees.

Although there is no accessible source to determine the thinking of NMB officials at the time, it is logical to conclude that requiring a majority of those eligible to vote (as opposed to a majority of those voting) more conclusively established on the part of the eligible employees a desire to be represented by a labor union independent of company influence.

This conclusion is given validity by a comment of the nation's Federal Coordinator of Transportation (1933-1936), Joseph Eastman, who proposed that in organizing employee unions, "a majority shall speak for all."

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

There was, during the 1930s, a national shame of racial discrimination.

It was not until 1955 that the Interstate Commerce Commission, taking instruction from *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, Kansas, ruled that the very practice of segregation in interstate commerce was a violation of the Interstate Commerce Act.

For sure, discrimination against African-Americans existed also in railroad employment practices.

On Atlanta Terminal Co., for example, there was an effort to separate, for representation, Caucasian and African-American employees. Management said it wanted a demonstration that the Brotherhood of Railroad and Steamship Employees represented the "white employees." The NMB ordered that one ballot be issued "among all the employees involved in the dispute regardless of color to afford all of them an equal opportunity to indicate their choice of representatives."

As another example, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen had an agreement with 10 railroads in the South to restrict hiring and promotion of African-Americans, and the BLF&E, according to President Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, "refuses to represent them with respect to their grievances when such grievances are in conflict with the interests of junior white firemen."

The national shame of racial discrimination surely created a unique challenge for the NMB—a challenge best met by requiring that representation elections be determined by a majority of those eligible rather than of those voting to guard against racial discrimination in the voting process.

CONFLICT AMONG LABOR UNIONS AND CRAFTS

Also unique to the period of the 1930s was the large number of competing labor organizations and crafts. Where representation of craft and class today is generally established in bright line fashion on the larger railroads (which employ almost 90 percent of rail workers), that was not the case during the 1930s.

In 1935, on New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, a dispute arose between the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT) and the Switchmen's Union of North America (SUNA) regarding representation of switchmen. The BRT claimed representation of switchmen systemwide; and the SUNA sought a separate vote of switchmen in Buffalo and those in Cleveland, rather than systemwide.

In 1937, on Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad, a dispute arose between the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Order of Railroad Telegraphers regarding representation of operators, towermen, levermen, train directors and operator-switchtenders.

In 1935, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen complained that the NMB had denied certain brakemen a representation ballot in a dispute involving road conductors.

The NMB observed in its first annual report in 1935:

[Representation disputes] arose mainly because of overlapping jurisdiction . . . the antagonism engendered by the contests has developed a tendency for employees who are members of one organization to challenge the representation of the other organization. . . .

The NMB since has made clear that Section 2, Ninth of the RLA requires a systemwide election by craft or class; but, in those early years, the NMB, in decisions of first impression, surely recognized that to assure a perception of equity that the vote results had to be based on a majority those eligible to vote—that the NMB had to get it right.

Also, technology has eliminated what were some 291 crafts or classes in 1935, and merger among unions reduced what had been some 21 separate craft unions in 1935 to many fewer today.

Also notable is that it was not until 1954 that the AFL amended its constitution to prohibit raiding by AFL member unions of other AFL-member unions (now memorialized by Article 20 of the AFL-CIO constitution).

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Times and circumstances also have changed with regard to education and communication.

In 1930, only 30 percent of Americans were graduated from high school, while, today, the number exceeds 70 percent. During the 1930s, representation elections were carried out by mail ballot, with each eligible voter being sent a ballot along with an instruction sheet explaining the procedures for a secret ballot election. A significant number of blue collar workers during the 1930s may well have been unable to read at a level sufficient to ensure they understood the ballot procedures, much less the subject matter of the election.

It was not until 1943 that a single AT&T operator could complete a long-distance telephone call; previously, as many as five operators and 23 minutes were required to connect a telephone in San Francisco with one in New York. As late as 1950, the cost of a five-minute long-distance telephone call between New York and Los Angeles cost \$3.70, which is equivalent to \$32.73 in 2009. This affected the ability of independent unions—and union supporters—to communicate with railroad employees over a wide geographic area.

Today, railroad employees have near universal access to hard-wired and wireless telephones, as well as e-mail, with the costs of communicating relatively insignificant. In the words of former NMB Chairperson Maggie Jacobsen, the Internet has become “a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week union meeting.” Indeed, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that 74 percent of Americans 18 years and older in the workforce use the Internet. As

airlines and railroads are among the most computerized industries in America, the percentage of airline and railroad employees who are Internet savvy is likely higher than 74 percent.

During the 1930s, there was a communications challenge—in employee reading comprehension as well as the ability to communicate by electronic means (including telephone). That communications challenge could well have affected the ability of voting-eligible employees to be aware of the subject matter, while lower standards of reading comprehension impeded the ability of employees to understand the subject matter, mechanics and rules of a representation election.

By requiring that a majority of eligible employees vote in favor of representation, the procedure better assured that the majority would be made aware of the election and for what they were voting. The matter of employee reading comprehension is far less a problem today, and there no longer exists impediments to dissemination of information by electronic means (including voice).

CONFLICTS IN IDEOLOGY

Not readily recognized today is that there was great social upheaval during the period of the Great Depression.

Communism was viewed by many workers at that time as superior to capitalism, and communists were active agents for change. In 1938, for example, communist agitator William Z. Foster advocated worker militancy.

The president of the Switchmen's Union of North America responded that communist efforts are intended “to create disharmony, discord and disunity among the members of standard railroad labor organizations.”

Here, again, was reason for the NMB to certify representation votes on the basis of a majority of those eligible to vote rather than to permit, perhaps, a handful of agitators to determine representation votes for a radical organization by intimidating a majority of workers from casting ballots.

CONCLUSION

The National Mediation Board proposes to bring its 75-year-old representation election voting procedures in sync with those of the National Labor Relations Board, and what the federal courts term, the “universal rule as to elections of officers and representatives.”

The change would provide that the outcome of an election is determined by a majority of those voting, scrapping the archaic majority-of-those-eligible rule, which arbitrarily assumes that those not voting be counted as a “no vote.”

Circumstances have changed since the NMB instituted such voting procedures in 1934. The reasons then included:

An effort by the NMB to demonstrate to employers that their employees overwhelmingly preferred an independent labor union to a company union controlled and financed by management.

An effort to guard against racial discrimination in an election and better assure access to ballots by African-American workers.

An effort to resolve conflict among some 21 separate independent labor unions seeking to represent some 291 separate crafts or classes at the time—to “get it right” by determining the desires of a majority of those eligible to vote.

An effort to combat substantially lower levels of education and reading comprehension among workers. By requiring a positive vote among a majority of those eligible, it was better assured that efforts would be made by those asking for the election to reach and explain voting procedures to those eligible.

An effort to combat technological difficulties in communicating with potential voters. Again, requiring a positive vote among a majority of those eligible better assured that efforts would be made to reach out and communicate with those eligible.

An effort to combat Communist agitators, who were using intimidation and other tactics to encourage worker militancy and workplace discord.

Today:

There no longer are company unions or the threat of company unions.

Racial discrimination has been outlawed, and procedures are in place to root out and prosecute racial discrimination in the workplace.

Conflicts among RLA-covered labor unions are largely non-existent today, and the number of crafts and classes of workers has been reduced substantially. Moreover, by including a “no union” choice on the ballot provides eligible employees opportunity to cast a “no vote.”

Levels of education, especially among railroad and airline workers, have been dramatically improved, with most using computers in their daily work routines.

Barriers to communication among workers, as well as between workers and their employers and union organizers have been almost entirely eliminated with near universal access to telephone and e-mail. Also, today's railroad and airline workers have substantially higher levels of education than they did during the 1930s.

Because of changes in circumstance, 75-year-old NMB voting procedures are ripe for change to bring them in sync with the universal rule as to elections of officers and representatives, which is a majority of those casting ballots.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in Oregon, we pride ourselves on our strong community and a commitment to quality of life and education. Public libraries are a vital piece of this fabric and, in fact, Oregon has the second highest circulation of public library materials in the nation and the only 5-star library in the Northwest. As the economic downturn has pushed family budgets to the brink, these resources are more important than ever. In addition to public reading and visual materials, libraries offer Internet and computer access for all, free of charge. Many also serve as vibrant community spaces for gatherings and events.

Another library that deserves particular recognition is our very own Library of Congress. To highlight the world-class work of this institution, in 2008 I formed the Library of Congress Caucus, now nearly 70 Members strong. My friend Congressman ZACH WAMP serves as co-chair and our goal is to draw further attention to the nation's library, its collections and curators, and to encourage further use by Members of Congress and the public.

The Library of Congress not only houses the outstanding Congressional Research Service, it also offers 1.6 million visitors access to 15 million primary-source documents and operates the Veteran's History Project. One of my favorite programs, the Surplus Books Program, is an innovative service through which

Members may send extra books from the Library of Congress to schools and libraries in their home district. At a time when funding for public schools and libraries is scarce, this is a simple way to reduce waste and distribute excess resources to our communities and schools where they are critically needed.

I strongly encourage members to take advantage of these extraordinary programs and resources, and congratulate all our nation's libraries, librarians, and library-enthusiasts.

**HONORING MARY CANAVAN ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY**

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, Mary Canavan. Mary has been with the Federal Government since a week after graduating from college in 1970. After 40 years of dedicated work, Mary is retiring this spring.

Mary is one of two children of Irish immigrants—who like most immigrants to the United States—worked incredibly hard to provide for their children. The family was a close one, with Mary taking care of her parents as they got older. To this day, Mary is incredibly close to her brother, a priest, who comes over every Sunday for dinner with his sister. A few years back, Mary's brother was in a car accident and was hurt severely. Typical for Mary, she stepped up to ensure he got the best possible care.

As I mentioned, just a week after graduating from college, Mary joined the Federal Water Quality Administration in June of 1970. She joined the Environmental Protection Agency when it was established and the Federal Water Quality Administration was abolished. She began her career in public affairs and thoroughly enjoyed working with students on college campuses. Mary also worked in the water grants program and as a State coordinator, working with Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. In 1987, Mary became a congressional relations officer and has served in that capacity ever since.

Mary is very involved in her Church, Chicago's 135-year-old Holy Name Cathedral. She recently served as head of the parish council. And after a fire damaged the cathedral last year, Mary, yet again, stepped up to the plate, making sure that the church could continue to accept parishioners and guests during construction. She also helped to plan a fund-raiser to help with church renovations. Mary continues to plan events like the annual gala.

I have never heard a bad word about Mary Canavan. She is universally loved and respected. Mary is a Federal employee of the highest caliber. She has served EPA and the offices she deals with tremendously well. I know my office will miss her and based on my discussions with the rest of the Michigan delegation, we are not alone.

I wish Mary all the best in retirement, as she looks forward to travel and being able to devote more of her time to her Church and her beloved brother. I ask all my colleagues to rise

and pay tribute to Mary Canavan as she leaves Federal service.

**HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
CINCINNATI BEARCATS FOOTBALL
TEAM**

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Cincinnati Bearcats football team and congratulate them on their historic achievements in the 2009 season. In addition to winning a school-record 12 games, UC won its second straight Big East football title. The Bearcats finished the regular season fourth in the nation in both the USA Today and the Associated Press polls with an undefeated record. UC also played in the 2010 Sugar Bowl, its second consecutive Bowl Championship Series game. In addition, the football team and the university community "adopted" and embraced a 12-year-old cancer patient named Mitch Stone through Friends of Jaclyn, a foundation that links youngsters with brain tumors to college and high school sports teams. Today, Mitch is cancer-free.

I am proud to recognize Mitch Stone and the University of Cincinnati Bearcats football team, its coaches, and UC President Gregory H. Williams for their 2009 football season, and recognize the students, faculty, and leadership for their record-setting support for UC's most successful season in history.

Roster: 14 Chazz Anderson, 86 Blake Annen, 51 Alex Apyan, 43 Robby Armstrong, 85 Marcus Barnett, 9 Dominique Battle, 69 Frank Becker, 80 Armon Binns, 38 Brent Black, 48 Maalik Bomar, 76 Austen Bujnoch, 21 Camerron Cheatham, 57 Obadiah Cheatham, 70 C.J. Cobb, 12 Zach Collaros, 55 Austin Cook, 41 Michael Cooke, 79 Andre Cureton, 33 Chris Damiano, 42 Dorian Davis, 72 Evan Davis.

39 Alex Delisi, 96 Tom DeTemple, 10 Romel Dismuke, 65 T.J. Franklin, 26 Drew Frey, 99 Dan Giordano, 22 John Goebel, 66 Sam Griffin, 19 Ben Guidugli, 23 Reuben Haley, 59 Steve Hancock, 81 Tomaz Hilton, 92 Michael Hilty, 31 Quentin Hines, 59 Alex Hoffman, 77 Sean Hooley, 31 Bruce Homer, 6 Jamar Howard, 40 John Hughes, 5 Reuben Johnson.

46 Scott Johnson, 11 Brendon Kay, 60 Jason Kelce, 18 Travis Kelce, 64 Mitch Kessel, 13 Pat Lambert, 47 Colin Lozier, 53 Randy Martinez, 11 Collin McCafferty, 49 Sean McClellan, 46 Mitch Meador, 83 Danny Milligan, 58 Brandon Mills, 34 Patrick O'Donnell, 68 Craig Parmenter, 91 Ryan Paxson, 82 Lynell Payne, 23 Isaiah Pead, 67 Doug Pike, 36 Quincy Quetant.

41 Jared Rains, 24 Wesley Richardson, 22 Aaron Roberson, 88 Adrien Robinson, 97 Jake Rogers, 16 Will Saddler, 37 J.K. Schaffer, 61 Jonathan Simmons, 51 Brady Slusher, 63 Dan Sprague, 94 Jordan Stepp, 54 Walter Stewart, 52 Ricardo Thompson, 45 Rob Trigg, 14 Chris Williams, 2 Darrin Williams, 32 George Winn, 95 Derek Wolfe, 84 Orion Woodard, 3 D.J. Woods.

HONORING WILL RIDENOUR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Steve Ridenour and his family are longtime friends of mine and my family.

I have always heard it said that the worst thing that can ever happen to you is to outlive one of your children.

Steve and his family suffered the terrible tragedy of losing their son Will in a car accident on June 11, 2007.

His other son, Tanner, who is 19, prepared the speech reprinted below to give to his senior class at Knoxville's West High School.

This speech expresses Tanner's love for Will and also shows how this special young man handled a horrible period for him and his family.

I would like to call these words by Tanner Ridenour to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

James Dean once said "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today". Maybe you remember him smoking cigarettes on his motorcycle in the movies or maybe you remember James Dean's car accident in 1955 which took his life. My older brother Will passed away June 11, 2007 in a car accident. It was one of the most devastating things that ever happened to my family. But it didn't stop at my family it affected everyone around us. One month later my grandfather passed away from cancer, and the following December my grandmother passed away from cancer. 2007 was one of the darkest years of my life, and I hope no one ever has to go through what I went through. It made me a stronger person and taught me what really is important in life. Aldous Huxley said, "Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you DO with what happens to you." I tried my hardest not to cry and keep my family together because I know that is what Will would have wanted me to do. People come up to me all the time and say how proud they are of me. But I would have never been able to do it without my friends and the people around me. When bad things happen in life you can't just crawl in a hole and die, even when that sounds like the easiest thing to do. James Thurber once said, "Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness." I believe in this quote, and think that it has a lot to say about life and the values people should have. So remember class of 2010 that these experiences whether good or bad will last a lifetime, so don't look back in anger nor forward in fear.

**A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L.
BLOCKSON**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true American treasure: Historian and collector Charles L. Blockson. Mr. Blockson is the founder and curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection of rare texts, slave narratives, art and other historically significant artifacts located at Temple University in the First Congressional District. It is one of the largest African American collections of its kind at a major university.

Comprised of more than 40,000 items, the Blockson Collection continues to grow through the acquisition of both current and retrospective materials. An estimated 25,000 volumes fill the shelves of the collection and an additional 3,500 volumes are rare books. Another 15,000 items of rare Afro-Americana include pamphlets, slave narratives, antislavery broadsides, signed letters, posters, photographs, sheet music, original phonograph recordings and statues.

On March 10, 2010, in recognition of Women's History Month and on the 188th anniversary of the birth of the African American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, I was pleased to honor Mr. Blockson for his donation of his collection of Harriet Tubman artifacts to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The donated artifacts included a shawl given to Harriet Tubman by England's Queen Victoria, historic photographs and a hymnal signed by Tubman.

By making this donation to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Mr. Blockson has ensured that this unparalleled collection will be shared with millions of visitors to the museum. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Blockson whose donation represents a continuum of a life dedicated to preserving African American history.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE—FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ED KOCH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, no one is more dedicated to maintaining the strength of the American-Israeli relationship than former New York City Mayor Ed Koch. Mayor Koch is a true American patriot who knows that Israel is an indispensable partner in the war against Islamic terrorism. Israel, of course, shares America's belief in freedom and democracy. Like many of us, Mayor Koch is concerned that President Obama's policies have "damaged the relationship between the U.S. and Israel . . . to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides." Mayor Koch has written a very thoughtful article in which he describes his opposition to the Obama policies—policies which have caused the Mayor to "weep." I commend this article to my colleagues.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE

I weep as I witness outrageous verbal attacks on Israel. What makes these verbal assaults and distortions all the more painful is that they are being orchestrated by President Obama.

For me, the situation today recalls what occurred in 70 AD when the Roman emperor Vespasian launched a military campaign against the Jewish nation and its ancient capital of Jerusalem. Ultimately, Masada, a rock plateau in the Judean desert became the last refuge of the Jewish people against the Roman onslaught. I have been to Jerusalem and Masada. From the top of Masada, you can still see the remains of the Roman fortifications and garrisons, and the stones and earth of the Roman siege ramp that was used to reach Masada. The Jews of Masada committed suicide rather than let themselves be taken captive by the Romans.

In Rome itself, I have seen the Arch of Titus with the sculpture showing enslaved Jews and the treasures of the Jewish Temple of Solomon with the Menorah, the symbol of the Jewish state, being carted away as booty during the sacking of Jerusalem.

Oh, you may say, that is a farfetched analogy. Please hear me out.

The most recent sacking of the old city of Jerusalem—its Jewish quarter—took place under the Jordanians in 1948 in the first war between the Jews and the Arabs, with at least five Muslim states—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq—seeking to destroy the Jewish state. At that time, Jordan conquered East Jerusalem and the West Bank and expelled every Jew living in the Jewish quarter of the old city, destroying every building, including the synagogues in the old quarter and expelling from every part of Judea and Samaria every Jew living there so that for the first time in thousands of years, the old walled city of Jerusalem and the adjacent West Bank were "Judenrein"—a term used by the Nazis to indicate the forced removal or murder of all Jews.

Jews had lived for centuries in Hebron, the city where Abraham, the first Jew, pitched his tent and where he now lies buried, it is believed, in a tomb with his wife, Sarah, as well as other ancient Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs. I have visited that tomb and at the time asked an Israeli soldier guarding it—so that it was open to all pilgrims, Christians, Muslims and Jews—"where is the seventh step leading to the tomb of Abraham and Sarah," which was the furthest entry for Jews when the Muslims were the authority controlling the holy place? He replied, "When we retook and reunited the whole city of Jerusalem and conquered the West Bank in 1967, we removed the steps, so now everyone can enter," whereas when Muslims were in charge of the tomb, no Jew could enter it. And I did.

I am not a religious person. I am comfortable in a synagogue, but generally attend only twice a year, on the high holidays. When I entered the tomb of Abraham and Sarah, as I recall, I felt connected with my past and the traditions of my people. One is a Jew first by birth and then by religion. Those who leave their religion, remain Jews forever by virtue of their birth. If they don't think so, let them ask their neighbors, who will remind them. I recall the words of the columnist Robert Novak, who was for most of his life hostile to the Jewish state of Israel in an interview with a reporter stating that while he had converted to Catholicism, he was still a cultural Jew. I remain with pride a Jew both by religion and culture.

My support for the Jewish state has been long and steadfast. Never have I thought that I would leave the U.S. to go and live in Israel. My loyalty and love is first to the U.S. which has given me, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, so much. But, I have also long been cognizant of the fact that every night when I went to sleep in peace and safety, there were Jewish communities around the world in danger. And there was one country, Israel, that would give them sanctuary and would send its soldiers to fight for them and deliver them from evil, as Israel did at Entebbe in 1976.

I weep today because my president, Barack Obama, in a few weeks has changed the relationship between the U.S. and Israel from that of closest of allies to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides. The contrast between how the president and his administration deals with Israel and how it has decided to deal with the Karzai administration in Afghanistan is striking.

The Karzai administration, which operates a corrupt and opium-producing state, refuses to change its corrupt ways—the president's

own brother is believed by many to run the drug traffic taking place in Afghanistan—and shows the utmost contempt for the U.S. is being hailed by the Obama administration as an ally and publicly treated with dignity. Karzai recently even threatened to join the Taliban if we don't stop making demands on him. Nevertheless, Karzai is receiving a gracious thank-you letter from President Obama. The New York Times of April 10th reported, ". . . that Mr. Obama had sent Mr. Karzai a thank-you note expressing gratitude to the Afghan leader for dinner in Kabul. 'It was a respectful letter,' General Jones said."

On the other hand, our closest ally—the one with the special relationship with the U.S., has been demeaned and slandered, held responsible by the administration for our problems in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. The plan I suspect is to so weaken the resolve of the Jewish state and its leaders that it will be much easier to impose on Israel an American plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, leaving Israel's needs for security and defensible borders in the lurch.

I believe President Obama's policy is to create a whole new relationship with the Arab states of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, and Iraq as a counter to Iran—The Tyrannosaurus Rex of the Muslim world which we are now prepared to see in possession of a nuclear weapon. If throwing Israel under the bus is needed to accomplish this alliance, so be it.

I am shocked by the lack of outrage on the part of Israel's most ardent supporters. The members of AIPAC, the chief pro-Israel lobbying organization in Washington, gave Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a standing ovation after she had carried out the instructions of President Obama and, in a 43-minute telephone call, angrily hectoring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Members of Congress in both the House and Senate have made pitifully weak statements against Obama's mistreatment of Israel, if they made any at all. The Democratic members, in particular, are weak. They are simply afraid to criticize President Obama.

What bothers me most of all is the shameful silence and lack of action by community leaders—Jew and Christian. Where are they? If this were a civil rights matter, the Jews would be in the mall in Washington protesting with and on behalf of our fellow American citizens. I asked one prominent Jewish leader why no one is preparing a march on Washington similar to the one in 1963 at which I was present and Martin Luther King's memorable speech was given? His reply was "Fifty people might come." Remember the 1930s? Few stood up. They were silent. Remember the most insightful statement of one of our greatest teachers, Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

We have indeed stood up for everyone else. When will we stand up for our brothers and sisters living in the Jewish state of Israel?

If Obama is seeking to build a siege ramp around Israel, the Jews of modern Israel will not commit suicide. They are willing to negotiate a settlement with the Palestinians, but they will not allow themselves to be bullied into following self-destructive policies.

To those who call me an alarmist, I reply that I'll be happy to apologize if I am proven wrong. But those who stand silently by and watch the Obama administration abandon Israel, to whom will they apologize?

HONORING DR. JOHN HARTIG ON
HIS SELECTION AS A MICHIGAN
GREEN LEADER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of Dr. John Hartig of Michigan. On April 22nd he, along with 15 others selected from over 300 nominations, will be recognized by the Detroit Free Press as a Michigan Green Leader. This is the first year of the Michigan Green Leader awards to honor the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, our environment, and the hard work and dedication of these outstanding institutions and people.

Dr. Hartig currently serves the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. He is responsible for the conservation, protection, and restoration of habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 different species of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds in the nearly 6000 acres abutting the Detroit River in Southeast Michigan. The Refuge was established in 2001 as part of an effort to preserve this beautiful area, which is the intersection of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways and where an estimated 7 million ducks, geese, swans, and coots traverse the region annually as part of their migratory patterns.

As a Trenton native, Dr. Hartig spent his youth fishing on the Detroit River. He is trained as a limnologist and has over 30 years of experience in environmental science, management, and policy. He served a term as President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research—a group dedicated to the study of large lakes and watersheds around the world. He spent 5 years as the Detroit River Navigator, a federal liaison identifying and enacting valuable economic development, environmental stewardship, and historical preservation, for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, established by Presidential Executive Order to protect and preserve America's Rivers. He also worked for the International Joint Commission, established by the United States and Canada to resolve Boundary Water issues, and helped establish the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for more than a decade. He has taught Environmental Management and Sustainable Development as an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University. Dr. Hartig has written over 100 published articles on the Great Lakes and authored or co-authored a number of books including "UNDER RAPS: Toward Grassroots Ecological Democracy in the Great Lakes Basin," "Honoring Our Detroit River, Caring for Our Home," and recently "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers That Caught on Fire." His work has garnered numerous other accolades, including the 2003 Anderson-Everett Award for contributions to the International Association for the Great Lakes, the 2003 Community Luminary Award from the DTE Energy Foundation for his leadership in the development of communities in Michigan, and the 1993 Sustainable Development Award for Civic Leadership from the Global Tomorrow Coalition.

John Hartig has dedicated his career to the protection of some of Michigan's most valuable and most vulnerable resources. His work

affects the present and the future of one of our nation's great treasures and I am proud to stand before you today in order to honor him and the causes he has so diligently championed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
TURNER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Turner, a man who devoted his life in service to the Memphis community. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1924, and graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology, after which he served his country as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Afterwards, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he worked as the Division Manager for External Affairs at Buckeye Cellulose Technology for forty years.

Tom Turner was active in a multitude of local organizations during his career and in retirement. He was Chairman of the Boards of Agricenter International, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Goodwill Industries. In addition, Mr. Turner served as Vice Chairman of the Boards of the Airport Authority and Christian Brothers University. He was an active participant with Le Moyne Owen College, MIFA and was a big fundraiser for the United Way and the Salvation Army. He was active in the Rotary Club, Memphis in May, Memphis partners and the Tennessee Independent College Fund. Mr. Turner was an active member of his Church, Wesleyan Hills United Methodist, where he was Chairman of the administrative board and taught Sunday School.

This is only a partial list of Mr. Turner's involvement in the Memphis community. He was truly a tireless proponent of civic involvement. The Volunteer Center of Memphis awarded him the Golden Rule Award as the "Top Volunteer in Memphis." Christian Brothers University also awarded him the Maurelian Medal for "exceptional service to the university and to the wider community." Thomas Turner's impact was deeply felt in the Memphis Community and his absence will undoubtedly be deeply felt.

Tom Turner passed away on March 27, 2010, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris Turner, two daughters, Terri Panitz and Lisa Turner and partner Rob Sangster, and five grandchildren. Memphis mourns the loss of Mr. Turner who was tirelessly involved in his community's growth. His life was a reminder of just how much one person can accomplish while serving the community.

HONORING MS. KARYN POREMPSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment to service of Ms. Karyn Poremski, the serving Department

President of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2009/2010.

During her time as Department President, Karyn has worked tirelessly to assist our veterans and communities throughout New York. The Department Presidents Project, which she oversees, is divided into two programs. The first, the Creative Arts, New York project, works to incorporate the arts into Veterans Affairs recreational therapy programs. The project raises funds to purchase medals, certificates, program books, and art supplies, and allows veterans to enter their work into a national competition.

The second of Karyn's projects is designed to provide help for veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. The project works alongside the Veterans Administration to provide much needed services that might otherwise fall through the cracks because of red tape or budgetary constraints. The funds she raises for this project will help to provide transportation, grocery cards, and refreshments for group events.

Karyn is expected to raise an impressive \$50,000 in funding for these projects. These donations did not come easily, but instead are the result of many trips throughout New York.

Karyn's enthusiasm and commitment to the American Legion extends throughout her family as well. Her husband Joseph is a past Post Commander and District Commander. Karyn's two daughters Holly and Tracey are members of the Auxiliary, her granddaughters Rebecca and Jenna are junior members, and her grandson Jared is a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Her father, sister, and, until recently, mother were also members of the American Legion; Karyn lost her mother this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Ms. Karyn Poremski for her over forty years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary, our veterans, and western New York.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
CATHERINE GRACE MCCAULEY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I wish to celebrate the birth of Catherine Grace McCauley to her parents, John and Jared McCauley of Lubbock, Texas. Cate was born on April 13, 2010, at 11:15 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 20 and one-half inches.

Cate's proud grandparents are Michael and Cathy Buchanan and Roger and Diane McCauley. She is the great-grandchild of Joe and the late Billy Gene Buchanan, Troy and Marge Jones, Arline and the late Ward McCauley and Robert and Betty Minemier, Sr. Cameron and Stacey Buchanan and Dee and Jessica Buchanan are Cate's excited aunts and uncles.

Madam Speaker, as a father of two children, I know what a momentous celebration this is for Juli, Jared and their entire family, for a child truly is a gift of the Lord. This family has prayed about Cate's arrival for years, and today, Madam Speaker, they can proclaim

with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving, "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."

U.S. AND TAIWAN'S AIR DEFENSE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue of concern to me and to my Taiwanese American constituents.

Today's Taiwan is a strong ally of the United States that shares with us the ideals of freedom, democracy, and self-determination. Taiwan enjoys elements of independence, although Taiwan continues to be under an ominous shadow cast by the over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed in its direction. China continues to refuse to renounce the use of force against Taiwan, continues to claim Taiwan as a renegade province, and in 2005 passed an "Anti-Secession Law" that mandated military action if Taiwan moves towards formal and legal independence. The U.S. Congress quickly and strongly condemned China for this action with a vote on the House Floor.

A 2009 Pentagon report on the military power of the PRC stated that "in the near-term, China's armed forces are rapidly developing coercive capabilities for the purpose of deterring Taiwan's pursuit of de jure independence." It added that these "same capabilities could in the future be used to pressure Taiwan toward a settlement of the cross-strait dispute on Beijing's terms while simultaneously attempting to deter, delay, or deny any possible U.S. support for the island in case of conflict."

Madam Speaker, the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act is the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and the "Law of the Land." It declares that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States."

Furthermore, section 3(b) of the Act stipulates that both the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of such defense articles and services 'based solely' upon their judgment of the needs of Taiwan.

On January 29, 2010 the Obama Administration notified Congress of a long-awaited package of arms sale to Taiwan, totaling US\$ 6.4 billion. The package included 114 Patriot PAC-3 missiles, 60 Black Hawk helicopters, 12 Harpoon missiles for training purposes, two Osprey-class refurbished mine hunters and military communication equipment. However, not included in the package were 66 F-16 C/D fighter aircraft, which Taiwan requested in 2006.

Prior to the notification, in a report dated 21 January 2010, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency made an assessment of the status of Taiwan's air defense. It concluded that Taiwan's air defense is showing increasing vulnerability due to the aging of the air force fighter aircraft.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude my remarks with urging my esteemed colleagues to

join me in requesting the Obama administration to immediately move ahead with the sale of F-16s to Taiwan at this time. One of the main reasons to move now is that the production of the F-16s is nearing its end, as more countries are switching to the advanced F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

HONORING LIONVILLE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lionville Youth Association as it celebrates 40 years of providing excellent recreational opportunities and sports programs to boys and girls in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Association has come a long way since its inception in 1970 when it developed playing fields on two, pie-shaped parcels along Devon Drive in an era when backstops were made of chicken wire and the snow fences served as outfield walls. Last year, more than 1,600 children participated in sports leagues organized by the Association and competed on well-groomed playing fields with dugouts, electronic scoreboards and press boxes. Countless youth teams have celebrated championships earned while playing on one of the athletic fields faithfully maintained by the Association. More importantly, the Association has afforded boys and girls a chance to learn valuable lessons in team work, hard work and perseverance that will benefit them long after they leave the playing field.

The Association's tremendous success and increased participation in youth sports can be attributed to the 550 volunteers who generously give 180,000 hours each year to serve as coaches, umpires, referees, concession stand workers, league officials and in various other roles.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Lionville Youth Association as it commemorates this very special milestone and offering best wishes for continued success in enriching the lives of our youth and strengthening the bonds within our community.

RICK MAZER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most respected business and community leaders, Mr. Rick Mazer, from Saint John, Indiana. On April 8, 2010, Rick was honored by Horseshoe Casino and the Northwest Indiana Forum in appreciation for his many years of service as a dedicated executive and for his numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. The celebration took place at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

Rick Mazer's professional and academic career led him to become a prominent leader in

the gaming industry for nearly thirty years. In 1976, Rick earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Boston University. His lifelong career in the gaming industry began in 1979, in Atlantic City, where he held various positions at Caesar's Entertainment and Resorts International. In 1991, Rick's career led him to Peoria, Illinois where he played an instrumental role in the grand opening of Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino, where he served as Vice President of Marketing. In late 1995, Mr. Mazer became the Director of Marketing and Advertising at the Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois. He joined the team at Horseshoe Casino nearly fifteen years ago and successfully maintained a leadership role through three ownerships. In 2007, due to his outstanding management skills and superior business strategies, Rick was subsequently promoted to oversee the two Harrah's Entertainment casinos that book-end the state, picking up responsibilities for what was known as Caesars Indiana, now Horseshoe Southern Indiana. Mr. Mazer led the transformation from one great brand to another. The "mother of all boats", or MOAB, is the moniker fondly used internally to reference the \$500 million casino that Rick spearheaded. The design, construction, and opening of one of the most stunning casinos in America could have only happened under his guidance. For his efforts, Mr. Mazer has been presented with the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year award. After years of service in the Indiana market, Rick was given an opportunity to oversee multiple casinos in America's gaming capital, Las Vegas. Staying within the Harrah's Entertainment family has made the transition very smooth.

Rick Mazer exemplifies what it means to be a true leader. His outstanding leadership skills are reflected by staff members, who have been quoted as saying, "Rick actively engages members of his team, constantly challenging them to expand their expertise while fostering their talent and growth. Rick understands that with a truly engaged team, anything is possible."

In addition to his impressive professional career, Rick passionately serves the people of Northwest Indiana through his involvement in many community organizations. Among his many contributions, Rick is actively involved with the Northwest Indiana Forum, Tradewinds Rehabilitative Services, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Casino Association of Indiana, Lake Area United Way, Crisis Center, Haven House, American Cancer Society, Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Lake County Convention and Visitor's Bureau Hospitality Committee, and the Indiana Black Expo. For his many charitable efforts, Rick was awarded the prestigious Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award. For his continuous, selfless devotion to the community of Northwest Indiana, Mr. Mazer is to be highly commended.

Rick's dedication to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. This coming May, he and his wonderful wife, Aria, will celebrate 30 years of marriage. They have two beloved daughters, Ericka and Racquel.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Rick Mazer as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. Rick continues to touch the lives of countless people,

and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is worthy of the highest praise.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVE
ACQUISITION ACT OF 2010

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to be joined by a number of my colleagues today in introducing the IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010. On March 23, the House Armed Services Committee's Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform completed its work by unanimously agreeing to its final report after a year-long investigation of the defense acquisition system. We held 14 hearings and 2 briefings and looked at the whole spectrum of the acquisition system. We found that while the nature of defense acquisition has substantially changed since the end of the Cold War, the defense acquisition system has not kept pace.

It is still a system primarily designed for the acquisition of weapon systems at a time when the acquisition of services, and of information technology, represents a much larger share of the Department's budget. These other areas of acquisition operate very differently from weapons acquisition, but are just as complex and just as risky for taxpayers. It was clear to our Panel that changes are needed, but the extent and complexity of the problem presented a real challenge to us.

Ultimately, we did find a group of common, overarching issues that we were convinced needed to be addressed. Across all categories of acquisition significant improvements can and should be made in: managing the acquisition system; improving the requirements process; developing and incentivizing the highest quality acquisition workforce; reforming financial management; and getting the best from the industrial base. The IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010 goes directly at each of these issues.

It requires DOD to regularly and comprehensively assess the performance of the defense acquisition system, and puts the newly created Office of Performance Assessment and Root Cause Analysis in charge of these assessments. These assessments would not simply be material to fill reports to Congress. These performance assessments would be linked directly with the things that matter most to the people in the system: pay, promotion, and the scope of their authority. A similar performance management system is required for the current requirements process for weapon systems and the bill requires DOD to develop a requirements process for the acquisition of services. These systems will now be held accountable to the Department's senior leaders. The bill also requires DOD to revisit its acquisition policy to correct the bias towards weapons system acquisition, and requires DOD to assign actual military units to assist in the development and evaluation of major weapon systems.

The central pillar of the defense acquisition system is the acquisition workforce. Only through supporting, empowering, rewarding, and holding accountable the acquisition workforce can the defense acquisition system be

expected to improve. To achieve this, the bill gives the Department the flexibility to efficiently hire qualified new employees, and to manage its workforce in a manner that promotes superior performance. DOD is required to develop new regulations for the acquisition workforce which include fair, credible, and transparent methods for hiring and assigning personnel, and for appraising and rewarding employee performance. The bill also extends and codifies the Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Program, which already incorporates a number of these important elements, but has been dormant while the Department tried to implement NSPS.

Another key pillar of success for the defense acquisition system is the Department's financial management system. DOD's inability to provide accurate and timely financial information prevents it from adequately managing its acquisition programs and from implementing true acquisition reform. The bill requires DOD to establish meaningful incentives for the military services to achieve unqualified audits well before the current mandate of September 30, 2017. It also requires consequences if they do not meet this mandate, which was enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

The last pillar underpinning the defense acquisition system is the industrial base. The bill requires the Department to enhance competition and gain access to more innovative technology by taking measures to utilize more of the industrial base, especially small and mid-tier businesses. And in managing that industrial base, the bill directs DOD to work with responsible contractors with strong business systems. It requires contractors to disclose whether they are delinquent on their taxes when they bid on a federal contract.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation through the House in the coming weeks.

USC PRESIDENT STEVEN SAMPLE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend Professor Steven Sample, on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Southern California. I have had the pleasure of working with him on many issues of concern to USC and educational reform, and I know firsthand of his many accomplishments.

In 1991, Professor Sample was appointed USC President. Under his leadership, USC has become world-renowned in the fields of communication and multimedia technologies, received national acclaim for its innovative community partnerships, and solidified its status as one of the nation's leading research universities.

President Sample transformed Jewish life at USC by bolstering the school's efforts to identify, reach, and direct talented Jewish students into community activities and involvement. He also attracted successful Jewish philanthropists, through the Board of Trustees, generating unparalleled financial support to the USC Hillel Foundation's schools, centers and institutes. President Sample is to be recog-

nized for his role in building and supporting Jewish institutions on campus such as the Casden Institute, Chabad at USC, the Jewish Studies Department, and most recently, the Shoah Institute, as well as off campus institutions such as USC Hillel and Hebrew Union College.

Professor Sample is an extraordinary individual. In addition to being an electrical engineer he is a musician, outdoorsman, author, and inventor. In February 1998, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to consumer electronics and leadership in interdisciplinary research and education. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his accomplishments as a university president.

Professor Sample has received numerous awards and great support from the community in recognition of his achievements. He recently received the Distinguished Business Leader Award from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Heart of the City Award from the Central City Association of Los Angeles, and the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, the highest award bestowed by the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has also received the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Holzner Memorial Award from the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, and the Eddy Award for excellence in economic development from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Professor Sample for his impressive career and dedication to the people of Southern California, and congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OLYMPIC
SNOWBOARDER LOUIE VITO

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the achievements of Louie Vito on his outstanding snowboarding performance at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Louie is a native of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and got his first snowboarding experience at Bellefontaine's Mad River Mountain. He credits his father, Lou, with helping to nurture his passion for the sport early on.

At age 13, Louie was present at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City to watch American snowboarders capture the gold, silver, and bronze in the men's halfpipe competition. Inspired by their example, he dedicated himself to the sport, turning pro in 2005. He immediately made his mark in the world of snowboarding with a first-place finish in the superpipe at that year's Burton Australian Open—a feat he repeated in 2006.

His strong showing in Australia set the stage for many future successes. Louie won the 2008 US Grand Prix and was Grand Prix co-champion in 2009. This year alone, he won a bronze at the Winter Euro X Games, took second in superpipe at the US Open, and finished fifth in the halfpipe competition at the Vancouver Olympic Games. The people of

Bellefontaine and from across Ohio were proud to cheer on our native son at the Games, spellbound by his amazing runs.

An all-around athlete, Louie became known to millions more throughout the nation during his appearances on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* last season.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am honored to celebrate Louie's accomplishments, his dedication to sports, his integrity and work ethic, and his outstanding contributions to the Olympic tradition. We wish him all the best in his career, and look forward to watching him compete again in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 13, I was unable to cast my vote on three suspension bills.

Had I been present, I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote 196, "yes" on rollcall vote 197, and "yes" on rollcall vote 198.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SUSAN ERRETT CORD PEREIRA 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Ms. Susan Errett Cord Pereira who will be turning 70 years old on May 21st. Ms. Pereira is both praised for her entrepreneurial spirit as well as for her generosity. She is a great contribution to the community.

Ms. Pereira and her husband of 48 years, William L. Pereira, Jr., have a natural eye for business. Together they have started several businesses which include Air California, Diamond Sports, Inc., and a very well-known and respected Arabian horse farm.

Besides running successful companies with her husband, Ms. Pereira uses her business smarts to play a large role in many charities including Junior League, Dunn School Board of Trustees, Reno Chamber Music Board of Trustees, and is a co-sponsor of the Pereira Visiting Writers program at University of California Irvine.

She has five children, a passion for Arabian horses, and is a Life Master in bridge.

Best wishes and Happy Birthday to Ms. Susan Errett Cord Pereira.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE TEAM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of Alabama Students In Free Enterprise Team (UA-SIFE) for winning their fourth consecutive Regional Championship.

The UA-SIFE team was the League 9 Champion and will be traveling to Minneapolis, MN on May 10–13 to compete in National Finals.

Founded in 2005, the UA-SIFE team has grown from 5 members to 64 active members.

Since its inception UA-SIFE has won Rookie of the Year, First Runner Up, Second Runner Up at National's and four consecutive Regional Championships.

The University of Alabama has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding student leaders is no exception.

During these tough economic times, I am encouraged that students would give their time and talent to teach others the principles of free enterprise.

I commend the leadership of Clinical Professor and Sam Walton Fellow David Ford on his successful career not only with the University of Alabama but also as a soldier and a business leader, and I look forward to the continuation of a tradition of solid and consistent performance in both academics and free enterprise.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate each member of this dedicated SIFE team, the alumni and the University of Alabama for their commitment to achieving their fourth consecutive championship.

Good luck at the Nationals.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAIME A. ESCALANTE

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, it is with great reverence that I rise to honor the life of Jaime A. Escalante, a husband, father, immigrant, and teacher who dedicated his life to educating and mentoring youth. Mr. Escalante was most notable for his dynamic role as a teacher at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, California where he pressed disadvantaged students to reach new levels of understanding in mathematics and to pass the challenging AP calculus exam. He was instrumental in transforming one of the lowest-performing high schools in the country into a national model for improving academic achievement of disadvantaged children in all subjects.

Mr. Escalante was born on December 31, 1930, in La Paz, Bolivia. Early in his teaching career, he taught at top-rated Bolivian schools before he moved to California in 1963 to pursue a more promising future for his family. Because his Bolivian credentials were not ac-

ceptable to teach in any U.S. school, he mopped floors at a coffee shop while he enrolled in English classes and repeated his undergraduate education and teacher training. At the age of 44, Mr. Escalante left his job at an electronics company, taking a pay cut, to join the math department at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles.

When Mr. Escalante arrived at Garfield in 1974, 85 percent of the students were low-income and the school was riddled with gang violence and on the verge of losing its accreditation. Mr. Escalante taught lower level math classes and soon earned a reputation for turning around students who initially lacked motivation. Escalante began teaching more difficult math classes which led to his establishment of an Advanced Placement (AP) calculus class for students who were willing to work hard, rejecting the usual markers of academic excellence, such as previous GPA scores.

In 1978, Jaime Escalante enrolled 14 students in his first AP class. Only five students survived his rigorous homework and attendance standards, and two passed the AP exam. Two years later, seven of nine students passed the exam, and three years later, 14 of 15 students passed. In 1982, Mr. Escalante helped 18 students prepare for the AP test by working on lessons after school each day and holding Saturday and summer classes. All 18 students passed, with seven students earning a score of 5, the highest score possible on the test. However, 14 of the 18 students were accused of cheating by the Education Testing Service, and 12 students agreed to retake the test. All 12 passed again under highly monitored conditions.

In 1987, Garfield students took 129 AP calculus exams, more than all but four high schools, public or private, in the country. That year more than a quarter of all Mexican American students in the United States who passed the calculus AP exam attended Garfield. Jaime Escalante's commitment to his students and high standards allowed him to make waves in the teaching world, drawing attention on the national scale from educators across America.

Jaime Escalante's achievements were highlighted in the 1988 movie "Stand and Deliver" and the book "Escalante: The Best Teacher in America" by Jay Mathews. Mr. Escalante was instrumental in changing the notion that social class and race were the best indicators of who could learn complex concepts and who could not. He proved that Hispanic, working class students from a failing school in East Los Angeles could achieve top educational goals if they were given enough time and attention from a dedicated educator.

Jaime A. Escalante was honored with several teaching awards, including the Presidential Medal of Excellence in Education, the Andres Bello Prize from the Organization of American States, and the Free Spirit Award from the Freedom Forum, as well as being inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 1999.

I wish to express my sincere sympathy to the family members that Mr. Escalante leaves behind. He is survived by his wife, Fabiola, his two children, Jaime Jr. and Fernando, and his six grandchildren. I ask that all of my colleagues join me to honor Jaime Escalante's commitment to our nation's students and his achievements that have changed education in America and will continue to inspire educators and students for years to come.

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, one of the most serious threats facing our nation today is the risk of terrorist organizations like al Qaeda obtaining nuclear weapons—and we can all rest assured that they are trying their hardest to turn this risk into a reality.

This is much different than the nuclear threat we faced thirty years ago in the midst of the Cold War. We no longer need to build up our nuclear stockpile to prepare for a world war. That threat is diminishing, instead being replaced by the risk of nuclear materials being spread to countries and terrorists who are hostile to the U.S. As this nuclear landscape continues to change, we cannot be effective in protecting our great nation unless our nuclear policy changes, too.

Over the past several weeks, the Obama administration has made historic efforts to finally bring our nuclear policy out of the Cold War era and into the 21st century. This is an administration that recognizes the importance of pursuing a comprehensive agenda to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to our enemies and to secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who seek to do us harm.

Earlier this month, the President released the Nuclear Posture Review, a responsible plan that aligns our nuclear strategy to better address the threats we face today. We know that it doesn't make sense to try to keep nuclear material away from terrorists by creating more nuclear material.

The Nuclear Posture Review instead focuses on taking steps to work with other nations to secure the nuclear material that is already out there—while at the same time making sure that we maintain a robust nuclear deterrence here at home.

The NPR, for the first time ever, places the prevention of nuclear terrorism at the top of our nuclear agenda. It defines key steps to strengthen our global non proliferation regime and keep nuclear material secure. Just yesterday, President Obama wrapped up a historic nuclear security summit here in Washington, where nearly 50 nations committed to secure all of their nuclear material in four years. This is a significant achievement, and makes real progress toward keeping this dangerous material out of the hands of those who seek to do us harm.

The NPR also renews our commitment to hold fully accountable any state, terrorist group, or other entity that supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or use weapons of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, I have heard some critics try to distort the facts about this piece of the NPR, but here is the truth:

President Obama made it very clear that if we see states developing biological or chemical weapons that we think endanger our safety, he reserves the right to revise this policy. He also made it clear that if any state not compliant with the Non-Proliferation Treaty—and this includes countries like Iran and North Korea—were to attack us with chemical or biological weapons, Secretary Gates made it clear that “all options are on the table,” including responding with nuclear weapons.

What the new security guarantee in NPR offers is an incentive for those nations that do not seek nuclear weapons and comply with the NPT.

We have an unmatched conventional military capability at our hands, and my colleagues should not try to minimize this very powerful tool in our toolkit.

Our new nuclear policy seeks to strengthen strategic deterrence and stability at reduced nuclear force levels, with the New START Treaty that we signed with Russia last week as an important first step. It also strengthens regional deterrence, broadening regional security architectures—including through missile defenses and improved conventional forces—to provide reassurance to our partners and allies.

Finally, the NPR maintains a robust nuclear deterrence and sustains it by investing in our existing stockpile and the workforce that maintains it—a process that will keep our nuclear weapons reliable, safe, and secure without the need to make new nuclear warheads.

Madam Speaker, this is not 1980. The nuclear threats facing our nation have moved beyond those of the Cold War, and we must move our nuclear policy beyond the narrow Cold War mentality. President Obama is taking the right steps to match up our nuclear policy with our current needs, and I commend him for his leadership to protect American families.

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I recognize Opportunity Enterprises Incorporated, which hosted its Celebration of Achievement Award Ceremony on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, Indiana. Opportunity Enterprises honored the accomplishments of members of its noteworthy staff, clients, volunteers and community partners. Opportunity Enterprises also paid special tribute to President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring in June of this year. For his outstanding leadership and his lifelong commitment to those in need, he is worthy of our respect and admiration.

Opportunity Enterprises is a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. Because of many dedicated, loyal, and passionate people who believe in the organization and its goals, Opportunity Enterprises is able to provide day and enrichment services, residential and children's programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages whether they have physical, emotional or developmental disabilities.

This year, Opportunity Enterprises honored individuals and organizations who have played a major role in their success. The Spirit of Opportunity Enterprises award recipient is Jake Wagner. Jake has been a board member for many years and has played an instrumental role in terms of property acquisition, identifying lead donors, and seeking grant funding. The Community Employer of the Year award recipient is Strack and Van Til. The company

hires many clients through the organization's JobSource Community Employment Program and passionately assists these individuals in developing their skills. The Business of the Year award recipient is Framing Concepts Gallery, which gives tremendous support to the organization's Art Enrichment Program. The Jeanne Baird Volunteer of the Year award recipient is Cheryl Kozrowski. Cheryl continuously and selflessly gives her time to Opportunity Enterprises and its many programs. The JobSource Client of the Year award recipient is Mike Biggs. Mike has been employed through the JobSource Program for eighteen years. Despite being hearing impaired, Mike maintains an outstanding positive attitude and is beloved by everyone who works with him. The Amazing Client of the Year award recipients are: Samuel Collins, Paula Norfleet, and Derek Rogers. Samuel, who receives respite services, has made remarkable progress since becoming an Opportunity Enterprises client. Paula is employed through the Supported Employment Program and the Community Employment Program. Although she has limited use of her hands and legs, Paula is constantly helping and supporting other clients. Derek is involved in the Supported Living Department and has made extraordinary improvement since joining the team at Opportunity Enterprises. For their dedication and commitment to Opportunity Enterprises and the community of Northwest Indiana, the 2010 Achievement Award recipients are to be commended.

Opportunity Enterprises also honored and congratulated President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring this year. In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented growth and success under Gary's leadership. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has constantly expanded and now serves over 1,000 individuals within Porter County and throughout Northwest Indiana. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. For his efforts over the years on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF) President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Mr. Mitchell is to be commended and admired.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for an astonishing 44 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Opportunity Enterprises 2010 Achievement Award winners, as well as Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Emergency Nurses Association and to congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

The Emergency Nurses Association, or ENA, is the only professional nursing association dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and emergency care through advocacy, expertise, innovation and leadership. It boasts more than 37,000 members worldwide.

Founded in 1970 as the Emergency Department Nurses Association and led by Anita M. Dorr, RN and Judith C. Kelleher, RN, it was originally established to set standards for best practices in emergency nursing care. It also provided continuing education programs for emergency nurses and a united voice for nurses involved in emergency care. In 1985, the Association name was changed to Emergency Nurses Association, ENA.

Among its many accomplishments, ENA published its first Roadway Safety Scorecard in 2006, providing an overview of the kinds of roadway laws that prevent injuries and save lives, and a listing of the States that have enacted those laws. The initial report and the follow-up report in 2008 have provided the impetus for more States to pass roadway laws that protect lives and prevent injuries.

ENA is also working to make emergency departments safer by pressing for Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards that would help prevent violence in emergency departments. A recent ENA report on workplace violence found that more than half of emergency nurses have been physically assaulted on the job in the past 3 years and scores more endure verbal abuse regularly. Violence in the emergency department adversely affects patient care and also puts patients themselves at risk of assault or worse.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Emergency Nurses Association and its more than 37,000 members for their commitment to establishing public policies that reduce the need for emergency care and for working to improve the quality of that care when it is needed. I also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating ENA on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE THIRD GRADE STUDENTS AT LOUDOUN COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the third grade students at the Loudoun Country Day School in Leesburg, Virginia. They are conducting a food drive called "Kids Helping Kids" to benefit Loudoun Interfaith Relief. I am honored to recognize the ongoing contributions of these special young people to help feed the hungry in their community.

These talented students are collecting healthy breakfast and lunch items to distribute to Loudoun County families this summer. Many families depend on free and reduced price hot meals for their children during the school year, and will greatly benefit for receiving meals during the summer months.

This is the second food drive that the Loudoun Country Day students have implemented this year. Last fall, the students collected 1,296 pounds of food that allowed 40 families to have a complete Thanksgiving feast.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the following students for their commitment to helping the hungry in their community.

Aidan Kennedy
Alex Moran
Annabella Stavrou
Ben Kowkowski
Greyson Sequino
Hunter Gowin
Lindsey Fouty
Lyndsey Coleman
Lauren Miller
Peyton Carter
TJ Donovan
Lauren Rubino
McKenna Martinez
Maddi Moran
Ella Parsons
Brian Wilmans
Christophe Atkinson
Luke Miller
Stephen Kalivokas
Drew Johnson
Gabrielle Latimer
Zyannah Malick

COMMEMORATION OF VAISAKHI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Vaisakhi, a festival celebrating the founding of the Khalsa Sikh community in 1699. It has special significance for Sikhs because the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, chose Vaisakhi as the occasion to formalize the Sikh identity and religious practice by forming the Khalsa, the body of initiated Sikhs. Vaisakhi also marks the new solar year and harvest season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions American Sikhs make to our society. According to the 2000 Census, more than 650,000 Sikhs live in the United States, and more than 250,000 reside in my home state of California. Throughout history, American Sikhs have made great contributions to our cultural landscape, the government, business and civil sector, as well as the military. In 1956, the Hon. Dalip Singh Saund was the first Sikh, Asian- or Indian-American elected to the House of Representatives. In addition to making great progress for racial equality and diversity in American government, Rep. Saund was instrumental in ending statutory discrimination against Asian- and Indian-Americans by working to grant naturalization rights for immigrants from the Philippines and India. Around the country, Sikhs serve as mayors, business leaders, athletes, actors and other leadership positions.

It is my honor to rise today to recognize the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi and recognize the achievements and contributions of all American Sikhs to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS OF EAST TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the United Way volunteers of Washington County, Jonesborough, and Johnson City for their service to East Tennessee. I am proud of the example these fine volunteers set and for all they give back to the great state of Tennessee.

Nearly 125 volunteers will be attending the annual Volunteer Breakfast on April 23, 2010. With approximately 150 volunteers of their own, United Way of Washington County partners with many other organizations and thousands of other volunteers to change the lives of people in East Tennessee.

I sincerely thank the United Way of Washington County and all partnering organizations for all they do for the Volunteer State.

WELCOMING HEARTLAND CHURCH

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to welcome Heartland Church to its new location in the 24th District of Texas. Heartland Church has been a centerpiece of spiritual growth and community outreach in the greater Irving area for 58 years.

On Christmas Eve of 1951, The First United Pentecostal Church of Irving held its inaugural service in the Irving Community Center. This was the beginning of the rich spiritual history of Heartland Church which today has grown into a caring, compassionate, service centered congregation. Soon after opening, The First United Pentecostal Church of Irving moved from the Irving Community Center to its first building on Camano Road and then eventually to Story Road. Heartland Church has made several building transitions and a name change (originally Christ Temple and then later Heartland Church) to more adequately reflect its desire to meet the needs of its congregation and the community. In December of 1984, the building dedication ceremony was held for what Heartland Church called home up until December 2009.

Guided by faith, in 2000, Heartland Church made the decision to purchase 25.8 acres located on the west side of Highway 161. But God in His infinite wisdom had other plans and that was to bring Heartland Church to Carrollton. Today, through the vision and leadership of the church's founders and with the help of the surrounding community, Heartland Church has flourished from a small congregation, meeting in a 3,000 square foot building, to a thriving congregation with more than 22,000 square feet of meeting space.

On behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to welcome Heartland Church to its new location in Carrollton, Texas. I am certain that Heartland Church will succeed and continue to be an example of Christ's love to others in the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during four recent rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1215, H. Res. 1222, H. Res. 1041, and H. Res. 1042.

HONORING WILLIAM CLAY FORD ON HIS SELECTION AS A MICHIGAN GREEN LEADER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of William Clay Ford Jr. Mr. Ford has been chosen as one of 16 people and institutions by the Detroit Free Press as a Michigan Green Leader. Selected from over 300 nominations, Mr. Ford will be recognized on April 22 as part of a 40th anniversary celebration of Earth Day. Green Leaders are people or entities who have had exceptional impact on the community through their leadership and contributions in their efforts to protect our environment.

Born May 3, 1957, in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Ford is the great-grandson of both Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University in 1979 and a master of science degree in management as an Alfred P. Sloan fellow from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1984. Immediately after graduating from Princeton, Mr. Ford went to work as a financial analyst for Ford Motor Company. In his first 10 years with Ford he held 11 jobs. In 1987 he became managing director for Ford Switzerland and in 1990 he was head of business strategy. In 1992 he was appointed general manager of Climate Control Division where he created the company's first wildlife habitat at a plant and established the first automotive plant to use 25 percent post-consumer materials in all of its plastic parts. Under his lead, the division won the President's Commission on Environmental Quality Award for the substitution of water for hazardous chemicals in a production process. He was elected vice president and headed the Commercial Truck Vehicle Center in 1994 and in 1995 took the chair of the board of directors finance committee. He was elected chairman of the board of directors and took office at the start of 1999, served as Ford's chief executive officer from October of 2001 to September of 2006, and was subsequently named executive chairman.

Mr. Ford is a lifelong environmentalist and throughout his time at Ford he has not only given to our environment through personal choices, but has proposed rigorous environmental policy changes for the company. The company published its first corporate citizenship report in 2000 with him at the helm. The report assessed the environmental, economic, and social ramifications of the company's projects and products around the world. In 2004, while Mr. Ford was CEO, the company finished the world's largest brownfield reclamation project with the Ford Rouge Center in Detroit. As a long-time advocate of hybrid vehicle technologies, Mr. Ford not only owns a hybrid, but has overseen the launch of expansive plans to offer electric and hybrid-powered automobiles to consumers.

In addition to his work with Ford Motor Company, Mr. Ford is a vice chairman of the Detroit Lions and has championed the environmentally friendly stadium in Detroit. He chairs the Detroit Economic Club board, co-chaired the National Summit in 2009, is the vice chair of the Business Leaders for Michigan, serves on the board of directors of eBay, and is a member of the board of trustees for The Henry Ford.

This is the first year the Detroit Free Press has held the Green Leaders event. Mr. Ford is a superb choice. His great drive and dedication are assets to us, our community, and our environment.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK LGBT HEALTH MONTH

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 2010 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, or LGBT Health Month in the state of New York. The health and happiness of all LGBT individuals in New York and across the country is of tremendous importance. I applaud the efforts of the Healthcare Committee in organizing LGBT month for March 2010, and I look forward to seeing this tradition grow and thrive in the years to come.

The Healthcare Committee of the NYS LGBT Health and Human Services Network, in conjunction with the Empire State Pride Agenda, declared the theme of this year's inaugural event "31 Ways for 31 Days." The Committee has gathered 31 simple and useful health tips, one for each day in March, to serve as a resource for the LGTB community.

LGBT Health Month is an opportunity for the LGTB community, and all New Yorkers, to unite around the common goal of good health. In following the 31 Ways for 31 Days, we are all reminded that a healthy community is also a happy community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing March 2010 as New York LGTB Health Month.

HONORING WILMA PEARL MANKILLER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1237 to honor Wilma Pearl Mankiller, the first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation, who passed away on April 6, 2010.

Wilma Mankiller was a remarkable human being and served as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1985 to 1995. While Cherokee culture has traditionally embraced the concept of both male and female leadership, this custom had fallen out of practice in recent years. At the time she became Chief, the hierarchical system of the Cherokee Nation had become male dominated, and Mankiller faced numerous gender barriers in becoming and serving as Chief. During her tenure, she would go to great lengths to resurrect the balance of male and female leadership in the Cherokee Nation, and additionally, she worked to reinvigorate the Nation through community projects and programs.

Throughout our daily lives, we rarely stop to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments of women across the country and world. I am emboldened by people like Wilma Mankiller who worked diligently for others and tore down gender barriers in the process. Today young girls know that they too can grow up to become Indian Chiefs and it is because of the work and life of Wilma Mankiller that this is true.

Madam Speaker, Wilma Mankiller was a great leader and extraordinary advocate for the Cherokee Nation. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory and celebrating her distinguished life and work.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,831,193,383,690.69.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,192,767,637,396.89 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$4,813,927,403.84 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 16

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine Wall Street and the financial crisis, focusing on the role of bank regulators.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Goodwin Liu, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Kimberly J. Mueller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Richard Mark Gergel, and J. Michelle Childs, both to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Catherine C. Eagles, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

SD-226

APRIL 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine protection from premiums.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1856, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to clarify policies regarding ownership of pore space, and S. 1134, to ensure the energy independence and economic viability of the United States by promoting the responsible use of coal through accelerated carbon capture and storage and through advanced clean coal technology research, development, demonstration, and deployment programs.

SD-366

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for operations and programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

SD-192

11 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine border security.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael D. Kennedy, of Georgia, and Dana Katherine Bilyeu, of Nevada, both to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, Dennis P. Walsh, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals, and Milton C. Lee, Jr., Judith Anne Smith, and Todd E. Edelman, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine implementation of the new post-9/11 Government Issue (GI) Bill.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine non-proliferation programs at the Departments of Defense and Energy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the lessons and implications of the Christmas Day attack, focusing on securing the visa process.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine combating cyber crime and identity theft in the digital age.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for Missile Defense Agency programs.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine securing the nation's rail and other surface transportation networks.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1546, to provide for the conveyance of certain

parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah, S. 2798, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through the facilitation of insect and disease infestation treatment of National Forest System and adjacent land, S. 2830, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects, and S. 2963, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land.

SD-366

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine environmental management funding in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

SR-222

APRIL 22

9:15 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, focusing on meeting the needs of the whole student.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Nuclear Posture Review.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the discussion draft of the "Indian Energy Promotion and Parity Act of 2010".

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the link between revenue transparency and human rights, focusing on programs such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and their ability to improve human right in resource-rich countries.

SD-430

APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Philip D. Moeller, of Washington, and Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

APRIL 28

2 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, focusing on standards and assessments.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1241, to amend Public Law 106-206 to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal land for film crews of 5 persons or fewer, S. 1571 and H.R. 1043, bills to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, S. 2762, to des-

ignate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, S. 3075, to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, S. 3185, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for the Te-moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, and H.R. 86, to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands.

SD-366

MAY 5

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation, focusing on presumptive disability decision-making.

SR-418

10 a.m.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

To hold hearings to examine violence in Mexico and Ciudad Juarez and its implications for the United States.

SD-124

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending legislation.

SR-418