

North Carolina from April 17–21, will bring together ethnic and cultural groups from this area to celebrate the diversity and strength of our region, state, and nation. Robeson County, as confirmed by the latest census, is the most culturally diverse of all one hundred counties in North Carolina.

Robeson County is an area rich in heritage and history. This heritage and history will be on display during a Grand Parade uniting individuals from the numerous cultures represented within the county. Each cultural group will demonstrate its distinctive heritage during the event, providing individuals of all ages the opportunity to learn about the unique blend of cultures surrounding them. Furthermore, the event hopes to be a positive influence on the lives of the youth of Robeson County and surrounding areas, steering them away from drugs and violence and towards more benign outlets.

Cultural Fest 2002 could serve as a model for other communities to emulate as a means of positively promoting the great diversity of our nation. The organizers of Cultural Fest 2002 should be commended for their efforts.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the organizers of Cultural Fest 2002 for their efforts. May God's blessings shine upon this event.

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IN MEMORY OF RON CAWDREY

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ron Cawdrey, a close friend and driving force in the City of Redondo Beach, California, who died last month.

In addition to being a two-term councilman, Ron served his community in so many other ways, including on the North Redondo Beach Business Association, the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the local Little League. He also was vice president of the Communications Workers of America, Local 9400, representing 10,000 members in California, and was actively involved in local Democratic politics.

But listing Ron's affiliations does not come near to describing the contributions he made to our community and the impact he had on the individuals he touched. A quick glance at the tributes his friends and colleagues have written reveals a man who was inspirational, loving, nonconfrontational and deeply devoted to his family. People just liked being around him.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Ron was well deserving of his 1992 Redondo Beach Man of the Year award, and his recent Redondo Beach Mayor's Lifetime Community Service Award.

I am uncertain when I first met Ron, but believe it was at a meeting of local labor leaders. Ron "adopted" me, and became a tireless worker on my behalf. He was always there for me, and for so many others.

The last time I saw Ron was at a regional Chamber of Commerce breakfast, hosted by the Redondo Beach Chamber. I hadn't seen him in some time, but he bounded up to me with his magnetic smile, gave me a big hug, and asked how I was doing.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to Ron's wife Punky, his four children and four grand-

children, for I know the next few weeks and months will be difficult. But as they grieve, I hope they find comfort in knowing what a wonderful contribution Ron made to the world around him.

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IN HONOR OF DR. L. JAY OLIVA,  
PRESIDENT, NYU

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a New Yorker who has done a great deal for higher education in America, and for the City of New York. As a proud alumnus of this great university, I wanted to share with Members of Congress some of the accomplishments of this fine leader, and to take this opportunity to salute Dr. Oliva. New York University is the largest private university in this nation with more than 50,000 students, many of them first-generation college attendees. I know because I was one such first-generation college graduate in my family. NYU is clearly one of this country's premier universities.

Dr. Oliva has been its president since 1991, but he has been a leader of NYU for many decades, four decades, in fact. He has provided distinguished leadership of young men and women as its Chancellor, as a Dean, a Provost, and as an Executive Vice President. Yet, I want to recognize him for a role he has played continuously throughout these 40 or so years, and still plays—a teacher. He still personally carries a teaching load; he believes in that role above all. NYU has been at the heart of this man's life.

NYU's motto is a "private university in the public service." These were not just words for Jay Oliva, for, indeed, he was one of the very first university presidents in the nation to lead the fight for Americorps. He helped shape a university that is dedicated to community service and volunteerism. Over 4,000 NYU students participate in volunteer efforts. President Oliva assembled his own President's C-Team that involves over 200 students working directly with him on public service initiatives. NYU is now home to the largest America Reads program in this country. Under his leadership, NYU has distinguished itself as a provider of services for the underprivileged, through its dental clinics providing healthcare to the indigent, low-income and minority populations, to its social work, education, nursing and medical school and initiatives, to its highly distinguished legal and business leadership and assistance. NYU provides tutoring and training for schools throughout the region, leaving a mark on many people's lives.

September 11th 2001 was no exception, when NYU was not only directly hit, but it was a time when its doctors, nurses, dentists, social workers and staff immediately answered the call to provide services to those in New York in need.

Dr. Oliva certainly saw a global vision and mission for NYU, but it was his local vision that has provided a blanket of services over New York City and State. For all of these and many more reasons, I stand now to applaud his leadership of NYU, his dedication to this great institution, and to the principles on which it was founded, and which he did so much to shape.

AFGHANISTAN EDUCATION FOR  
GIRLS AND WOMEN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an event that is on its way to the world's history books an event that, last month, changed the lives of girls and women in Afghanistan forever. On March 23rd, Afghan schools went back into session, meaning that, for the first time in five years, girls began to attend school legally.

During the reign of the Taliban regime, women all over Afghanistan refused to give up their right to be educated. Some set up illegal schools in their homes at risk of being severely beaten. Others hid books and pencils under their clothing in fear of being killed if they were found out. But even during these horrific times, Afghan girls remained resolute. "We want to go to school even more," they said. For many Afghan girls, this is the first time they can walk down the street with a book, without the risk of being killed.

The Taliban regime was the most repressive regime in the world with regard to the status of women. The systematic exclusion of women from all positions of status in all aspects of government and society not only marginalized women, but it undermined Afghanistan's entire civic society. Prior to Taliban rule, 40% of Afghanistan's doctors, over half the university students, and two-thirds of Afghanistan's teachers were women. It is clear that for the rebuilding of Afghanistan to be successful, there must be educated and informed women in all walks of life.

I would like to commend the United States Children Fund for their extremely hard work and aid in helping with the "Back to School" campaign. In cooperation with the Afghan Interim government, UNICEF has a goal of bringing more than 1.5 million Afghan children into a safe learning environment. In a country where the literacy rate is just four percent—the lowest in the world—UNICEF has dedicated countless hours to ensuring that each child has access to basic school supplies. The kind of dedication to humanitarian relief that UNICEF has shown in Afghanistan is essential not only to the future of Afghanistan, but to women and children around the world.

I wholeheartedly thank UNICEF for their support of Afghan children. I commend the Interim Afghan government for making education a key priority. Most of all, I thank the teachers and children of Afghanistan who have had the courage and the will to educate and be educated after years of fear, insecurity and oppression.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH  
MOORE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Elizabeth Moore, an incredible woman who recently passed away, but whose dedication to the